

Death by Chocolate

The Serial Poisoning of Victorian Brighton

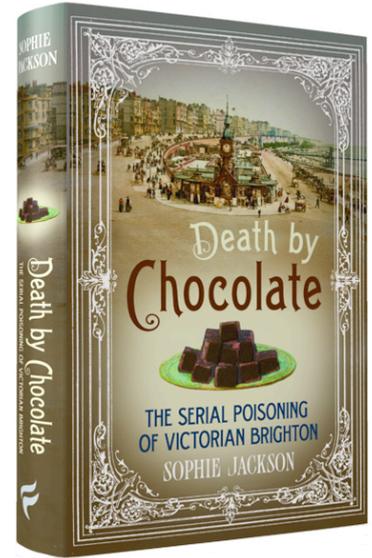
Sophie Jackson

The Victorian Police Hunt for Brighton's First Serial Poisoner

Key Selling Points:

- Definitive account of the first recognised serial poisoner in Britain
- The grim story of Victorian views on hereditary insanity and its relation to crime
- Exposes the scandals of Victorian Brighton's elite with never-before published details
- Reveals the dangers of murder by poison in the Victorian period and the full range of toxins available to murderers
- Charts the sad and tragic story of the Edmunds family who became forgotten for their talents, but renowned for their insanity.
- Cuts through the myths that have grown up in the media about Christiana Edmunds and reveals the true woman for the first time
- Uses modern police methods and criminology to reassess the case and ask if more could have been done to prevent the poisoning spree.

Brighton in the 1870s is a popular tourist destination, but when little Sidney Barker dies mysteriously from Strychnine-poisoned chocolates the town is thrown into panic. Could it have been an accident or is someone out to harm Brighton? When more children start being poisoned by packets of sweets they find lying about the town and strange parcels of arsenic-laced cakes are sent to prominent Brighton residents the police step up the search for a serial poisoner. Who is determined to take revenge on the town? Brighton policeman, Inspector Gibbs, finds himself on the toughest case he has ever faced with what at first appears to be a motiveless crime, but as he delves into the lives of the victims he realises there is cold calculation behind the poisonings. His hunt takes him into the dark side of middle-class poverty, family insanity, and the Victorian obsession with sex and scandal.



Bibliographic Information

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<i>Bic Codes:</i>	BTC True crime

The Author

Sophie Jackson has worked as a freelance journalist and historian since 2003 with her articles published in numerous magazines in the UK and US, particularly *Medieval History Magazine* and *Family History Monthly*. Between 2007 and 2009 she was the editor for *The History Magazine* before returning fulltime to freelance work. She specialises in social history and has written several books on the secret history of the Second World War and has worked as a history consultant for the Heritage Lottery Fund.