



Murder, Mayhem and Music Hall: The Dark Side of Victorian London

By Barry Anthony

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Murder, Mayhem and Music Hall: The Dark Side of Victorian London By Barry Anthony

In this book, Barry Anthony explores the criminal and socially subversive behaviour which abounded in and around the Victorian Strand. He introduces us to a vast range of characters - from prostitutes, confidence tricksters, vagrants and cadgers, to the actors, comedians and music-hall stars who trod the boards of the Strand's early theatres. He tells the stories of Lottie Collins, whose music-hall song Ta-Ra-Ra-Boom-De-Ay was said to have heralded the 'Naughty Nineties'; the disappearance of young actress Mabel Love which created a national sensation; and the murder of William Terriss, slain by a fellow actor at the stage door of the Adelphi Theatre. These stories, and many more, are played out against the physical geography of the Strand - entertainment venues such as the Coal Hole, the Cyder Cellars, the Tivoli Music Hall and the Adelphi, Gaiety and Strand theatres; various taverns, oyster bars, barbers' shops, tobacconists; the ancient and disreputable area of Holywell Street and Wych Street; and, below all, the dark, subterranean world of the Adelphi Arches.

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- Rank: #1930447 in eBooks
- Published on: 2015-02-27
- Released on: 2015-02-27
- Format: Kindle eBook



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Editorial Review

About the Author

Barry Anthony is a historian with a particular interest in the Victorian and Edwardian period who has written extensively about popular culture and entertainment. He is the author of *Chaplin's Music Hall* and *The King's Jester: The Life of Dan Leno, Victorian Comic Genius* (both I.B.Tauris) and co- author, with Richard Brown, of a groundbreaking study of the early British cinema, *A Victorian Film Enterprise*.

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