



London's Underworld

Thomas Holmes, with an Introduction by Iain Sinclair

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Description

A thrilling expose and anthropological review of London's criminal and marginalized underbelly in the early twentieth century.

Anthem's Travel Classics presents Thomas Holmes' masterpiece of early-twentieth-century social journalism: a quirky, engaging and witty look at London's criminal and social underworld of 1912. Holmes investigates the seedy intentions of the pickpockets, prostitutes, prisoners, drunks and murderers that comprise the capital's criminal element, all of whom he rather tends to admire! A more reflective and progressive theme also runs through this work, as the author considers the serious social problems faced by women, the disabled and the unemployed. Both a thrilling exposé and a considered anthropological review, *London's Underworld* is driven by the author's conflicting feelings of admiration for the rebellious spirit which frees these criminals from the laws of reserved Victorian Society and also pity for the restless, violent attitudes which leave them stranded there alone. Introduced by a modern luminary, *London's Underworld* is a revealing look at the crooked past of the great city.

Readership: A key text for students of history, social history, anthropology and early twentieth century literature, and an essential read for anyone interested in the darker side of London's history.

Contents

List of Illustrations; Introduction by Iain Sinclair; Preface; My Friends and Acquaintances; London's Underworld; The Nomads; Lodging-Houses; Furnished Apartments; The Disabled; Women in the Underworld; Marriage in the Underworld; Brains in the Underworld; Play in the Underworld; On the Verge of the Underworld; In Prisons OFT; Unemployed and Unemployable; Suggestions

About the Author

Thomas Holmes (1846–1918) was a police-court missionary, criminologist and radical philanthropist. In 1905 he became secretary to the Howard Association for the reform of prisons and criminal law. His efforts afforded great change in the prison system, seeking to reform prisoners by providing honest work and education. A dynamic individual, his sympathy with the margins of society are reflected in his publications, such as *Pictures and Problems from London Police Courts* (1900) and *Psychology and Crime* (1912).

Iain Sinclair is a novelist, essayist, filmmaker and journalist. Among his many successful publications are *London Orbital* (2003) and *Dining on Stones* (2005).

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