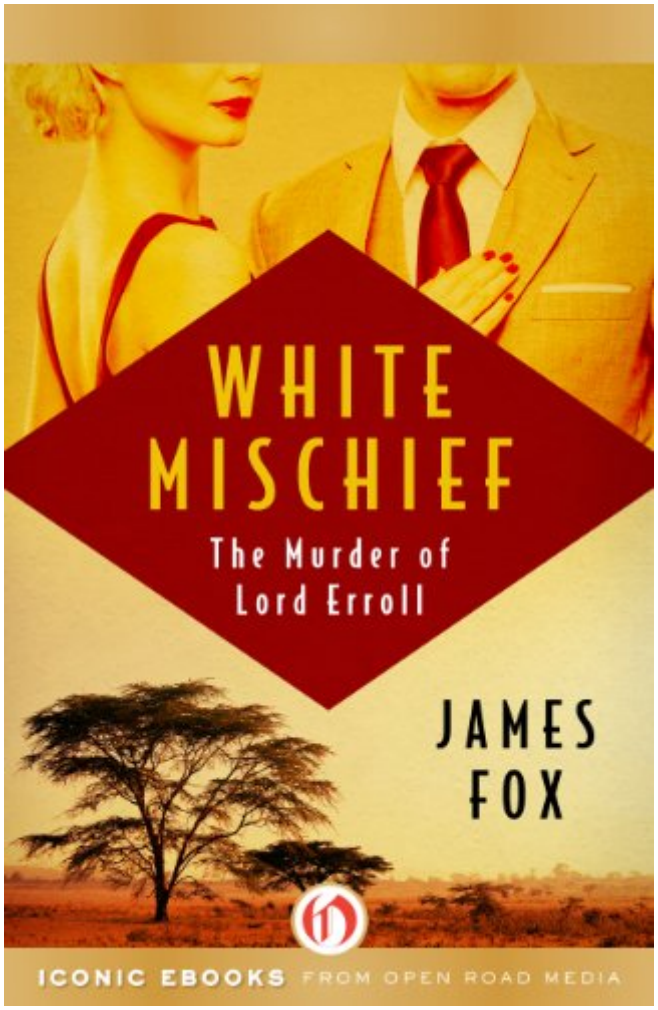
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White Mischief: The Murder Of Lord Erroll



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Synopsis

The riveting true story of decadence, deception, and murder among British aristocrats in colonial KenyaIn 1941, with London burning in the Blitz, a group of hedonistic English nobles partied shamelessly in Kenya. Far removed from falling bombs, the wealthy elites of Ã¢â ¬Å“Happy ValleyÃ¢â ¬Â• indulged in morphine, alcohol, and unrestricted sex, often with their friendsÃ¢â ¬â„¢ spouses. But the party turned sinister in the early hours of a January morning for Josslyn Hay, Lord Erroll, who had been enjoying the favors of the beautiful young wife of a middle-aged neighbor. Hay was found dead, a bullet in his brain. The murder shocked the close-knit community of wealthy expatriates in Nairobi and shined a harsh light on their louche lifestyle.Three decades later, author James Fox researched the slaying of Lord Erroll, an unsolved crime still sheathed in a thick cloud of rumor and innuendo. What he discovered was both unsettling and luridly compelling.Ã Â White MischiefÃ Â is a spellbinding true-crime classic, a tale of privileged excess and the wages of sin, and an account of one writerÃ¢â ¬â„¢s determined effort to crack a cold and craven killing.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The idle, self-absorbed and narcissistic aristocrats that abused their way through 1920's Kenya represented perhaps the worst of British colonialism. This expose into the sordid underbelly of the club, the parties and the key players of "Happy valley" reads more like a biography at times, but is in fact a detailed murder investigation.Part one is beautifully written, a literary memoir- of a long-lost era - encapsulating the glamour of colonial Africa. If part one is a fluid period-drama, part two is a disjointed documentary, a diary, a train of thought. Both sections are captivating because they follow the intimate lives of real people, in the defining moments of their lives, as they transition through the decades and into old age. It is, ultimately, a brilliant piece of detective work.

Featuring some of the same characters as "The Bolter", but less accurately written...focuses on the still unsolved murder. OK read, not very lively, loaded down with explanations of English aristocracy and their numerous titles. The author seems a little too in awe of titles and bloodlines.

Of the many reasons you may have for reading this book, you must not pick it up to learn who murdered Josslyn Hay, Earl of Errol. James Fox will give you all the facts and then let you decide. As Fox points out, "there were many people in Kenya who had a motive for killing Errol, and many who had the opportunity that night." To this day it remains an unsolved crime, a "cold case," dating to 1941. But when Fox and his Sunday Times Magazine colleague, Cyril Connolly, began their investigations, in 1969, there were still several people living who were personally involved in the case. Connolly and Fox, working together left no stone unturned, and wrote up their findings in the Sunday Times Magazine. But credit Fox, convinced that there were still facts to learn, for returning to the case after Connolly's death.By the time we turn the last page, we know the whereabouts of every person on a minute to minute basis throughout the night Lord Errol was shot in the head at close range and left on the floor of his car in a ditch. We know their drugs of choice, the calibers of their pistols, their alibis, and their manifold motives. Certainly the preponderance of evidence points to Lord Jock Delves Broughton (pronounced Brawton), whose wife had been Lord Erroll's latest conquest. Broughton, however, was released on lack of evidence.It was, however, precisely because Fox was so familiar with the case, more so than most of the actual protagonists, that he was able to approach Broughton's widow, Diana, Lady Delamere, and chat with her in 1981, forty years after the murder. Fox gained her confidence and he eventually learned her own theory as to the murder's identity.Fox gives us descriptions of stunning clarity of the Kenyan landscape, the society of Happy Valley, the Muthaiga Club, and the personalities which peopled the drama which so obsessed him as it had his colleague, Connolly, before him. We owe Fox a debt of gratitude for

his renderings of wartime Kenyan colonial society, which, were it not for the murder of Lord Erroll, may well have faded from memory and history with the passage of time. Fox has documented more than a murder; he has preserved a slice of history forever, and it is a deliciously salacious history at that.

I read The Bolter and became interested in this murder. I am glad I had some background because there were times the cast of characters got confusing. It does concern a legal trial so it can help but have boring parts

An interetsing approach to this infamous murder and when coupled by the novel "The bounder" one comes away with a really vivid impression of the hedonistic days of those expatriots in Happy Valley. certainly, thie rnedeavors to "civilize" "darkest Africa" were foiled by their own foilbles and indulgences that one cna see why the end of colonial rule was so well deserved. Most interesting and also entertaining.

in concert with other books on the topic a well-formed presentation of circumstances can be had. the actual presentation of this book in the kindle format is disappointing; that is, there are mistakes on every page as to puctuation, etc. rookie mistakes.four stars for content, none for technical competency.

Fascinating account about an actual crime that took place among spoiled English aristocrats living in colonial Kenya prior to and during World War II. Each true life character is described in delicious detail, reflecting the years of research that went into writing the book. And you are not left guessing in the end as to who the culprit actually was, although said person got away with it at the time.

It was OK, and has some great photos. But "Happy Valley" by Nicolas Best is a much better book.

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