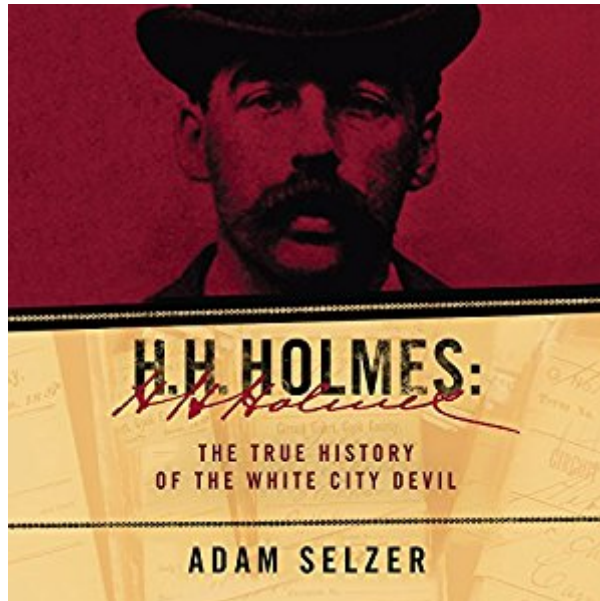




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H. H. Holmes: The True History Of The White City Devil



Synopsis

This is the first truly comprehensive book examining the life and career of the murderer who has become one of America's great supervillains. It reveals not only the true story but how the legend evolved, taking advantage of hundreds of primary sources that have never been examined before, including legal documents, letters, articles, and records that have been buried in archives for more than a century. Although Holmes is just as famous now as he was in 1895, this deep analysis of contemporary materials makes clear how much of the previously known story came from reporters who were nowhere near the action, a dangerously unqualified new police chief, and lies invented by Holmes himself.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A great deal of research was required to tell this story and it was well worth it. I liked the use of only trusting sources from each city.

Fascinating subject matter. A little to dry for my taste. Must read for true crime lovers.

Good read.

great insight into America's 1st Serial Killer (?)

I have read several books on HH Holmes. Creepy but really good.

A fantastic look at the life of H.H. Holmes stripped of all the myth.

Selzer sweated bullets to put together this well-sourced biography of Herman Mudgett, aka, Henry H. Holmes (and several other aliases). Having researched Holmes myself, I can say it is hard work sorting myth from fact. Selzer often had to throw up his hands ascribe items and events to the unknowable. But not through lack of trying. Along with his notorious Chicago days, Selzer conscientiously sorted out the twisted history of Holmes' confession and his pre-murderous life. Not only a criminal extraordinaire, Holmes was grubby and greedy, and as much as anything else, a man of his times. Virtually all other medical doctors rose above the training provided by corpses stolen from the graveyard. Holmes descended into it. Murder, Selzer hypothesizes, for Holmes was not a matter of blood-lust or deranged madness, but the methodical madness of a swindler always trying to keep one step ahead of being caught. A provocative read.

Many hours of tedious research must have gone into this book, but I found it a very slow and tedious read. I bought this book after reading Devil in White City and was anxious to read it over Spring break to learn more about H.H. Holmes. I couldn't stop reading DIWC. I had to keep putting Selzer's book down - too dull for me.

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