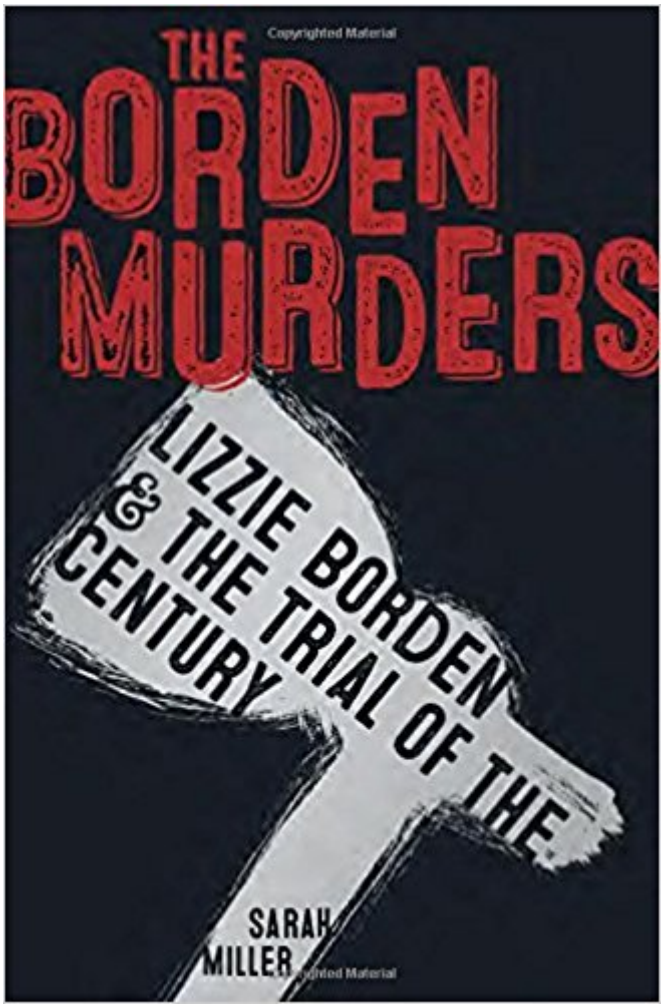
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The Borden Murders: Lizzie Borden And The Trial Of The Century



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Synopsis

With murder, court battles, and sensational newspaper headlines, the story of Lizzie Borden is compulsively readable and perfect for the Common Core. Ã Â Lizzie Borden took an axe, gave her mother forty whacks. When she saw what she had done, she gave her father forty-one. Ã Â In a compelling, linear narrative, Miller takes readers along as she investigates a brutal crime: the August 4, 1892, murders of wealthy and prominent Andrew and Abby Borden. The accused? Mild-mannered and highly respected Lizzie Borden, daughter of Andrew and stepdaughter of Abby. Most of what is known about LizzieÃ¢â ¬â„¢s arrest and subsequent trial (and acquittal) comes from sensationalized newspaper reports; as Miller sorts fact from fiction, and as a legal battle gets under way, a gripping portrait of a woman and a town emerges. Ã Â With inserts featuring period photos and newspaper clippingsÃ¢â ¬â •and, yes, images from the murder sceneÃ¢â ¬â •readers will devour this nonfiction book that reads like fiction.A School Library Journal Best Best Book of the Year"Sure to be a hit with true crime fans everywhere." Ã¢â ¬â •School Library Journal, Starred

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Gr 7 UpÃ¢â ¬â •In 1892, Lizzie Borden, a well-to-do young woman from Fall River, MA, went on trial for the brutal murder of her father and stepmother. Miller lays out the facts of the case in painstaking detail, chapter by chapter. Investigating newspaper reports and affidavits and providing historical context for modern readers, Miller crafts a superbly researched work that reads like a thriller and asks probing questions about media bias, sexism, and what lurks in the darkest

recesses of the human heart.

Ã¢â ¬Å“Like a historical version of Ã¢â ¬ËœLaw & Order,Ã¢â ¬â„¢ the book chronologically reviews and defines the case in lively proseÃ¢â ¬Â¦Miller presents the macabre subject matter so objectively that readers will find their opinions of BordenÃ¢â ¬â„¢s criminal potential shifting from chapter to chapter.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã Â Ã¢â ¬â •The New York Times Book ReviewÃ¢â ¬Å“Fans of the podcast Serial will find much to enjoy here, as each chapter reveals a new piece of the puzzle and examines it from every angle availableÃ¢â ¬Â¦Sure to be a hit with true crime fans everywhere.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã Â Ã¢â ¬â •School Library JournalÃ Â starred review"The high-appeal topic will attract many readers, and the suspenseful account will have them trying to solve this still unresolved murder mystery."Ã Â Ã¢â ¬â •Kirkus ReviewsÃ¢â ¬Å“Ã¢â ¬Â¦an exhaustive look at the famous unsolved murders of August 1892Ã¢â ¬Â¦Miller relies on newspaper accounts and court transcripts to create lively scenes filled with authentic dialogue, making for a suspenseful crime story, which is all the more intriguing for its lasting doubt.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â œPublishers Weekly

