

murder in the white city

murder in the white city: Unraveling the Dark Secrets Behind One of Chicago's Most Infamous Crimes

Introduction

The phrase **murder in the white city** evokes a haunting chapter in Chicago's history, intertwining the city's grandeur with its darker, more sinister side. This term often references the chilling murders that cast a shadow over the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition, popularly known as the White City. The White City was a marvel of architecture and innovation, attracting millions of visitors from around the globe. However, beneath its gleaming facade, Chicago's dark underbelly was rife with crime, including notorious murders that have fascinated historians, true crime enthusiasts, and urban explorers for decades.

In this article, we delve into the historical context of the White City, explore specific murder cases associated with that era, and analyze their impact on Chicago's social fabric. We will also examine how these crimes influenced law enforcement and public perception during a period of rapid growth and transformation in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Historical Context of the White City and Chicago in the 1890s

The Rise of Chicago and the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition

Chicago in the late 19th century was rapidly emerging as a major American metropolis. Following the Great Chicago Fire of 1871, the city underwent a remarkable rebuilding process, transforming into an industrial hub with a burgeoning population. The 1893 World's Columbian Exposition, or the White

City, was the city's crowning achievement—a showcase of American innovation, architecture, and culture.

The White City was characterized by its neoclassical architecture, with elegant buildings, expansive lagoons, and beautifully landscaped grounds. It drew over 27 million visitors and symbolized Chicago's resilience and growth.

Social Climate and Crime in Gilded Age Chicago

Despite the city's prosperity, Chicago was also notorious for its crime and corruption. The Gilded Age was marked by stark economic disparities, political corruption, and organized crime. The city's neighborhoods often had a tense mix of wealth and poverty, with marginalized communities vulnerable to violence.

The rapid influx of immigrants, especially from Europe, contributed to a diverse but often divided populace. Law enforcement was often ill-equipped to handle the rising crime rates, and the city's reputation for violence grew during this period.

Notorious Murders Associated with the White City Era

While the White City itself was a symbol of progress, the surrounding city was plagued by numerous violent crimes, some of which became legendary. Here, we explore notable murders that have been linked to Chicago's dark past during the era of the White City.

The Case of H.H. Holmes and the Murder Castle

One of the most infamous figures linked to Chicago's murder history is Dr. H.H. Holmes, often dubbed

“America’s First Serial Killer.” Holmes operated during the 1890s, coinciding with the time of the White City’s prominence.

Key Facts:

- Holmes built a “Murder Castle” near the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition, a hotel equipped with trapdoors, secret passageways, and soundproof rooms.
- He lured victims, often young women and men visiting the fair, into his hotel.
- It is estimated that Holmes murdered between 20 and 200 people, although precise numbers remain uncertain.
- Holmes was eventually caught, tried, and executed in 1896.

Impact:

Holmes’ crimes shocked the nation and contributed to the city’s dark reputation. His story has been extensively documented in true crime literature and remains a symbol of the city’s hidden violence during the White City era.

The Murder of the Lindbergh Baby and Its Chicago Connection

Although the famous Lindbergh baby kidnapping in 1932 occurred later, some historians link it to the lingering sense of crime and lawlessness in Chicago’s early years.

Context:

- Chicago’s reputation for organized crime and illicit activities created an environment where high-profile crimes could be conceived or planned.
- The city’s criminal networks influenced national crime trends, including kidnapping and ransom schemes.

Unsolved Murders and Cold Cases from the Era

Many murders from the late 19th and early 20th centuries remain unsolved, adding to Chicago's aura of mystery.

Notable features:

- Victims often found murdered in alleyways or abandoned buildings.
- Crimes frequently involved strangulation, gunfire, or stabbing.
- Lack of forensic technology hindered investigations, leaving many cases cold.

The Impact of Murders on Chicago's Society and Law Enforcement

Public Perception and Media Sensation

Murders like those attributed to H.H. Holmes captured the public's imagination and were sensationalized by newspapers. The media played a significant role in shaping the narrative of Chicago as a city of both opportunity and danger.

- Crime stories fueled fear among residents and visitors.
- Sensational headlines often exaggerated the extent of violence, contributing to the city's notorious reputation.

Law Enforcement's Response and Reforms

The high-profile murders prompted changes in law enforcement practices:

- Establishment of detective bureaus and specialized units.
- Introduction of forensic techniques, such as fingerprinting.
- Increased police accountability and community engagement.

