



Lizzie

Evan Hunter

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The fascinating novel of a passionate woman, freed of history and legend but trapped by a shocking secret, and the final uncompromising act of a murderous heart.

Lizzie Details

Date : Published May 1st 1985 by Dell (first published January 1st 1984)

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Author : Evan Hunter

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Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Fiction, Mystery, Crime, True Crime

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From Reader Review Lizzie for online ebook

Laurab says

This novel is a combination of the trial, taken from transcripts, and a fictional story of what may have been happening in her life that led to the murders. The characters are well developed and remain true to self throughout the book. The parts about the trial get slow going, occasionally, but it is broken up with the story of her relationship with friends, family and travel in just the right places to pull the reader along.

Peter says

Excellent fictionalization of the story of Lizzie Borden and the Falls River killings. Based upon research, contains one explanation of the events. Shows a psychological basis for the events. True to his reputation, Evan Hunter (better known by his pseudonym Ed McBain) has produced a very readable and satisfying book.

Helen Azar says

I am a huge fan of Ed McBain/Evan Hunter, so when I came across this gem, it was right after I visited the Lizzie Borden house/museum in Fall River, MA and was hungry for more. I couldn't wait to read it. And I was not disappointed! Hunter's version of the Lizzie Borden story is chilling and is a page turner. I believe the book was out of print for a while but is now easier to get. If you like true crime mysteries, this one is for you!

Liz Moffett says

Couldn't finish it- which is rare for me. The court room chapters were so tedious and difficult to read. I finally just skipped to the end to read the part where she killed her parents. I only paid \$.25 for it at a used book sale. Sometimes you get what you pay for ;0)

Kate says

Very tedious.

The courtroom scenes were just dull and complicated. I appreciate that the author is trying to bring in the courtroom transcripts to keep it as real as possible, but I think there is a reason people don't typically read courtroom transcripts. I found it repetitive and obnoxious.

The European trip storyline was an interesting theory, but I think the lesbian theory is a little weak compared to some of the others that are out there.

Meh, I finished it, but I don't think I'd recommend it to anyone else.

Kay says

I've always had a fascination with Lizzie Borden's story. Then years ago after discovering the infamous 'axe' woman was my son's 7th cousin, I couldn't wait for a trip to visit her home in Fall River, MA. So far I've made 2 trips there, a visit to the cemetery, by Maplecroft and into the local museum. I bought this book years ago but it has been collecting dust on my bookshelf until pulling it out recently.

The author has a fictional account of a trip Lizzie made to Europe in 1890. He alternates the chapters of this trip with the murder trial several years later. The trial pages are non fiction but condensed to save the reader from the usual trial rehash and rehash! The last chapter of the book is the author's 'theory' of what happened that day. Whether it is true or not, it did make an interesting account of the murder.

Alli Saleh-Goad says

DNF 50%

I kept waiting for it to pick up, but it just kept going on and on with the darn trial and Her time with Alison. And the descriptions of people and places...I just stopped caring.

Meghan says

I don't know if I really appreciated this book. I was told it was the best fictional work written about Lizzie Borden that's out there. What I got was a rather boring account of the trial (which in and of itself was interesting only because I knew most of it was fact). But the author throws in an entirely fictional althernating story that explains why, although not very well, Lizzie would kill her mother and father. I have nothing against lesbianism, and there have been facts that back up Lizzies lesbianism, but there has never been any proof, and I really didn't appreciate that the writer assumes that Lizzie felt she had to kill these people to hide her sexuality. I guess I'm a purist, and I can understand where the author is trying to work an exciting conspiracy into the story that so many speculate about. I just didn't think it was the right story line to go with.

Nancy says

I don't know....this one was well written to a great extent but speculating about her private life and why she killed her parents when you're directly quoting the trial just seemed like such an invasion of privacy. And no one is more surprised about that than I am. I still remember Elizabeth Montgomery (Samantha on Bewitched) playing Lizzie Borden. That was pretty surprising too.

Kirstie says

Sorry, but it's just my opinion...

Very disappointed to be honest. Around one third of the book was interesting, maybe a bit less than that, but the remainder was either boring, written a tad poorly, or just simply annoying. I pushed through this because it was the story of Lizzie Borden and I couldn't just quit it, but I'm just glad this wasn't a book I spent money on. I definitely am sad about this book. The last 50 pages or so was the only reason I am giving this a 2/5 and not 1/5. The story and direction the author chose just didn't work for me. I recently read See What I Have Done by Sarah Schmidt and personally preferred that story of Lizzie much much more than this one. Just my opinion.

SPOILERS:

The rumor of Lizzie being a lesbian is something I was already aware of. While I have no problem with lesbians or these relationships being written about, I just didn't like that this was the basis of why Lizzie committed the murders in this story.

Adrik Kemp says

One of the more memorable pulp fictions I read as a teenager and a great introduction to the legendary Lizzie Borden.

Bonnie Owen says

So this is a fictionalized story about Lizzie Borden's European vacation, and affair with an English women, leading up to the murders of her father and step-father two years later. Every other chapter has factual information about the inquest and trial that even led to Lizzie Borden being found "not guilty". I found this book utterly boring. I didn't care for the author's writing style nor his fictionalized version of Lizzie Borden. The only spark of interest this book gave me was in the last 60 pages. Too bad I had to drudge through over 400 pages to get there. The author tends to spend a enormous amount of time narrating a situation without anything actually really happening.

Anatola Vitri says

Reading this book was an absolute chore. The trial portions were extremely boring and repetitious. If I had wanted to read the transcripts of the trial, I would have done so; there was no reason for Evan Hunter to put his readers through that tediousness. The only really interesting portions were the lesbian sex scenes and the part at the end detailing the actual murders. This one's going in the "donate" box.

Kayla Tornello says

I really liked parts of this book, but I didn't care for other parts. I enjoyed the historical detail about Lizzie Borden's trial, but the completely fictitious parts of her trip to Europe didn't mesh well with the rest of the story.
