

The Five: The Untold Lives of the Women Killed by Jack the Ripper by Hallie Rubenhold

“This timely book tells the story of five women silenced by history but resurrected here, the women killed by Jack the Ripper, women whose lives have never seemed to matter in all the frenzy of "Ripperology". It is the tragic story of women who ended up living precarious lives in the slums of London. Women who, once they failed to cope with life's problems or who transgressed the moral code of the day, had no safety net to arrest their slide into destitution. The story of Polly, Annie, Elizabeth, Catherine and Mary Jane, ordinary women who were never "just prostitutes". It made me angry at times and wondering how much we have really progressed since then.

It is maybe salutary to note that the author received much on line abuse from those who objected to the toppling of The Ripper from his pedestal!”