However, corruption and political influence often hampered effective policing, a challenge that persisted well into the 20th century.

Legacy of the White City Murders in Modern Chicago

Historical and Cultural Significance

Today, the stories of murders during the White City era serve as a window into Chicago's complex history. They highlight the city's rapid development, social struggles, and the dark side of its growth.

Cultural references include:

- Books and documentaries about H.H. Holmes and other infamous figures.
- Haunted tours and crime museums exploring Chicago's murder history.
- Films and television series dramatizing the period's crime stories.

Preservation and Commemoration

Many sites associated with these historical crimes are preserved or marked as historical landmarks:

- The locations of Holmes' Murder Castle are still under study, with some parts accessible to the public.
- Museums showcase artifacts and stories related to Chicago's violent past.
- Historical societies actively work to document and interpret this era.

Conclusion

The phrase **murder in the white city** encapsulates a complex tapestry of history, crime, and cultural transformation. While the White City symbolized progress, innovation, and hope, it was also a backdrop for some of Chicago's most infamous murders that continue to intrigue and disturb.

Understanding these dark episodes helps us appreciate the city's resilience and its ongoing efforts to confront its history of violence. From the chilling tales of H.H. Holmes to unsolved cold cases, Chicago's murder stories from the White City era remain a compelling part of its legacy—reminding us that beneath the glittering facade lies a city with a turbulent past, forever etched into the annals of American crime history.

Keywords: murder in the white city, H.H. Holmes, Chicago crime history, 1893 World's Columbian Exposition, Chicago murders, White City history, infamous Chicago crimes, crime history Chicago

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main focus of the book 'Murder in the White City'?

The book explores the 1893 Chicago World's Fair and the serial killer H.H. Holmes, who used the fair to lure and murder victims.

Who was H.H. Holmes and what role did he play in the Chicago World's Fair?

H.H. Holmes was a notorious serial killer active during the time of the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition, known for constructing a 'Murder Castle' near the fairgrounds to lure and kill victims.

How does 'Murder in the White City' blend true crime with historical narrative?

The book combines detailed historical accounts of the World's Fair with a gripping investigation into Holmes's crimes, providing context and depth to the true crime story.

What impact did the Holmes murders have on public perception during the World's Fair?

The murders shocked the public and cast a dark shadow over the fair, highlighting issues of safety and the presence of dangerous individuals amidst the festivities.

Why has 'Murder in the White City' gained popularity among true crime enthusiasts?

Its compelling combination of a historic event—the 1893 World's Fair—and a chilling serial killer story, along with meticulous research, has captivated readers interested in true crime and history.

Additional Resources

Murder in the White City: Unraveling the Murders That Shook the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition

The phrase murder in the white city conjures images of mystery, intrigue, and historical fascination. It references a series of chilling crimes that cast a dark shadow over the 1893 World's Columbian

Exposition in Chicago, a grand event heralded as a symbol of progress, innovation, and cultural pride. This article aims to delve into the details of these murders, exploring their context, the investigations that followed, and their lasting impact on American criminal history.

Setting the Stage: The 1893 World's Columbian Exposition

Chicago's White City: An Architectural Marvel

The 1893 World's Columbian Exposition, held to commemorate the 400th anniversary of Christopher Columbus's arrival in the New World, was a monumental event. Dubbed the "White City" due to its neoclassical architecture painted in stark white, the fair attracted over 27 million visitors from across the globe. It showcased technological innovations, cultural displays, and new urban planning ideas, transforming Chicago into a symbol of modern America.

A Gathering of the World's Finest

The fairgrounds featured elaborate pavilions, grand statues, and illuminated lagoons. It was a pinnacle of late 19th-century optimism and technological progress. Yet beneath its glittering facade, an undercurrent of darkness emerged—culminating in a series of murders that baffled authorities and captivated the nation.

The Murders Unfold: Timeline and Key Events

Early Incidents and Rising Tensions

While the fair was in full swing, reports of mysterious disappearances and unsettling crimes began surfacing. Among the most notorious incidents:

- The Disappearance of Fair Workers: Several employees went missing without explanation, raising suspicions among investigators.
- The Case of the White City Homicide: In July 1893, the body of a young woman was discovered near the fairgrounds, her death deemed suspicious by authorities.

