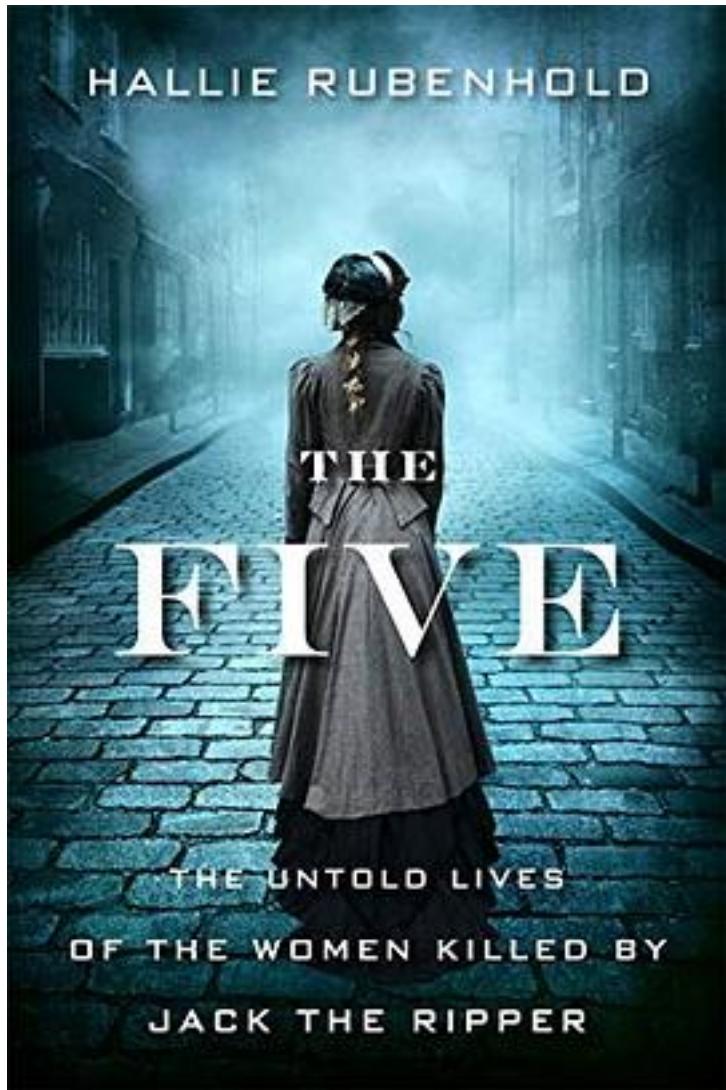


The Five: The Untold Lives of the Women Killed by Jack the Ripper



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出版者:Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

出版时间:2019-4-9

装帧:Hardcover

isbn:9781328663818

Miscast in the media for nearly 130 years, the victims of Jack the Ripper finally get their full stories told in this eye-opening and chilling reminder that life for middle-class women in Victorian London could be full of social pitfalls and peril.

The "canonical five" women murdered by Jack the Ripper have always been dismissed as society's waste, their stories passed down to us wrapped in a package of Victorian assumptions and prejudice. But social historian Hallie Rubenhold sets the record straight in *The Five*. In reality, only two of the victims were prostitutes, and Rubenhold has uncovered entirely new research about them all--in some cases, material no one has ever seen before.

The Five tells for the first time the true stories of these fascinating women. It delves into the Victorian experience of poverty, homelessness, and alcoholism, but also motherhood, childbirth, sexuality, child-rearing, work, and marriage, all against the fascinating, dark, and quickly changing backdrop of nineteenth-century London. From rural Sweden to the wedding of Queen Victoria, from the London of Charles Dickens to the factories of the Industrial Revolution and the high-class brothels of the West End, these women were not just victims but witnesses to the vagaries and vicissitudes of the Victorian age.

作者介绍:

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标签

女性

外国文学

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历史

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2020

评论

在伦敦读书的时候我在Lilian

Knowles住过半年，晚饭后总是和那时的男友靠在宿舍马路对面停车场的外墙聊天。那个停车场原来曾经是某个JTR遇害者的住所，所以每隔半小时就有个“开膛手杰克walking tour”的guide带着大队游客站到我们旁边声音洪亮地讲“历史”。不知道听了多少遍，多少个版本。但现在回想起来，甚至不知道住在“停车场”的遇害者是哪一个。维多利亚时代sensationalist的文字报道让这些遇害妇女变成了一个个seedy story, cautionary tale, 变成了fallen women的符号（其实五个人里只有两个疑似是妓女）从没有人关心过她们真实是怎样的人，直到一百多年后的这本书。那时底层妇女出生前就已写好的无奈人生，Rubenholde写得是有多真切。

如标题和简介所说，这本不是关于JTR的，是关于JTR所谓的“canonical five”五个受害者的。详细描写了受害人在当时社会环境下因为种种原因失去“身份”不得不流入白教堂地区，并且在死亡后又被剥夺了声音和自我。让我想起之前没看完的那本关于JTR的书，如果你不想成为ripperology的一部分，写这样的书才是应该的吧。另外作者指出实际上五人之中只有两个能肯定是妓女，其中一个已经改行了，其他三人完全没有证据支持，这样JTR的受害者特征需要推翻重建了吧。

目前为止是今年看过的书里最震撼的一本了

正如作者指出的，一次次聚焦在凶手本人，甚至夸张化、美化、英雄化他，会加强人们对固有道德观念的认同，甚至在这个基础上合理化施暴者的行为。这五位女性的悲剧是很多因素导致的，她们身上有维多利亚时代女性的共性也有她们自己的独特性，她们不是简单的被害名单上的几个名字，她们是有喜怒哀乐活生生的人，她们不应该被这样对待，她们值得被尊重

希望有一天女性不再是男性故事的背景、受害者更不要成为加害者的背景……希望更多人能看清，在男权社会，女性无法选择自己是不是妓女……

每一位受害者，不是数字、不是炮灰、不是滥造新闻的基础素材、不是凶杀事件的配角、不是某一群体的代表，而同你我一样，是平凡生存着的、活生生的人。

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书评

The loss of these five ... lives is clearly a tragedy... You may view with some distaste the lifestyles of those involved... whatever drugs they took, whatever the work they did, no-one is entitled to do these women any harm, let alone kill them. 最后 “Just...

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