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BABY FARMERS OF THE 19th CENTURY Women Who Kill

By Sylvia Perrini

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Paperback. 82 pages. Dimensions: 7.8in. x 5.1in. x 0.3in. In this short book, author Sylvia Perrini profiles eleven Baby Farmers. Baby farmers both repulsed and fascinated the public of the day. The term Baby Farming was first used by the British Medical Journal in 1867, in an article entitled Baby-Farming in which they described a mother who had turned her children over to the baby farmer with the clear understanding that they would be neglected until they died. Over the course of the following year the British Medical Journal, published in a series of sensationalist pieces that many baby farmers committed serial infanticide. The articles attracted a great deal of attention and brought the term baby farming into widespread use. Baby farmers were women who looked after children for a fee. Legitimate baby farms supplied a much in demand service for unmarried, pregnant women in the Victorian era. The majority of baby farmers were caring and honest. A number of them, though, abandoned, starved, or even killed the infants in their care to increase their profits. Barely a week would pass without the police finding a little...



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