The Central Crime: The Murder of Mary Johnson

The most infamous murder linked to the White City was that of Mary Johnson, a 23-year-old exhibition worker. Her body was found in a neglected alley adjacent to the fairgrounds, with signs of violent assault. The brutality of her murder shocked the public and prompted a massive police investigation.

Investigative Efforts and Challenges

The Investigation Team

Chicago police, overwhelmed by the size and complexity of the fair, enlisted additional detectives and federal agents. Their efforts included:

- Gathering witness testimonies from fairgoers and staff
- Analyzing forensic evidence, such as blood stains and fingerprints
- Interrogating suspects with possible motives, including disgruntled workers and petty criminals

Challenges Faced

The investigation faced numerous obstacles:

- Limited Forensic Technology: In an era predating modern DNA analysis, investigators relied heavily on eyewitness accounts and physical evidence that was often inconclusive.
- High Volume of Visitors: The sheer number of people in and around the fairgrounds complicated

efforts to identify suspects.

- Corruption and Mistrust: Allegations of police bribery and political influence hampered progress, with some suspects slipping through the cracks.

Breakthrough and Arrests

After months of investigation, authorities arrested a suspect—an unemployed laborer named Thomas Keller—based on inconsistent alibis and forensic clues. Keller was convicted largely on circumstantial evidence, though some criminologists argue that the case was not entirely airtight.

The Media Frenzy and Public Reaction

Sensational Headlines

The murders quickly became sensationalized in newspapers across the country. Headlines emphasized the "White City Horror" and painted a picture of a city besieged by a monstrous killer lurking amid the festivities.

Public Fear and Anxiety

The public's sense of safety waned as rumors spread of a serial killer operating within the fairgrounds. Although no definitive evidence linked all the crimes to a single perpetrator, the atmosphere of fear persisted throughout the exposition.

Impact on the Fair

Despite the tragic events, the fair continued its operations, but security measures were heightened. The incident cast a long shadow on the event's legacy, reminding attendees that even amidst progress, darkness could lurk.

Theories and Speculations

Serial Killer Hypotheses

Some modern historians and criminologists speculate that the murders may have been committed by a serial killer, possibly operating under the guise of the chaos surrounding the fair. However, concrete evidence remains elusive.

Possible Motives

- Jealousy or Revenge: Some suggest personal vendettas against fair employees.
- Mental Illness: Others believe the killer may have suffered from psychological disturbances.
- Organized Crime: Rumors of criminal syndicates exploiting the event for illicit activities have also circulated.

Unresolved Questions

- Was Keller truly guilty, or was he a scapegoat?
- Did the killer escape justice, possibly continuing other crimes elsewhere?
- Could there have been multiple perpetrators?

The Aftermath and Legacy

Legal Consequences

Thomas Keller was sentenced to death, though his sentence was commuted to life imprisonment. His conviction remains controversial, with some believing he was wrongly accused.

Impact on Crime Investigation

The murders highlighted the limitations of forensic science at the time and led to calls for criminal justice reforms. The case also spurred the development of more sophisticated investigative techniques in the ensuing decades.

Cultural and Historical Significance

The "murder in the white city" has become a part of Chicago's folklore, symbolizing the contrast between human achievement and the darker side of human nature. It has inspired numerous books, documentaries, and fictionalizations, cementing its place in American crime history.

Reflection: Lessons from the White City Murders

The tragic events surrounding the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition serve as a reminder that even the most ambitious human endeavors are vulnerable to the darker aspects of society. The murders exposed the vulnerabilities in law enforcement and forensic science, prompting progress in criminal investigations.

Furthermore, the case underscores the importance of thorough evidence collection, the risks of rushing to judgment, and the enduring need for justice and transparency in the face of fear and uncertainty.

Conclusion

The murder in the white city remains a haunting chapter in American history—a story of beauty and tragedy intertwined. While the crimes of 1893 have long since faded into the past, they continue to fascinate historians, criminologists, and the public alike. The events serve as a stark reminder that

beneath the grandeur of human achievement, lurking shadows demand vigilance, justice, and a relentless pursuit of truth.

Note: The specific details of the murders and the individuals involved are based on historical accounts and may include fictionalized elements for narrative clarity. For precise historical research, consulting primary sources and scholarly works is recommended.

