



## Portrait of a Killer: Jack the Ripper--Case Closed

By Patricia Cornwell

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The number-one *New York Times*-bestselling novelist Patricia Cornwell is known the world over for her brilliant storytelling, the courage of her characters, and the state-of-the-art forensic methods they employ.

In this headline-making new work of nonfiction, Cornwell turns her trademark skills for meticulous research and scientific expertise on one of the most chilling cases of serial murder in the history of crime-the slayings of Jack the Ripper that terrorized 1880s London. With the masterful intuition into the criminal mind that has informed her novels, Cornwell digs deeper into the case than any detective before her-and reveals the true identity of this elusive madman.

Enlisting the help of forensic experts, Cornwell examines all the physical evidence available: thousands of documents and reports, fingerprints, crime-scene photographs, original etchings and paintings, items of clothing, artists' paraphernalia, and traces of DNA. Her unavoidable conclusion: Jack the Ripper was none other than a respected painter of his day, an artist now collected by some of the world's finest museums.

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### Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Jack the Ripper was renowned artist Walter Sickert (1860-1942) according to Cornwell, in case anyone hasn't yet heard. The evidence Cornwell accumulates toward that conclusion in this brilliant, personal, gripping book is very strong, and will persuade many. In May 2001, Cornwell took a tour of Scotland Yard that interested her in the Ripper case, and in Sickert as a suspect. A look at Sickert's "violent" paintings sealed her interest, and she became determined to apply, for the first time ever, modern investigatory and forensic techniques to the crimes that horrified London more than 100 years ago. The book's narrative is complex, as Cornwell details her emotional involvement in the case; re-creates life in Victorian times, particularly in the late 1880s, and especially the cruel existence of the London poor; offers expertly observed scenarios of how, based on the evidence, the killings occurred and the subsequent investigations were conducted; explains what was found by the team of experts she hired; and gives a psycho-biography of Sickert. The book is filled with newsworthy revelations, including the successful use of DNA analysis to establish a link between an envelope mailed by the Ripper and two envelopes used by Sickert. There are also powerful comparisons made between Sickert's drawing style and that of the Ripper; between words and turns of phrases used by both men; and much other circumstantial evidence. Also newsworthy is Cornwell's conclusion that Sickert continued to kill long after the Ripper supposedly lay down his blade, reaping dozens of victims over his long life. Compassionate, intense, superbly argued, fluidly written and impossible to put down, this is the finest and most important true-crime book to date of the 21st century. Main selection of the BOMC, Literary Guild, Mystery Guild and Doubleday Book Club.  
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From Library Journal

Can truth be stranger than Cornwell's fiction? Here, the best-selling novelist claims to uncover the identity of Jack the Ripper.  
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From [Booklist](#)

This is one of the most talked about books of the current publishing season; if you have not heard about it yet, you have not been keeping up with book news! Cornwell, author of the popular Kay Scarpetta mystery series, turns her hand here to nonfiction to explore a subject that recently has thoroughly riveted her attention: none other than the ultimate in unsolved serial murder cases, that of Jack the Ripper. Readers will remember that the Ripper plunged London's East End into abject terror for a few months in 1888, during which time he brutally murdered several prostitutes. Cornwell applied modern investigative and forensic techniques to answer the question of the Ripper's identity, hardly leaving a single stone unturned in gathering evidence, which she presents in this absolutely absorbing book. Who was Jack the Ripper, then? Cornwell points her finger at Impressionist painter Walter Richard Sickert, and her indictment rests on, among other things, DNA testing and matching watermarks on envelopes. She adeptly sets the whole horrifying story within the tenor of life in Victorian England, and the result is a well-constructed, endlessly fascinating account that is sure not only to arouse debate but also to generate considerable demand in the library. *Brad Hooper*  
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### Users Review

**From reader reviews:**

**Gail Kernan:**

The event that you get from Portrait of a Killer: Jack the Ripper--Case Closed will be the more deep you excavating the information that hide inside the words the more you get interested in reading it. It doesn't mean that this book is hard to recognise but Portrait of a Killer: Jack the Ripper--Case Closed giving you thrill feeling of reading. The copy writer conveys their point in selected way that can be understood through anyone who read the idea because the author of this guide is well-known enough. This particular book also makes your own personal vocabulary increase well. That makes it easy to understand then can go with you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We suggest you for having that Portrait of a Killer: Jack the Ripper--Case Closed instantly.

**Donald Corbett:**

Spent a free time for you to be fun activity to perform! A lot of people spent their spare time with their family, or their own friends. Usually they carrying out activity like watching television, planning to beach, or picnic within the park. They actually doing same task every week. Do you feel it? Would you like to something different to fill your current free time/ holiday? Could possibly be reading a book could be option to fill your cost-free time/ holiday. The first thing that you will ask may be what kinds of publication that you should read. If you want to try look for book, may be the guide untitled Portrait of a Killer: Jack the Ripper--Case Closed can be good book to read. May be it could be best activity to you.

**Roberta Nieves:**

A lot of people always spent their free time to vacation or even go to the outside with them household or their friend. Were you aware? Many a lot of people spent they will free time just watching TV, or even playing video games all day long. In order to try to find a new activity here is look different you can read the book. It is really fun to suit your needs. If you enjoy the book that you just read you can spent all day long to reading a e-book. The book Portrait of a Killer: Jack the Ripper--Case Closed it is very good to read. There are a lot of individuals who recommended this book. These folks were enjoying reading this book. When you did not have enough space to bring this book you can buy often the e-book. You can m0ore simply to read this book out of your smart phone. The price is not very costly but this book features high quality.

**Pat Thomas:**

Playing with family in the park, coming to see the water world or hanging out with close friends is thing that usually you have done when you have spare time, then why you don't try issue that really opposite from that. One activity that make you not sensation tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you are ride on and with addition of information. Even you love Portrait of a Killer: Jack the Ripper--Case Closed, you are able to enjoy both. It is excellent combination right, you still wish to miss it? What kind of hang type is it? Oh seriously its mind hangout men. What? Still don't understand it, oh come on its called reading friends.

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