

City Of Dreadful Delight

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from tabloid exposes of child prostitution to the grisly tales of Jack the Ripper narratives of sexual danger pulsed through Victorian London expertly blending social history and cultural criticism Judith Walkowitz shows how these narratives reveal the complex dramas of power politics and sexuality that were being played out in late nineteenth-century Britain and how they influenced the language of politics journalism and fiction Victorian London was a world where long-standing traditions of class and gender were challenged by a range of public spectacles mass media scandals new commercial spaces and a proliferation of new sexual categories and identities in the midst of this changing culture women of many classes challenged the traditional privileges of elite males and asserted their presence in the public domain an important catalyst in this conflict argues Walkowitz was with the widely read 1885 article about child prostitution capitalizing on the uproar caused by the piece and the volatile political climate of the time women spoke of sexual danger articulating their own grievances against men inserting themselves into the public discussion of sex to an unprecedented extent and gaining new entry to public spaces and journalistic practices the ultimate manifestation of class anxiety and gender antagonism came in

1888 with the tabloid tales of Jack the Ripper in between there were quotidian stories of sexual possibility and urban adventure and Walkowitz examines them all showing how women were not simply figures in the imaginary landscape of male spectators but also central actors in the stories of metropolitan life that reverberated in courtrooms learned journals drawing rooms street corners and in the letters columns of the daily press a model of cultural history this ambitious book will stimulate and enlighten readers across a broad range of interests

a groundbreaking feminist text that frames our obsession with true crime as a form of sexual terror in 1992 three teenage girls went missing from the small town of Alcàsser in Valencia Spain while on their way to a nightclub in a case whose strangeness and brutality continues to draw popular speculation decades later feminist theorist Nerea Barjola retraces the high profile search to find them and the media frenzy of the ensuing trial to explore our cultural fascination with the harm done to women's bodies the graphic rehearsal of the details in news and media fuels cautionary tales of sexual danger that induce in women a mental map of places they can and cannot go the activities they dare not do rape is not an individual crime but the expropriation of the female body a threat leveled against a class of potential victims that shifts the burden of staying safe onto their own internalized policing this Barjola argues is the frontline for female transgression freedom and resistance offering a feminist take on Giorgio Agamben's concept of bare life this riveting case study identifies spaces where women cross beyond social limits a house a party a car into a place where danger is all but inevitable where the state of exception turns into the scene of the crime the sexist microphysics of power builds on Judith Butler's work on performativity Michel Foucault's thinking on the day to day operations of power and Silvia Federici's analysis of the witch hunt to propose a paradigm shift in our understanding of the systemic impact of gender violence and of a culture that relishes in its lurid repetition in 2021 the Spanish government awarded the book a national distinction for the significance of its research for social transformation

a critical exploration of travel animals and shape changing in fin de siècle literature

this unique collection brings back into print some of the lesser known poems of James B. Thomson 1834-82 as well as his acclaimed *The City of Dreadful Night* composed in the later half of the nineteenth century many of Thomson's post-Christian poems challenge the securities of Victorian religious comfort and sceptically view the human condition as devoid of connection with any providential sustenance

using an interdisciplinary approach this book traces the expansion of commodity culture and a mass consumer orientated market and explores the wider social and cultural implications this had for society the author emphasizes the key role women played in this evolution and through a focus on retail crime and individual cases of middle class shoplifting and fraud provides the first detailed history of the kleptomaniac woman in 19th c England

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