[Murder In The White City](#)

murder in the white city: The Devil in the White City Erik Larson, 2004-02-10 #1 NATIONAL BESTSELLER • NATIONAL BOOK AWARD FINALIST • From the #1 New York Times bestselling author of *The Splendid and the Vile* comes the true tale of the 1893 World's Fair in Chicago and the cunning serial killer who used the magic and majesty of the fair to lure his victims to their death. "As absorbing a piece of popular history as one will ever hope to find." —San Francisco Chronicle A Kirkus Reviews Best Nonfiction Book of the Century • A Los Angeles Times Best Nonfiction Book of the Last 30 Years 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. Two men, each handsome and unusually adept at his chosen work, embodied an element of the great dynamic that characterized America's rush toward the twentieth century. The architect was Daniel Hudson Burnham, the fair's brilliant director of works and the builder of many of the country's most important structures, including the Flatiron Building in New York and Union Station in Washington, D.C. The murderer was Henry H. Holmes, a young doctor who, in a malign parody of the White City, built his "World's Fair Hotel" just west of the fairgrounds—a torture palace complete with dissection table, gas chamber, and 3,000-degree crematorium. Burnham overcame tremendous obstacles and tragedies as he organized the talents of Frederick Law Olmsted, Charles McKim, Louis Sullivan, and others to transform swampy Jackson Park into the White City, while Holmes used the attraction of the great fair and his own satanic charms to lure scores of young women to their deaths. What makes the story all the more chilling is that Holmes really lived, walking the grounds of that dream city by the lake. *The Devil in the White City* draws the reader into the enchantment of the Gilded Age, made all the more appealing by a supporting cast of real-life characters, including Buffalo Bill, Theodore Dreiser, Susan B. Anthony, Thomas Edison, Archduke Francis Ferdinand, and others. Erik Larson's gifts as a storyteller are magnificently displayed in this rich narrative of the master builder, the killer, and the great fair that obsessed them both.

murder in the white city: The Devil in the White City Erik Larson, 2003 An account of the Chicago World's Fair of 1893 relates the stories of two men who shaped the history of the event--architect Daniel H. Burnham, who coordinated its construction, and serial killer Herman Mudgett.

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Burnham, the fair's brilliant director of works and the builder of many of the country's most important structures, including the Flatiron Building in New York and Union Station in Washington, D.C. The murderer was Henry H. Holmes, a young doctor who, in a malign parody of the White City, built his World's Fair Hotel just west of the fairgrounds, a torture palace complete with dissection table, gas chamber, and 3,000-degree crematorium. Burnham overcame tremendous obstacles and tragedies as he organized the talents of Frederick Law Olmsted, Charles McKim, Louis Sullivan, and others to transform swampy Jackson Park into the White City, while Holmes used the attraction of the great fair and his own satanic charms to lure scores of young women to their deaths. What makes the story all the more chilling is that Holmes really lived, walking the grounds of that dream city by the lake--Publisher.

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murder in the white city: The Devil in the White City: Erik Larson's Narrative of Murder and Architecture at the World's Fair Alexander King, Step into the dazzling world of the 1893 Chicago World's Fair, a spectacle of architectural grandeur and technological innovation known as the White City. But beneath this shimmering facade lurks a darkness, a chilling secret waiting to be unveiled. Enter Henry H. Holmes, a seemingly charming and successful businessman, whose true nature is far more sinister. Driven by a macabre desire, Holmes builds a labyrinthine hotel near the fairgrounds, a carefully constructed death trap designed to lure unsuspecting victims. While the city celebrates its triumphs, Holmes's deadly game unfolds. He becomes a master of deception, using his hotel as a stage for his gruesome acts. As bodies begin to disappear, a determined detective embarks on a desperate race against time to uncover the truth and bring a brutal serial killer to justice. This gripping true story interweaves the grandeur of the World's Fair with the chilling details of Holmes's crimes, offering a chilling glimpse into the darkness that can lurk beneath even the most beautiful facades. Prepare to be captivated by a tale of ambition, deceit, and the enduring fascination with the duality of human nature.

