

women executed by hanging

women executed by hanging is a topic that unveils a complex history filled with legal, cultural, and social dimensions. Throughout centuries, hanging has been one of the most common forms of capital punishment, and while men have typically made up the majority of those executed, women have also faced this fate under various circumstances. This article explores the stories of women executed by hanging across different eras and regions, examining the reasons behind these sentences, the legal processes involved, and the impact their executions had on society. It covers notable cases, delves into the legal frameworks that permitted such executions, and analyzes how the public perceived and responded to these events. By understanding the historical context and the individual stories, readers will gain a deeper insight into how gender intersected with justice and punishment. This comprehensive guide also highlights the evolution of capital punishment for women, reflecting on its legacy and continued relevance in contemporary discussions. Continue reading to explore a detailed examination of women executed by hanging, including famous cases, legal aspects, and societal implications.

- Historical Overview of Women Executed by Hanging
- Legal Frameworks and Gender Dynamics
- Notable Cases of Women Executed by Hanging
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- Global Perspectives: Women and Hanging Executions Worldwide
- Legacy and Modern Context of Hanging as Capital Punishment for Women

Historical Overview of Women Executed by Hanging

The history of women executed by hanging stretches back centuries, with records indicating that this method of capital punishment was used in societies across the globe. Hanging became the predominant execution method in England during the medieval period, and its use extended to colonies and other countries under English influence. The reasons women were sentenced to death by hanging varied, including crimes such as murder, treason, theft, and even witchcraft. Gender did not exempt individuals from the harshest penalties, though women were less frequently executed than men. Social norms and legal systems often shaped the likelihood and circumstances of women facing the gallows.

In colonial America, women were hanged for crimes ranging from infanticide to aiding in slave rebellions. In some societies, the stigma and spectacle surrounding female executions

were heightened due to prevailing gender expectations. Over time, the frequency and visibility of women executed by hanging declined, but notable cases continued to attract public and legal attention.

Legal Frameworks and Gender Dynamics

Capital Punishment Laws and Women

Legal systems historically codified hanging as a means of executing both men and women for capital offenses. However, the application of these laws often showed discrepancies based on gender. In many European countries during the 17th and 18th centuries, women convicted of murder or treason faced hanging, though social status and public sentiment occasionally influenced whether clemency was granted.

Gender Biases in Sentencing

Women executed by hanging were sometimes viewed through the lens of societal expectations about femininity and morality. Courts considered not only the severity of the crime but also the perceived threat to social order posed by a woman committing such acts. The sensational nature of female executions often led to widespread media coverage and public debate about appropriate punishment. While women were less likely to receive the death penalty than men, those who did were often subject to intense scrutiny.

- Women accused of crimes perceived as violations of gender norms faced harsher treatment
- Judicial clemency was sometimes granted based on pregnancy or child-rearing status
- Public petitions and advocacy occasionally influenced sentencing outcomes

Notable Cases of Women Executed by Hanging

Famous Historical Examples

Throughout history, several cases of women executed by hanging have gained notoriety due to the nature of their crimes or the circumstances of their trials. Each story reflects the complexities of the legal and social environment in which these women lived.

1.

Mary Surratt: The first woman executed by the U.S. federal government, hanged in

1865 for her role in the conspiracy to assassinate President Abraham Lincoln.

2.

Ruth Ellis: The last woman to be executed in the United Kingdom, hanged in 1955 for the murder of her lover. Her case sparked a national debate about the death penalty.

3.

Anne Greene: Sentenced to hang in 1650 in England for infanticide, Anne survived her execution after being declared dead, later receiving a pardon.

4.

Elizabeth Brownrigg: Hanged in 1767 in England for the murder of her servant, Brownrigg's cruelty shocked the nation.

Controversial Cases and Miscarriages of Justice

Some women executed by hanging were later found to be victims of flawed judicial processes or societal prejudices. These cases highlight the dangers of capital punishment and the potential for irreversible errors.

- Accusations based on circumstantial evidence or unreliable witnesses
- Trials influenced by public hysteria or moral panic, such as witchcraft accusations
- Limited legal representation or lack of due process for women of lower social status

Societal Impact and Public Perception

Media Coverage and Public Reactions

Executions of women by hanging often attracted significant public and media attention. Newspapers, pamphlets, and later, radio and television, reported on these events with sensational headlines. The public reaction ranged from sympathy and outrage to approval, depending on the nature of the crime and the individual involved.

Major cases sometimes led to public protests, advocacy for legal reform, and shifts in attitudes toward capital punishment. The execution of Ruth Ellis, for example, contributed to the eventual abolition of the death penalty in the United Kingdom.

Symbolism and Social Commentary

Women executed by hanging became symbols in debates about justice, gender roles, and the morality of capital punishment. Their stories were used by both abolitionists and proponents of the death penalty to argue their positions. The execution of women was often portrayed as a violation of societal values, highlighting the tension between law and compassion.

Global Perspectives: Women and Hanging Executions Worldwide

Patterns Across Different Regions

While hanging has been practiced worldwide, the execution of women by this method varied greatly depending on local laws and cultural attitudes. In some countries, hanging remained the standard method of execution for both genders, while in others, alternative methods were preferred for women.

- In South Asia, women have been executed by hanging for capital crimes, though such cases are rare.
- In the Middle East, legal systems continue to use hanging, but women make up a small fraction of those sentenced.
- In Africa, colonial-era laws introduced hanging as an execution method, with women occasionally subject to the penalty.
- In Europe, the number of women executed by hanging declined sharply after the mid-20th century due to legal reforms.

International Human Rights Perspectives

Modern international human rights organizations oppose the execution of women by hanging and advocate for the abolition of capital punishment globally. The United Nations and other advocacy groups highlight the disproportionate impact of the death penalty on marginalized women and emphasize the need for fair trials and legal protection.

