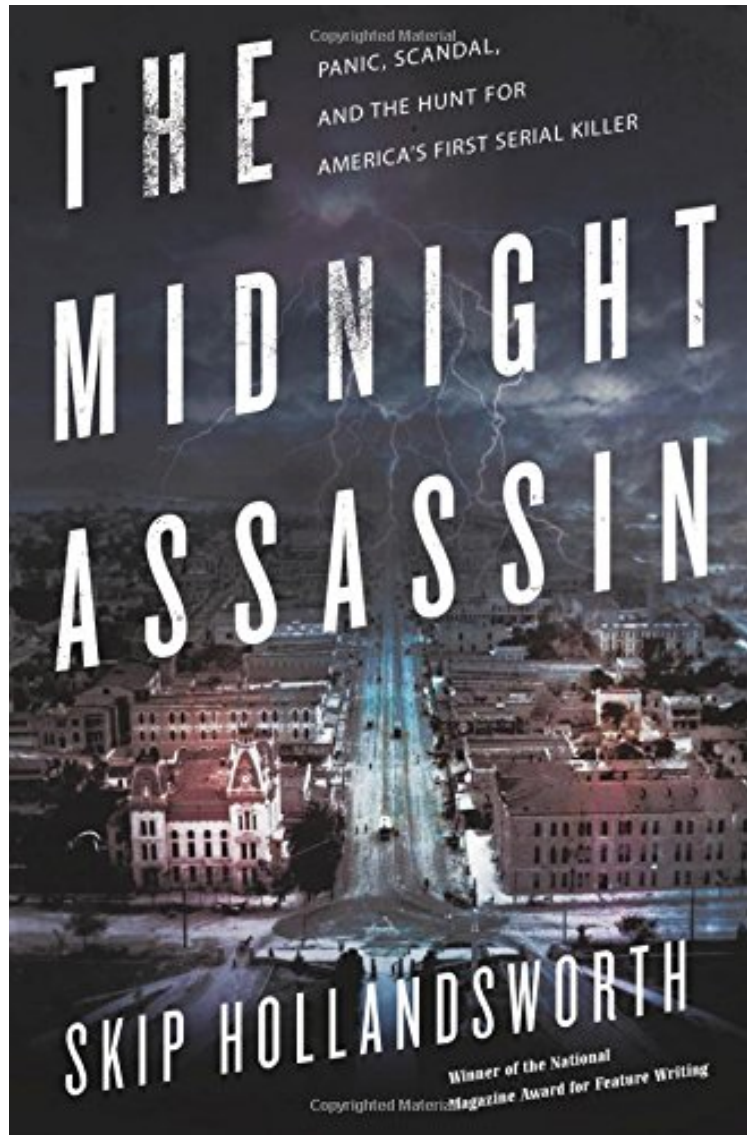


(Read free) The Midnight Assassin: Panic, Scandal, and the Hunt for America's First Serial Killer

The Midnight Assassin: Panic, Scandal, and the Hunt for America's First Serial Killer

Skip Hollandsworth

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#364182 in Books Hollandsworth Skip 2016-04-05 2016-04-05 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.61 x 1.09 x 6.391, 1.00 #File Name: 0805097678336 pages The Midnight Assassin Panic Scandal and the Hunt for America s First Serial Killer | File size: 59.Mb

Skip Hollandsworth : The Midnight Assassin: Panic, Scandal, and the Hunt for America's First Serial Killer before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Midnight Assassin: Panic, Scandal, and the Hunt for America's First Serial Killer:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The prejudices of the time were on display but the inability of authorities to do anything led to political careers being ruined

By Gary Page Riveting informative read about a new kind of killer--a serial murderer--terrorizing Austin, Texas, from December 1884 through December 1885 in the days before forensic science. The police force had no clue how to catch this fiend or stop the reign of terror. Although many men were arrested and three prosecuted the killer of several women in gruesome fashion was never identified or apprehended. When Jack the Ripper started killing prostitutes in 1888 in London many wondered if the Midnight Assassin of Austin had gone to London started over. Both killers abruptly stopped killing disappeared from history. Most Austin residents thought blacks were responsible for the murders as the first victims were black servant women until the double event on Christmas Eve 1885 when two white women were murdered. The prejudices of the time were on display but the inability of authorities to do anything led to political careers being ruined a sex scandal developed for good measure. Highly recommended.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent narrative take you back in time

By Andy Glass Skip Hollandsworth does an excellent job of taking you back in time to the late 1800s in Austin, Texas as a serial killer terrorizes the city. Layered with details about what was happening in Austin at the time the story comes to life as the citizens and lawmen hunt the murderer. The story ultimately covers years as the search and theories evolve. Most interesting was the timing of the murders, which happened around the time of the Ripper in London and HH Holmes in Chicago (Devil in the White City). Not that there was a connection with those, but the speculation is there and an interesting historical side note. Well done and would be enjoyed by anyone who enjoys reading true crime stories.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Scope of the Story is Lost

By Liz Wisco SPOILER ALERT- It's a well researched book, and I'm sure somewhat inspired by the success of Devil in the White City, but at the end of the day we're talking about 8 murders that go unsolved. Most of the book depicts social events and other random facts about Austin, which are interesting but not all that relevant to the story. (I think there's a whole chapter about street lights.) The murders themselves take place in a span of one year but the book spans many decades. The author really goes down a rabbit hole when he speculates that perhaps the same killer is Jack the Ripper. There are no conclusions made so if you like your true crime tidied up this is not the book for you.