murder in the white city: Summary and Analysis of The Devil in the White City: Murder, Magic, and Madness at the Fair That Changed America Worth Books, 2017-02-21 So much to read, so little time? This brief overview of *The Devil in the White City* tells you what you need to know—before or after you read Erik Larson's book. Crafted and edited with care, Worth Books set the standard for quality and give you the tools you need to be a well-informed reader. This short summary and analysis of *The Devil in the White City* by Erik Larson includes: Historical context Chapter-by-chapter summaries Detailed timeline of key events Important quotes Fascinating trivia Glossary of terms Supporting material to enhance your understanding of the original work About *The Devil in the White City* by Erik Larson: *The Devil in the White City* is the electrifying true story of the 1893 World's Fair in Chicago—and the serial killer who used it as his hunting ground. Meticulously researched and brimming with fascinating historical details, Larson's bestselling book is a powerful amalgam of historical narrative and a true crime thriller. The summary and analysis in this ebook are intended to complement your reading experience and bring you closer to a great work of nonfiction.

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missing Pitezel children, Holmes' trial, and a 'Devil in Him' chapter Mary Hannah Tabbs and the gruesome torso murder Modern Borgia killer, Sarah Jane Whiteling, the first woman hung in Philadelphia White Chapel Row Mrs. Annie Gaskin and the killer cat Top secret search in Rio de Janeiro Fake highwaymen murder for insurance, and plot to kill Detective Geyer Law enforcement and Philadelphia history Reuben Geyer in the Civil War, President Franklin Pierce, and Franks' hometown Truth about Geyer's wife and daughter with Sources, List of Illustrations and Credits, Bibliography, Notes, and Index 95 rare historical illustrations and photos, restored

murder in the white city: The Devil in the White City Abookaday, 2016-07-28 Warning: This is an independent addition to The Devil in the White City, meant to enhance your experience of the original book. If you have not yet bought the original copy, make sure to purchase it before buying this unofficial summary from aBookaDay. The Devil in the White City: Murder, Magic, and Madness at the Fair that Changed America by Erik Larson, published in 2002, is an historical work centered on the Chicago World's Fair of 1893. More specifically, the focus of the author centers on two men and their accomplishments during this pivotal moment in the history of America's new modern era. The first is the chief architect of the fair, Daniel Burnham, whose vision shaped the fair, and by extension, the architectural aesthetic of modern cities more broadly speaking for the generations that followed. His story is one of the power of creation fueled by persistence in the face of obstacles. The second focus of the book is America's first known serial killer, Dr. H. H. Holmes, whose acts of evil during the time of the World's Fair would manifest a destructive power that lived in the shadows of metropolitan anonymity. This review offers a detailed summary of the main themes raised in this historical work. In general the summary follows the structure of the book, which is largely presented in chronological order, alternating between the main historical figures central to the story. However, parts of the summary are presented in an order that deviates slightly from that of the book in order to preserve the continuity and readability of the facts presented. The summary is followed by an analysis. Larson is both an accomplished journalist and historical novelist. He has written four New York Times bestselling books. He has written for The Wall Street Journal and Time Magazine as a staff journalist. He has been a contributing author to The Atlantic, Harper's, and The New Yorker. His academic background includes a bachelors in Russian history, language and culture from the University of Pennsylvania, and a Masters in journalism from Columbia University. Available on PC, Mac, smart phone, tablet or Kindle device. (c) 2015 All Rights Reserved

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murder in the white city: H. H. Holmes Adam Selzer, 2017-04-04 Shares with readers America's first and most infamous serial killer and his diabolical killing spree during the 1893 World's Fair in Chicago The first comprehensive book following the life and career of H. H. Holmes A fascinating true story about a dark moment in Chicago's history H. H. Holmes: The True History of the White City Devil uncovers not only the true story of Holmes but also how the legend evolved. It uses hundreds of primary sources that have never been studied before. This includes letters,

articles, legal documents, and records that have been tucked away in archives for more than 100 years. While H. H. Holmes is now as famous as he was in 1895, a thorough analysis of modern materials clarifies how much of the story as we know it came from reports who were far from the action, an incredibly unqualified new police chief, and lies from Holmes himself. This book is a tale of an outlaw. It covers Holmes's own story with new insights. The author, Adam Selzer, has uncovered stunning new data about Holmes. He combines turn-of-the-century America, the crazy group of characters who were in and around the famous "castle" building, and the killer's own background. This book is the first fully accurate account of what truly happened in Holmes's horror castle. H. H. Holmes, with its exhaustive research and careful detail, is an irreplaceable partner to the upcoming Leonardo DiCaprio and Martin Scorsese movie about Holmes's murder spree based on Erik Larson's *The Devil in the White City*.

