

Winner of the Baillie Gifford Prize for Non-Fiction 2019

THE FIVE

HALLIE RUBENHOLD

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"An angry and important work of historical detection, calling time on the misogyny that has fed the Ripper myth. Powerful and shaming" - GUARDIAN

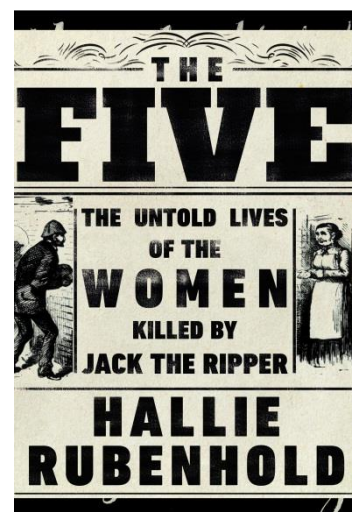
Five devastating human stories and a dark and moving portrait of Victorian London – the untold lives of the women killed by Jack the Ripper.

Polly, Annie, Elizabeth, Catherine and Mary-Jane are famous for the same thing, though they never met. They came from Fleet Street, Knightsbridge, Wolverhampton, Sweden and Wales. They wrote ballads, ran coffee houses, lived on country estates, they breathed ink-dust from printing presses and escaped people-traffickers.

What they had in common was the year of their murders: 1888. That person responsible was never identified, but the character created by the press to fill that gap has become far more famous than any of these five women.

For more than a century, newspapers have been keen to tell us that 'the Ripper' preyed on prostitutes. Not only is this untrue, it has prevented the real stories of these fascinating stories from being told.

Rubenholt finally sets the record straight, revealing a world of poverty, homelessness and rampant misogyny. They died because they were in the wrong place at the wrong time, but their greatest misfortune was to be born a woman.



AWARDS FOR THE FIVE

- ❖ Winner of the Baillie Gifford Prize for Non-Fiction 2019
- ❖ Hay Festival Book of the Year
- ❖ Shortlisted for the Crime Writers' Association Gold Dagger for Non-Fiction
- ❖ Shortlisted for the Historical Crime Writers' Association Non-Fiction Crown Award
- ❖ A New York Times, Sunday Times, Daily Mail, GQ, Washington Post, Oprah Winfrey Magazine and Independent Summer read/History Book of the Year



The Five is the next of Hallie Rubenhold's works of women's social history, following her books *Lady Worsely's Whim*, *The Scandalous Lady W* (turned into a BBC drama) and *Harris' List of Covent Garden Ladies* (which inspired *The Mermaid and Mrs Hancock* and ITV's *Harlots*)

Her expertise lies in revealing the stories of previously unknown women and episodes in history. By drawing upon a wealth of formerly unseen archival material and adding a full historical context to the victims' lives, *The Five* promises to change the narrative of these murders forever.



Notes for Editors

This is the first full-length biography ever to be written about the victims. Hundreds of books have been written about their killer. The Five contains previously unseen or unpublished material about the five women which was uncovered in archives.

3 of the 5 women killed by Jack the Ripper were not prostitutes. One (Elizabeth Stride) had previously been employed in the sex trade but there is no evidence to suggest she was soliciting on the night she was killed, and only Mary Jane Kelly identified herself with the profession.

The Ripper preyed on homeless women

Almost everything society has come to believe about the victims of Jack the Ripper over 130 years is wrong:

- ❖ *None of the women came from Whitechapel: they were from Holborn, Knightsbridge, Gothenburg (Sweden), Wolverhampton and Wales.*
- ❖ *They did not come to the East End to become prostitutes.*
 - ❖ *Four of the victims died in their 40s. One was 25.*
- ❖ *Most all had been married or had been married and had children*
- ❖ *Annie Chapman had lived on a country estate in Windsor and was middle class*
 - ❖ *Catherine Eddowes was the daughter of a notorious union agitator in Wolverhampton.*
- ❖ *The only known sex worker among them (Mary Jane Kelly) had worked in high class prostitution in the West End*