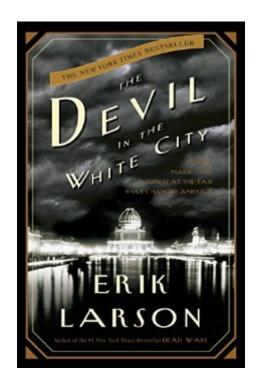
The book was found

The Devil In The White City: A Saga Of Magic And Murder At The Fair That Changed America





Synopsis

Erik Larsonâ "author of #1 bestseller IN THE GARDEN OF BEASTSâ "intertwines the true tale of the 1893 World's Fair and the cunning serial killer who used the fair to lure his victims to their death. Combining meticulous research with nail-biting storytelling, Erik Larson has crafted a narrative with all the wonder of newly discovered history and the thrills of the best fiction. From the Trade Paperback edition.

Book Information

File Size: 5229 KB

Print Length: 447 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 0375725601

Publisher: Vintage; Reprint edition (February 10, 2004)

Publication Date: February 10, 2004

Sold by:Â Random House LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B000FC0ZIA

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #1,536 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #1 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Scien

Customer Reviews

Erik Larson does a bang-up job of conveying what life must have been like in the "Second City" as the 19th century drew to its fitful conclusion. Bristling at the constant reminder of New York City's superiority in so many areas, Chicago's city fathers rallied the troops and went all out in proving to New Yorkers, to the nation and to the world that Chicago was equal to the great challenge of mounting a World Exposition of truly monumental stature. Larson's descriptions of the Herculean effort put forth by numerous architects, builders, politicians, etc. lead the reader to a true

appreciation of these "can do," spirited individuals. Yet beneath the teeming activity and a short distance away from the gleaming white Pleasure Palaces of the Fair, there stood a building of a different sort entirely, inhabited by one of the most vicious, truly evil creatures the young nation ever produced. Larson does an adequate, but not great job of telling the darker story surrounding H H Holmes, the mesmeric Svengali whose brilliant blue eyes and engaging charm seduced at least a score (one estimate was up to 200, which the author disputes) unfortunate women. Unlike Jack the Ripper, to whom he was later likened, he didn't limit himself to female victims. Business partners who had outworn their usefulness and several children were amongst his prey, as well. He just had a penchant for murder.

This is an easy and enticing read, full of gritty and gossipy details that are presented in a style that keeps the reader interested. I was intrigued by the astounding feat of effort that it took to prepare and present the Columbian Exhibition in Chicago in 1893 and Larson does a good job of introducing us to the men who made it happen -- all led by the talented and tireless architect Daniel Burnham. The cast of characters with whom Burnham worked reads like a Who's Who of culture and design in the 19th Century. The reader also comes to learn a good deal about the city of Chicago at that time -- how it so desperately wanted to refine its image from that of a grimy city known primarily as a hog-slaughterer into a cultural oasis and how it self-consciously but determidly sought world-class status, competing with New York and Paris to make the Big Time. The enormous success of the White City was due in large part to that gutsy determination and much hard work. And this book explains that very well. At the same time, it really piqued my interest to the extent that I have done some additional research into this World's Fair. Larson parallels Burnham's story with that of Herman Mudgett, alias Dr. H.H. Holmes, the first notorious serial killer in the United States. Holmes, a charming, fast-talking and handsome con artist, was able to swindle, steal and lie his way into and out of many schemes that a less clever person could have never even imagined, much less succeeded at. He was also a cold-blooded killer who had no qualms about killing women and children as well as men. He ran a hotel and apartments in Chicago during the Fair and attracted tenants and victims there with the Fair's help. Holmes' story is chilling but also fascinating. Again, he is someone I'd like to know more about.

Download to continue reading...

The Devil in the White City: A Saga of Magic and Murder at the Fair that Changed America The Devil in the White City: Murder, Magic and Madness at the Fair That Changed America Magic Cards: Magic the Gathering - 33 Killer Tips from a Magic Master! (Magic Cards, Magic the

Gathering, Magic Decks, Magic the Gathering Tips, Magic Card Tips, How to Play Magic, Magic) Murder Most Vile Volume 10: 18 Shocking True Crime Murder Cases (True Crime Murder Books) Spectacle in the White City: The Chicago 1893 World's Fair (Calla Editions) Grave Mercy: His Fair Assassin, Book I (His Fair Assassin Trilogy) The Devil in the White City The Devil's Due and Other Stories: The Devil's Due, The Portal, Disfigured, Empathy, and Epitaph (International Thriller Writers Presents: Thriller, Vol. 1) Devil in the Making: The Devil DeVere The Devil Is a Part-Timer, Vol. 6 manga (The Devil Is a Part-Timer! Manga) The Devil's Teeth: A True Story of Obsession and Survival Among America's Great White Sharks The Great Dissent: How Oliver Wendell Holmes Changed His Mind--and Changed the History of Free Speech in America The Devil and Sherlock Holmes: Tales of Murder, Madness, and Obsession Dance with the Devil: A Memoir of Murder and Loss His Majesty 2: The Carson Brothers Saga (His Majesty: The Carson Brothers Saga) His Majesty 3: The Carson Brother's Saga (His Majesty: The Carson Brothers Saga) White City, Black City: Architecture and War in Tel Aviv and Jaffa (MIT Press) Arc of Justice: A Saga of Race, Civil Rights, and Murder in the Jazz Age Perfect Murder, Perfect Town: The Uncensored Story of the JonBenet Murder and the Grand Jury's Search for the Truth Perfect Murder, Perfect Town: The Uncensored Story of the JonBenet Murder and the Grand Jury's Search for the Final Truth

<u>Dmca</u>