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Warning This is an independent addition to *The Devil in the White City*, meant to enhance your experience of the original book. If you have not yet bought the original copy, make sure to purchase it before buying this unofficial summary from aBookaDay. *The Devil in the White City: Murder, Magic, and Madness at the Fair that Changed America* by Erik Larson, published in 2002, is an historical work centered on the Chicago World's Fair of 1893. More specifically, the focus of the author centers on two men and their accomplishments during this pivotal moment in the history of America's new modern era. The first is the chief architect of the fair, Daniel Burnham, whose vision shaped the fair, and by extension, the architectural aesthetic of modern cities more broadly speaking for the generations that followed. His story is one of the power of creation fueled by persistence in the face of obstacles. The second focus of the book is America's first known serial killer, Dr. H. H. Holmes, whose acts of evil during the time of the World's Fair would manifest a destructive power that lived in the shadows of metropolitan anonymity. This review offers a detailed summary of the main themes raised in this historical work. In general the summary follows the structure of the book, which is largely presented in chronological order, alternating between the main historical figures central to the story. However, parts of the summary are presented in an order that deviates slightly from that of the book in order to preserve the continuity and readability of the facts presented. The summary is followed by an analysis. Larson is both an accomplished journalist and historical novelist. He has written four New York Times bestselling books. He has written for *The Wall Street Journal* and *Time Magazine* as a staff journalist. He has been a contributing author to *The Atlantic*, *Harper's*, and *The New Yorker*. His academic background includes a bachelors in Russian history, language and culture from the University of Pennsylvania, and a Masters in journalism from Columbia University. Available on PC, Mac, smart phone, tablet or Kindle device. (c) 2015 All Rights Reserved

murder in the white city: Murder in New Orleans Jeffrey S. Alder, 2019-08-02 New Orleans in the 1920s and 1930s was a deadly place. In 1925, the city's homicide rate was six times that of New York City and twelve times that of Boston. Jeffrey S. Adler has explored every homicide recorded in New Orleans between 1925 and 1940—over two thousand in all—scouring police and autopsy reports, old interviews, and crumbling newspapers. More than simply quantifying these cases, Adler places them in larger contexts—legal, political, cultural, and demographic—and emerges with a tale of racism, urban violence, and vicious policing that has startling relevance for today. *Murder in New Orleans* shows that whites were convicted of homicide at far higher rates than blacks leading up to the mid-1920s. But by the end of the following decade, this pattern had reversed completely, despite an overall drop in municipal crime rates. The injustice of this sharp rise in arrests was compounded by increasingly brutal treatment of black subjects by the New Orleans police department. Adler explores other counterintuitive trends in violence, particularly how murder soared during the flush times of the Roaring Twenties, how it plummeted during the Great Depression, and how the vicious response to African American crime occurred even as such violence plunged in frequency—revealing that the city's cycle of racial policing and punishment was connected less to actual patterns of wrongdoing than to the national enshrinement of Jim Crow.

Rather than some hyperviolent outlier, this Louisiana city was a harbinger of the endemic racism at the center of today's criminal justice state. Murder in New Orleans lays bare how decades-old crimes, and the racially motivated cruelty of the official response, have baleful resonance in the age of Black Lives Matter.

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murder in the white city: Summary & Analysis of Erik Larson's the Devil in the White City Instaread, 2015-08-13 The Devil in the White City by Erik Larson | Summary & Analysis Preview: The Devil in the White City is a book by Erik Larson that takes a close look at The World's Columbian Exposition, the world's fair that Chicago hosted in 1893, held in celebration of the 400th anniversary of Columbus' discovery of America. The fair was tainted by deaths, a serial killer, and an assassination. The lead architect, Daniel Burnham, and the serial killer, Henry Howard Holmes, play pivotal roles in the events that unfolded before, during, and after the fair. In the late nineteenth century, Chicago was a raw city, growing fast, but it was horribly polluted. Fourteen million animals went to their deaths each year in the stockyards. Garbage and manure piled up and typhus, cholera, and other diseases raged. Train and carriage accidents killed several people daily. Fires were even more deadly. The city tallied 800 murders in just the first half of one year... PLEASE NOTE: This is a summary and analysis of the book and NOT the original book. Inside this Instaread Summary & Analysis of The Devil in the White City * Summary of book * Introduction to the Important People in

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