



Murder, New England: A Historical Collection of Killer True-Crime Tales

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True tales of murder in New England, from the colonial period to today, chronicled by a true crime master, *New York Times* bestselling author, and star of Investigation Discovery's new television show *Dark Minds*

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From Reader Review Murder, New England: A Historical Collection of Killer True-Crime Tales for online ebook

SouthWestZippy says

A collection of short stories of murders that happen from the 1600's through the 2000's. Some are more gruesome than others. All have very little background, setup or must history to go with the stories. I made myself finish the book but had a very hard time getting into any of the stories. Not his best work.

Rachel Dows says

Quality collection and analysis of chilling crime stories.

EJ says

This was kind of a fun one. I really enjoyed the historical re-telling of some pretty horrific true crime, but the book started to lose me the closer we got to modern crimes. Yes, the kids in Quincy killing the old woman, that was messed up. But Whitey Bulger? We didn't need to spend ANY time on him. Other books, magazines, MOVIES have taken care of that. And unfortunately we spent so much time on it it knocked the rating down a bit.

Hannah says

I loved this. If you saw my profile, I love crime shows so this whetted my appetite. I didn't really like the old ones but the Murder on Big Bird's Estate scared me all night. Yup, I was an idiot and read it at night.

Marissa says

An interesting, yet disturbing read. I chose this book for two reasons. First, it's a true crime book and that is my passion right now. Second, all the stories were set in an area I was familiar with, growing up so close to New England, and having visited on several occasions.

The murders presented in the book were well researched and covered well. There was a description of the crime, motive, punishment and more. Even great background information on the parties involved. Quite interesting! I liked that Phelps includes cases from centuries earlier. It was interesting to see how the judicial system has evolved since the 1600 or 1700s. Murder, however, was still murder.

The more recent cases were more disturbing. I think mainly because of how fresh they are in history. It's hard to believe that there are the sick people in this world that can do those things. And, while the victims can't come back, at least justice prevailed in these instances. Overall, a good read for the true crime buffs!

Mellanie C says

Mechanically, Phelps is not a great writer, but he has a way with words and an eye for an interesting story. I have to return this to the library, but I'm going to look for two of the books mentioned in the back pages of this one.

Linda says

Finished the book, it was okay, but guess short stories are not really my thing...I had never heard of these crimes before so they were enlightening. Being from Fall River, I guess I was looking for Matt to be writing about Lizzy Borden and some other more local murder. Love all of Matt's stories...Great writer.

Sue Wargo says

Great book of short true crime stories.

Julia says

The author did a great job in getting this collection gathered and put together. Each crime seems to catch your attention, makes you gasp with the disbelief of it and to continue to wonder as to what can drive some of the beliefs in people.

The author brings the historical crimes to light by showing the similarities of them with those from the modern times and also the differences. A ghost's appearance could re-open a request, families supped with monsters that bided their time and communities could abuse the corpse of the deceased in futile need for vengeance.

And the modern stories make you uneasy and question those that may be close to count your hairs.

If you are into real crime novels or reading on monsters that prowl in clothes of human then I suggest this is just the book for you. Just as the author mentioned a few times my heart goes out to the victims and their families whether in the past, the future or those suffering now

Sistermagpie says

This a nice collection of lesser-known crimes that all take place in New England. They span a large part of the US history of the region, with the earliest murder taking place in the eighteenth century. That's the thing that makes the book exceptionally interesting, really. The later cases have a lot more details, since the author can look at police reports and investigators are much better at analyzing evidence.

But it's intriguing to put those murders in context with the earlier murders, such as one where a fairly wealthy widow was thought to have died in a fire...until a visit from her ghost to her son made the authorities re-open the case. (This vision was part of the testimony at the trial.) In some ways, crime is always crime, but society's understanding and the way we talk about it changes over time.

Cindy says

Just a few short chapters but very interesting. I am looking forward to reading more of his titles.

Jeanne says

good, easy read. true crime stories/novels are always one of my favourite to read, so it was no surprise I found this set of stories enjoyable. the first part of the book takes place before the turn of the century, so there isn't much information about the murders out there, yet the author writes very well and engages you into each one.

the second half is a bit more involved as there is a plethora of information rearsing them, so the stories are longer. I found myself looking up each story for pictures and articles, to put a face to the names he writes about.

all in all a very enjoyable read. I will be sure to check out more of his novels.
