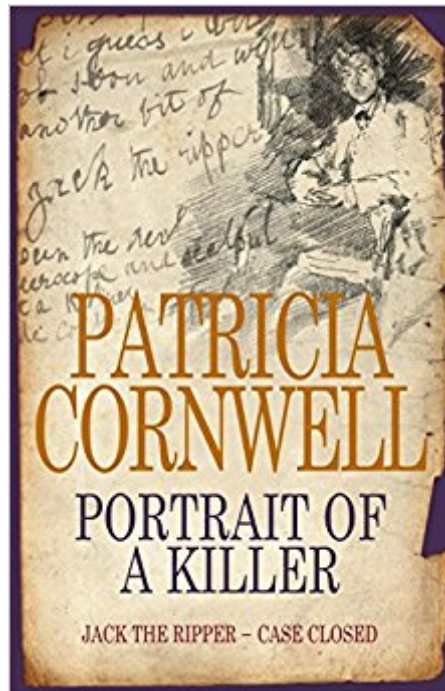


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# Portrait Of A Killer: Jack The Ripper – Case Closed



## Synopsis

America's top crime writer solves the infamous case that has baffled experts for more than a century. Abridged, five CDs, 6 hours --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

## Book Information

Audio CD

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## Customer Reviews

"I knew the identity of a murderer and couldn't possibly avert my gaze," declares bestselling author and Virginia Institute of Forensic Science and Medicine chairman of the board Cornwell (The Last Precinct). Claiming to have cracked the unsolved case of Jack the Ripper, the author, combining superb investigative skills and meticulous research with modern technology, presents strong, albeit largely circumstantial, evidence as to the true culprit in this uncharacteristic work of nonfiction. Cornwell's man is the handsome, educated actor-cum-artist Walter Richard Sickert, and she delves into his life, probing the psychological pain and sexual deformity which led to his "impotent fury." Screen, stage and TV actress Burton's splendid, professional narration deserves much of the credit for the book's smooth translation to abridged audio format. Transporting listeners to 19th century England, Burton easily transitions between American and English accents, bringing an authentic, resonating flavor to the era and to the desperate lives of London's "unfortunates" who became the killer's prey. Despite some tedious and over-detailed readings of medical records, laws and police reports, as well as descriptive accounts of Cornwell's experiences re-opening the case, this audiobook turns potentially dry material into an enthralling exploration. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Can truth be stranger than Cornwell's fiction? Here, the best-selling novelist claims to uncover the identity of Jack the Ripper. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Cornwell is so detailed and meticulous that she just hits the Ripper out of the park. Now we really know to whom the sad, twisted and very sick mind belonged (no spoilers here!). Great read!

Patricia Cornwell's book left me very unimpressed. I have read all her Kay Scarpetta novels, and I don't remember feeling that they were full of holes and fluff, like I felt with this book. Unfortunately, I feel that instead of doing the research first and making her conclusion based on that research, instead she came to her conclusion and built the research around it. Her psychological "profiling" seems completely fabricated. She takes quotes completely out of context. She refers to artwork and paintings of Sickert's that she doesn't include. The whole book seems like an essay that she had a word count to complete, and she's filling in with a lot of fluff because she doesn't have enough meat or real evidence to make her case. As far as the much-ballyhooed DNA evidence, even that wouldn't hold up in court, much less the court of my armchair. Even if it conclusively proved that Sickert's DNA was on a letter that was signed "Jack the Ripper" that couldn't possibly prove that the letter writer was also the murderer. I'm very disappointed in the book as I thought it would have a much more scholarly feel to it. Probably only dedicated collectors of all things Ripper will want to read this as it probably does, at the very least, bring a few new things to light.

I'm not a book person but my Aunt is and she liked this book and said it was a good read for people interested in things of this subject.

I don't agree with her, but I enjoyed reading her presentation

Patricia Cornwell's recently released *Portrait of a Killer: Jack the Ripper Case Closed* claims to have brought closure to the century old Jack the Ripper murders. She stakes her claim on the innumerable number of "coincidences" tying Jack the Ripper to Walter Sickert, a famous British painter. She applies modern forensics, psychological profiling, and DNA sampling to once and for all resolve the identity of Whitechapel's infamous butcher. Throughout the book, Cornwell's talents as a best-selling fiction writer are evident. Her descriptions of 19th century culture and forensic

technology are extraordinarily vivid, with a rich, story-like detail throughout. Biographical sketches, the biting taunts of the Ripper letters, and eye-witness accounts are impressively presented and bring to life the circumstances surrounding the crimes. But little is offered that will supplant a host of other theories on the actual identity of Ripper. Cornwell's logic is faulty and at times self-contradicting. Oversights are common and alternative scenarios that point away from Sickert are either unmentioned or ignored. Contrary evidence is manipulated until it somehow points back to Sickert, and the validity of every point hinges on a profane number of conjectures and speculations, few of which are supported by a single scrap of evidence. A fuller analysis of the books problems can be found at my web site: ...

I didn't believe they could possibly identify JTR but it's apparently been done with excellent and painstaking research. In my opinion it was Walter Sickert. Too many coincidences to not be.

Perfect

great book

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