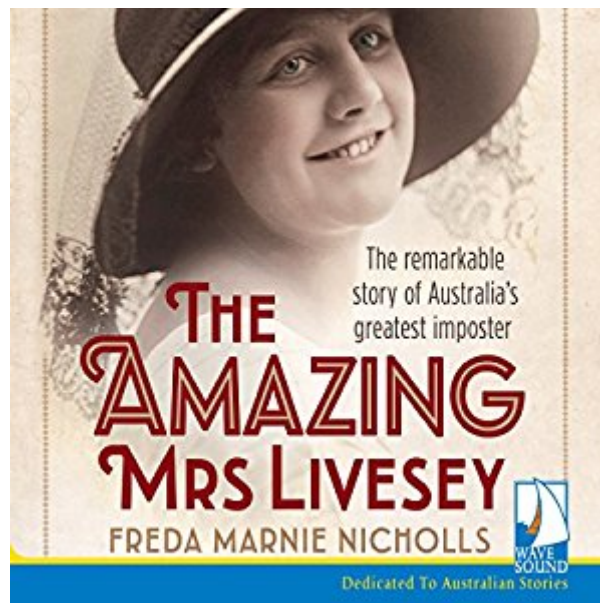




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The Amazing Mrs Livesey: The Remarkable Story Of Australia's Greatest Imposter



Synopsis

This is the truly remarkable life story of the notorious Ethel Livesey, a serial fraudster and confidence trickster who became a media sensation after she ran out on her society wedding in 1945 and later was arrested for obtaining goods by false pretences. With a prologue by Ethel Livesey's granddaughter, this extraordinary tale of Australia's greatest fraudster is told for the first time in rich and fascinating detail.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

What a piece of work! Excellent and well written tale of a brazen con artist, its hard to believe anyone could be so unashamedly cruel to people of all walks of life. She must have had great charm to take in so many people, they just kept on falling for her ploys and schemes, including her own father. On top of that her treatment of her children was appalling. She just couldn't stop conning people. If she had ceased once she found Mr Livesey, her life could have been so much different. She could have gone straight from then on, but no, driven by greed she carried on with her nasty ways. I wish I knew how she finished up - did she crawl away and die in obscurity? Or did she find another wealthy gullible husband and live out the rest of her life in comfort? Very well researched, gives a great insight into life in Britain and Australia in the early 20th century.

A great book to read

Story lacks credibility with questionable timelines little realistic basis for events portrayed throughout

A woman who wasn't especially beautiful, educated and actually VERY "full-figured" (everywhere) travelled the world, lived luxuriously and inveigled the money for it all with charm, deceit and shameless fraud. Well, she sure fooled them - and they loved all of it! Ethel Livesy was a rascalion, a charmer who simply entranced the listeners who offered her chances to be the very best version of herself. Yes, the LATEST VERSION! Moving in and out of identities, from England to Australia and sticky bad debt situations, Ethel looked for every opportunity to better her financial and social situations. A gifted and effortless liar, Ethel had men become suitors and quickly new husbands, when they were moved and enchanted by her sorrowful tales of life as a penniless war widow, a rich heiress alone or the widow of a high status judge/doctor/merchant with sons loyally in service to WWI. Gullible women weren't much better off around Ethel either, succumbing to her perfectly elocuted British accent and impeccably fashionable and jewel-adorned style. The "High Life" was hers - for as long as she could fake it, spend money she didn't have and until a fraud charge from another identity and location caught up with her. Depending on her wiliness and sheer luck, Ethel spent more time defrauding others, charming her way out of court and fleeing than she ever did being held accountable for her substantial crimes. This narrative by Freda Marnie Nichols, complete with photos and newspaper clippings, about this irascible Ethel is oddly compelling. I found myself cheering the lady with forty aliases on, hoping that she might give this or that policeman the slip and eager to find out where her survival skills would take her next. In middle age Ethel was no femme fatale, yet her well-cushioned frame held a personality which dazzled. She was a rogue, she abandoned her children and had a life created on false pretences and is absolutely FASCINATING to read about! A great book for those who love celebrity-style biographies, with an historical WWI to 1950s insight to those times through Mrs. Livesy's opportunistic eyes! A fun read!

I am a True Crime buff, and thought it would be interesting to read a story about a woman who was the criminal. Mrs. Livesey took on several identities through the years, and always seemed to thrive for the most part, even when she was captured several times. You wanted to dislike her, because she hurt a lot of people and put them in bad conditions by stealing money and valuables from them, but she was just so freaking charming!!! Clearly she was charming in real life and not just on the pages of this book, as she seemed to be able to easily con even the sharpest of people. Her final trial towards the end of the book does get a little bogged down, as the transcript repeats many

things you have already read, but DO NOT SKIM, because you will get the BEST laugh ever over one conversation that took place in court! :)I received this book on behalf of NetGalley.

The Amazing Mrs Livesey by Freda Marnie Nicholls is a free NetGalley ebook that I read in mid-August.Nicholls writes in the stead of her friend, Luita Aichinger, who is the granddaughter of 'The Amazing Mrs Livesey' (whose true legal name is somewhat fuzzy, due to aliases, marriages, divorce, and widowhood), and pieces together a loose life story out of archival research from Australia, the UK, and New Zealand. Mrs Livesey's acts of thievery, breach of promise, misrepresentation, adultery, and eventual bankruptcy are all quite dramatic and evasive with even her death being shrouded in mystery.

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