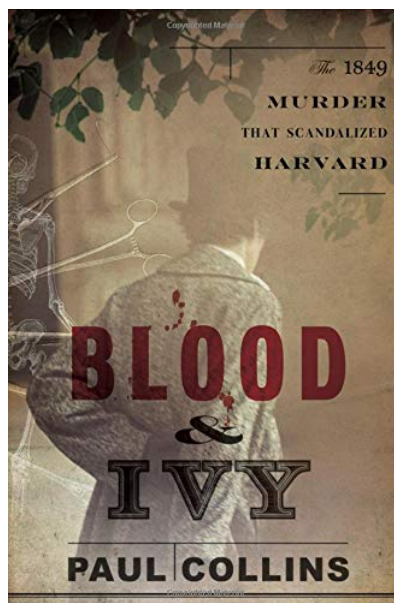


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A delectable true-crime story of scandal and murder at Americas most celebrated university. On November 23rd of 1849, in the heart of Boston, one of the citys richest men simply vanished. Dr. George Parkman, a Brahmin who owned much of Bostons West End, was last seen that afternoon visiting his alma mater, Harvard Medical School. Police scoured city tenements and the harbor, and offered hefty rewards as leads put the elusive Dr. Parkman at sea or hiding in Manhattan. But one Harvard janitor held a much darker suspicion: that their ruthless benefactor had never left the Medical School building alive. His shocking discoveries in a chemistry professors laboratory engulfed America in one of its most infamous trials: The Commonwealth of Massachusetts v. John White Webster. A baffling case of red herrings, grave robbery, and dismemberment? of Harvards greatest doctors investigating one of their own, for a murder hidden in a building full of cadavers? it became a landmark case in the use of medical forensics and the meaning of reasonable doubt. Paul Collins brings nineteenth-century Boston back to life in vivid detail, weaving together newspaper accounts, letters, journals, court transcripts, and memoirs from this groundbreaking case. Rich in characters and evocative in atmosphere, Blood & Ivy explores the fatal entanglement of new science and old money in one of Americas greatest murder mysteries. 8 illustrations

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