A sweeping narrative history of a terrifying serial killer--America's first--who stalked Austin, Texas in 1885

In the late 1800s, the city of Austin, Texas was on the cusp of emerging from an isolated western outpost into a truly cosmopolitan metropolis. But beginning in December 1884, Austin was terrorized by someone equally as vicious and, in some ways, far more diabolical than London's infamous Jack the Ripper. For almost exactly one year, the Midnight Assassin crisscrossed the entire city, striking on moonlit nights, using axes, knives, and long steel rods to rip apart women from every race and class. At the time the concept of a serial killer was unthinkable, but the murders continued, the killer became more brazen, and the citizens' panic reached a fever pitch. Before it was all over, at least a dozen men would be arrested in connection with the murders, and the crimes would expose what a newspaper described as "the most extensive and profound scandal ever known in Austin." And yes, when Jack the Ripper began his attacks in 1888, London police investigators did wonder if the killer from Austin had crossed the ocean to terrorize their own city. With vivid historical detail and novelistic flair, Texas Monthly journalist Skip Hollandsworth brings this terrifying saga to life.

From School Library Journal

Before Jack the Ripper mutilated prostitutes in the dark corners of London in the late 19th-century, Austin, TX, was besieged by a vicious killer whose victims were African American servants. He cut up women with an axe to the head and left them bloody in their beds. Husbands of the first three victims were arrested in succession, even though they had alibis and swore their innocence. Racism delayed justice for a year. Black men became so terrified of the police that they rubbed their feet and legs with asafoetida, a natural paste slaves had used when running away from their masters to throw off bloodhounds. Nicknamed "the midnight assassin," the murderer left an eyewitness, a nine-year-old boy who thought the man who killed his mother—the first victim—was white, but no one listened. Then on New Year's Eve, in 1885, two prominent white women were hacked to death within an hour of each other, and a wider search was undertaken. This is a painstakingly researched book written by a Texas native that examines prejudices, which still keep justice at bay. VERDICT This work introduces students to a grisly piece of American history and models footnote and bibliographic research. A must-have.—Georgia Christgau, Middle College High School, Long Island City, NY Winner of the Texas Institute of Letters's Carr P. Collins Award One of Book Riot's Best Books of 2016 "Skip Hollandsworth knows his way around a crime scene...Fans of Erik Larson's 2003 hit, *The Devil in the White City*...will find similar pleasures here. This is true crime of high quality. . . Mr. Hollandsworth handles gruesome details with a smart, restrained touch...Chilling." *The New York Times* "Gripping and atmospheric...This true crime page-turner is a balanced and insightful examination of one of the most stirring serial killing sprees in American history, and certainly one of the least well-known." *Publishers Weekly* (Starred) "Readers who loved *The Devil in the White City* now have the pleasure of reading *The Midnight Assassin*. It paints a compelling portrait of a culture at a turning point – that is, the capitol of Texas at the end of the 19th Century, when the barbarism of the frontier was giving way to the savagery of urban life." *Lawrence Wright, Pulitzer Prize-winning*

author *The Looming Tower* and *Thirteen Days in September* “As a magazine journalist, Skip Hollandsworth has forged a reputation as one of the best storytellers in the country. *The Midnight Assassin* takes his singular narrative skills to a thrilling new level. Reading this book is like cracking open a time capsule and breathing the air of a vanished era. In Hollandsworth's hands, one of the ghastliest and most inscrutable crimes in American history becomes hair-raisingly immediate, and the mystery at its center grows ever more mysterious with every page.” —Stephen Harrigan, author of *The Gates of the Alamo* and *A Friend of Mr. Lincoln* “Skip Hollandsworth has achieved a literary miracle with *The Midnight Assassin*. With haunting granularity, Hollandsworth breathes vivid life into a forgotten, century-old tale of the hunt for America's first diabolical serial murderer?set in, of all places, the quaint but upwardly mobile town of Austin, Texas. To read *The Midnight Assassin* is to experience the lost innocence of a 19th-century capital city set on edge by the unseen monster in its midst.” —Robert Draper, *The New York Times Magazine* and author of *Dead Certain* “Skip Hollandsworth, one of the great true-crime writers of our era, has brought his remarkable talent to bear on one of the most fascinating untold criminal stories in American history. *The Midnight Assassin* captures a time, a place, and a feeling?booming Texas in the latter 19th century?in a way no nonfiction account I have read has done. A jewel of a book.” —S.C. Gwynne, author of *Empire of the Summer Moon* and *Rebel Yell* “Skip Hollandsworth has a bloodhound's nose for a great tale. With *The Midnight Assassin*, he's found the perfect subject for his many talents. Through scrupulous research and a finely tuned sense of the gothic, Hollandsworth has brought this Texas-sized true-crime story, more than a century old, to vivid, chilling life on the page.” —Hampton Sides, author of *Hellhound On His Trail* and *In the Kingdom of Ice* “As the state of Texas's best-known magazine writer, Skip Hollandsworth is not just a Lone Star treasure, but a national treasure. In this, his first book, he uncovers the amazing untold story of America's first serial killer, a phantom who stalked the streets of Austin in 1885, three years before Jack the Ripper. Whether you love true crime, history or Texana, *The Midnight Assassin* is bursting at the seams with everything you want in a great book; a spellbinding mix of mystery, horror and historical detective work. It's the book Hollandsworth was born to write.” —Bryan Burrough, *Vanity Fair* special correspondent and author of *Barbarians at the Gate*, *Days of Rage* and *The Big Rich* About the Author Skip Hollandsworth is an award-winning journalist, screenwriter, and executive editor of *Texas Monthly* magazine. His work was included in the 2006 edition of *Best American Crime Writing* and he has won a National Magazine Award for feature writing. Hollandsworth co-wrote the acclaimed screenplay “Bernie” with director Richard Linklater. He lives in Texas with his wife.