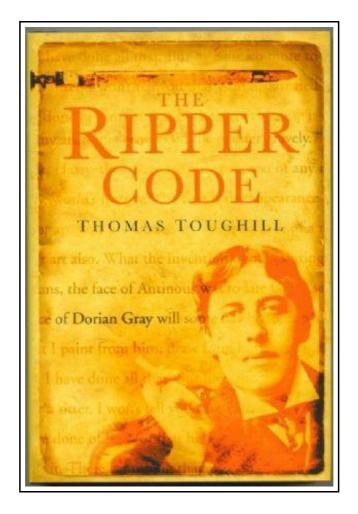
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Reviews

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(Prof. Erin Larson I)

THE RIPPER CODE.



Sutton, 2008. Hardcover / Hardback. Book Condition: New. Dust Jacket Condition: New. First edition. New hardback, 1st edn. SIGNED. Foreword by Robin Odell. The author of 'Oscar Slater, The Immortal Case of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle', applies his detective skills to the greatest mystery in British criminology: the identity of Jack the Ripper. The book begins with an account of the Ripper murders and the attempt by earlier sleuths to name the killer. Then after showing that the official Ripper files contain little of forensic value, the author approaches the mystery of Jack's identity from a very different direction - the life and works of the writer, Oscar Wilde. The author concludes that Jack the Ripper was a onetime "friend" of Oscar Wilde and that Wilde dropped hints about this in several of his works, most notably 'The Picture of Dorian Gray', which Wilde wrote in 1889, the year after the Ripper murders took place. In fascinating detail the author argues that Wilde's story, that of a privileged man whose life of vice in the East End of London turns him into a murderer, is in fact a coded message about Jack's identity. The classic images of the Ripper murders - the London fog, the Whitechapel squalor, the caped figure with a Gladstone bag, the cutting of the victim's throat - are all to be found in 'The Picture of Dorian Gray', Wilde's only novel. The author further argues that the killer was quietly placed in an asylum after the last murder in order to keep secret a Royal indiscretion and that Marie Belloc Lowndes modelled her famous novel, 'The Lodger', on what she had learned about the Ripper's identity from her lifelong friend, Oscar Wilde. In addition, Thomas Toughill reveals startling new evidence to support his claim that...



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