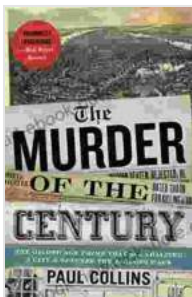


# The Gilded Age Crime That Scandalized City Sparked The Tabloid Wars

In the opulent Gilded Age of New York City, amidst the grandeur and excess, a scandalous murder captivated the city and ignited a media frenzy that would forever alter the landscape of journalism.



## The Murder of the Century: The Gilded Age Crime That Scandalized a City & Sparked the Tabloid Wars

by Paul Collins

★★★★☆ 4.1 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 8931 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 313 pages



The victim was Stanford White, a renowned architect responsible for designing some of the city's most iconic landmarks, including the Washington Square Arch and the Villard Houses. The perpetrator was Harry Thaw, a wealthy playboy and heir to a coal and railroad fortune.

The motive for the murder lay in a love triangle involving Evelyn Nesbit, a beautiful young chorus girl who had become Thaw's obsession. Nesbit had previously been involved with White, who had photographed her in

revealing poses. Thaw, consumed by jealousy, believed that White had wronged Nesbit and sought revenge.

On the evening of June 25, 1906, Thaw confronted White at the rooftop garden of Madison Square Garden, where White was attending a party. In a fit of rage, Thaw shot White three times, killing him instantly. The murder sent shockwaves through New York City, and the ensuing trial became one of the most sensational in American history.

The trial was a spectacle, with salacious details of Nesbit's past and lurid descriptions of her relationship with White dominating the headlines. The media, eager to capitalize on the public's fascination with the case, went to unprecedented lengths to cover it, employing sensationalistic headlines and lurid imagery.

Joseph Pulitzer's New York World and William Randolph Hearst's New York Journal engaged in a fierce circulation battle, each trying to outdo the other with increasingly outrageous coverage. The public was enthralled by the scandal, and the newspapers sold millions of copies.

The tabloids, as they came to be known, played a significant role in shaping the public's perception of the case. They portrayed Thaw as a wronged husband and Nesbit as a victim of White's exploitation. The public, sympathetic to Thaw's plight, turned against White and demanded his conviction.

In the end, Thaw was found not guilty by reason of insanity, a controversial verdict that many believed was a miscarriage of justice. Nesbit, who had been vilified by the press, faded into obscurity. The scandal left an enduring

mark on New York City, tarnishing the reputation of the Gilded Age elite and forever changing the relationship between the media and the public.

## ## The Legacy of the Scandal

The Gilded Age crime that scandalized New York City and sparked the tabloid wars left a lasting legacy on the city and American journalism.

The tabloids, which had once been considered a disreputable form of journalism, gained mainstream acceptance and became a powerful force in shaping public opinion. The scandal also led to a wave of reforms in journalism, including stricter ethical guidelines and the establishment of press councils to monitor the behavior of the media.

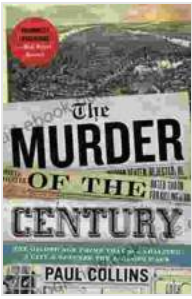
Today, the crime remains a source of fascination for historians and true crime enthusiasts. It is a reminder of the dark underbelly of the Gilded Age and the power of the media to both inform and sensationalize.

## ## Long SEO Title:

The Gilded Age Crime That Scandalized New York City and Sparked the Tabloid Wars: The Murder of Stanford White, the Trial of Harry Thaw, and the Birth of Modern Tabloid Journalism

## ## :

A photograph of Stanford White, Harry Thaw, and Evelyn Nesbit, the three main figures in the Gilded Age crime that scandalized New York City and sparked the tabloid wars.

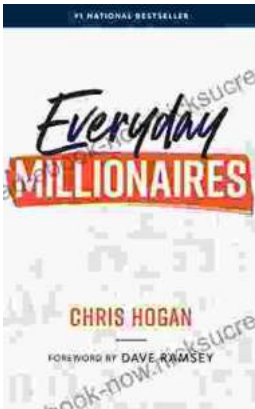


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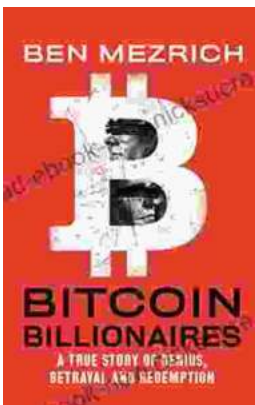
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