I see that a lot of reviewers have read several books on this "Mystery of History" and also that some thought it was targeted at teens; I didn’t notice an age issue, however. This account is somewhat feminist, and basically considers Lizzie as probably innocent of the murders. The author makes the valuable point that the "fake news," misinformation put out at the time and since has been overwhelming. None of the reputation-blackening issues that are used in other books come up here: the supposed shoplifting (though she does note that in subsequent life Lizzie was at least once accused of shoplifting), the attempted Prussic acid purchase, which in the event if it occurred was not used. No attempt is made to solve the murder, unlike some other books that have their favorite suspects and not Lizzie. This author does note that while Lizzie was actually in jail, a terrible murder very similar to the Borden murders occurred in the town, done by a Portuguese illegal alien who may or may not have been in the country the few months earlier at the time of the Borden murders. He’s my candidate. We well know now -- as they didn’t in 1892 -- that there are a lot of people who will massacre, who are crazy. Lizzie’s infamous eyes (psycho eyes? look at the photos) have caused people to wonder if she was psychotic, and her spinster nature and that of her caretaking sister and her mysterious total departure from Lizzie late in life do make one wonder a little, but it seems only too obvious that this was due to sexual irregularities at the home they set up: Lizzie invited in an acting troupe. Nice photos illustrating the people and situations. A corrective to the books that are too sure to believe: this author thinks it’s still a mystery, and I agree.

The picture of the backyard is worth the price of the hardcover! Lizzie could have exited through the basement and gone immediately to the side door hoping to be seen to help her alibi of having been to the barn. I had always imagined the house and barn to have a width distance of 12-15 feet between them, but this backyard picture shows the barn further back (of course) but a width distance of a few inches if any.

Well written, not at all dry, really interesting and the author just reports the facts. We'll never really know if Lizzie Borden actually killed her father and step mother. Where is the murderer weapon, and why was all the focus on Lizzie and not her older sister? Even the uncle and servant was a suspect. Or were both sisters in on it?

I was first introduced, over fifty years ago, to the infamous Lizzie Borden through a high school production of a play called The Legend of Lizzie. Then in 1967, I purchased Victoria LincolnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s book A Private Disgrace. I thought it was the ultimate resource book for LizzieÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s murders. (The author of the book IÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢m reviewing here says that Lincoln, who was a neighbor of Lizzie Borden, wrote a book that was quite flawed.) Then I went on to Agnes DeMilleÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s A Dance of Death, an account of DeMilleÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s research into the Borden murders in preparation for her ballet Fall River Legend. Since all that, IÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ve also seen a couple of movies about the murders, so I feel like IÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢m steeped in the tale of Lizzie Borden. And now, along comes Sarah MillerÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s The Borden Murders: Lizzie Borden and the Trial of the Century. I eagerly awaited the book, and although I canÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t say that I overwhelmingly enjoyed it, I did find it an interesting addition to the lore I already knew. Miller has written a well-researched book, and she has humanized Lizzie in a way that I never saw before. The author sought out anecdotes and details that would show that Lizzie was a frightened young woman on trial. The outcome is not different from any other account, for this is history after all, but we do finish the book feeling differently about Lizzie and understanding the outcome of the trial a bit better.
MillerÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s book is supposedly written for young adults, but its subject matter and her approach are very adult. Teens will be engrossed in the book, but do not be fooledÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â •this book is a welcome addition to Lizzie Borden lore, and adults will find it captivating. My one complaint is a minor one. Miller peppers the text with sidebars. I found the facts and tidbits in these sidebars to be fascinating, but I also found them a bit distracting, for I

didnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t want to leave the flow of the story to find out such things as the difference between an inquest and a trial or how one kind of fabric differs from another. And yet, the sidebars enriched the story because this was all information that we likely, as modern readers, would not know. So I heartily recommend The Borden Murders for all ages.

I read The Borden Murders in one gulp. Then I went back and re-read it. It's that interesting a topic, and Sarah Miller handles it in a way that makes for a compulsive page-turner. I knew that it was targeted at a younger audience than I fit into (ahem), but I have to tell you --- if this is what middle-school readers are capable of understanding, then more power to them. The writing is lucid and she makes the actual timetable of the murders understandable in terms of where everyone was, or at least claimed to be (no mean feat). The book is also scrupulously fair in regard to the identity of the murderer. Miller frankly admits that in the end, she is still in the dark. But for many readers, she will have accomplished an enormous achievement in regard Lizzie Borden's reputation. Miller argues the case for an unknown murderer so well that even those disposed to believe that Lizzie did do it must concede that much of the evidence has been organized so poorly that we have not heard the case against Borden as the killer.Did she persuade me that Lizzie was innocent? No, but the book made me want to argue about it!The photos are well chosen, and not gruesome. Miller skims lightly over the most obvious explanation of Lizzie's infatuation with Nance O'Neill and Emma's departure from their shared home. Mustn't scandalize the younglings.This is a terrific read at any age. I only wish that books about topics this well-handled had been available when I was in middle school, but of course the printing press had only just been invented.

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