Legacy and Modern Context of Hanging as Capital Punishment for Women

Decline of Hanging and Changing Attitudes

The use of hanging as a method of execution for women has decreased significantly in recent decades, with many countries abolishing the death penalty altogether or replacing it with less public and brutal methods. The legacy of women executed by hanging continues to influence contemporary discussions about gender, justice, and the ethics of capital punishment.

Historical cases are often cited in debates about wrongful convictions, the rehabilitation of offenders, and the treatment of women in the criminal justice system. The stories of these women remain part of the broader conversation about human rights and legal reform.

Contemporary Examples and Ongoing Controversies

While rare, executions of women by hanging still occur in some countries. These cases often draw international condemnation and spotlight ongoing issues of gender inequality and judicial fairness. The debate continues over the role of capital punishment in modern society and its impact on women.

Questions and Answers about Women Executed by Hanging

Q: What crimes commonly led to women being executed by hanging?

A: Women were most often executed by hanging for crimes such as murder, treason, infanticide, theft, and witchcraft, depending on the era and country.

Q: Who was the first woman executed by the U.S. federal government?

A: Mary Surratt was the first woman executed by the U.S. federal government, hanged in 1865 for her involvement in the Lincoln assassination conspiracy.

Q: Why were women less frequently executed by hanging compared to men?

A: Social norms, legal biases, and considerations such as pregnancy or child-rearing often led to more lenient sentences for women, making executions less frequent.

Q: What was the impact of Ruth Ellis's execution in the United Kingdom?

A: Ruth Ellis's execution in 1955 sparked widespread debate about the death penalty and contributed to its eventual abolition in the UK.

Q: Are women still executed by hanging today?

A: While rare, some countries with capital punishment laws continue to carry out hanging executions of women, though these cases attract significant controversy and international scrutiny.

Q: How did public perception of women executed by hanging differ from that of men?

A: Executions of women often elicited stronger emotional reactions, including public sympathy, outrage, or moral debates, due to prevailing gender expectations.

Q: What role did media play in cases of women executed by hanging?

A: Media coverage often sensationalized these cases, influencing public opinion, legal outcomes, and campaigns for reform.

Q: What are some notable miscarriages of justice involving women executed by hanging?

A: Some women were wrongfully executed based on unreliable evidence, public hysteria, or lack of fair legal representation, particularly in cases of witchcraft or infanticide.

Q: How have international human rights organizations responded to executions of women by hanging?

A: Organizations advocate for the abolition of capital punishment and highlight the need for fair trials, emphasizing the disproportionate impact on marginalized women.

Q: What is the legacy of women executed by hanging in contemporary society?

A: The legacy includes ongoing debates about capital punishment, gender equality in the legal system, and the importance of safeguarding human rights.

Women Executed By Hanging

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Women Executed by Hanging: A Historical and Legal Examination

The chilling phrase "women executed by hanging" evokes a complex tapestry of history, justice, and societal attitudes. This post delves into the grim reality of this form of capital punishment for women, exploring its historical prevalence, legal contexts, and the evolving perspectives surrounding it. We'll examine notable cases, analyze the differing treatments of men and women within the justice system, and consider the ethical implications of this extreme penalty. Prepare to confront a difficult but vital piece of history.

The Historical Context of Hanging as Capital Punishment for Women

Hanging, a method dating back centuries, was once a common form of execution across the globe, irrespective of gender. However, the experiences of women condemned to death by hanging often differed significantly from those of men. This disparity stemmed from societal norms and biases deeply embedded in legal and social structures. In many cultures, women faced additional societal pressures and were often subjected to different legal processes and punishments compared to their male counterparts, even within the context of capital offenses.

Early Legal Practices and Societal Attitudes

Early legal systems often reflected patriarchal structures, leading to harsher sentences for women convicted of certain crimes, particularly those deemed morally transgressive. This bias sometimes resulted in disproportionate sentencing, with women receiving the death penalty for offenses that might have garnered lesser punishments for men. The social stigma surrounding female criminality

also played a role, influencing public perception and potentially influencing judicial decisions.

Notable Cases and their Impact

While detailed records are often incomplete or fragmented, several historical cases highlight the reality of women executed by hanging. These cases, though few and far between compared to male executions, provide crucial insights into the lives and circumstances of these women, often revealing underlying social injustices. Analyzing these individual stories helps us understand the broader historical context and the human cost of such brutal punishments.

Examining Specific Cases (Examples - Requires further research and specific examples to be included based on historical records)

Example 1: (Include a carefully researched historical example, citing the source. Focus on the crime, the trial, and the execution.)

Example 2: (Include another carefully researched historical example, citing the source. Focus on different aspects - perhaps societal reaction or the legal ambiguities.)

Example 3: (Include a third carefully researched historical example, highlighting a contrasting aspect, like a potential miscarriage of justice.)

The Legal Framework and Gender Disparities

The application of capital punishment, including hanging, was not always consistent across different legal systems and historical periods. While laws often stipulated the death penalty for certain crimes, the actual implementation could vary drastically based on factors like the social standing of the accused, the nature of the crime, and the prevailing biases within the legal system. Women, particularly those from marginalized communities, often faced harsher scrutiny and less access to legal representation, potentially leading to unfair trials and wrongful convictions.

Legal Reforms and the Decline of Hanging

The shift towards more humane forms of execution and the growing awareness of gender inequality have contributed to the significant decline, and in many places, the complete abolition of hanging as a method of capital punishment. However, the historical legacy of women executed by hanging continues to serve as a stark reminder of past injustices and the importance of ongoing efforts to promote fairness and equality within the justice system.

Ethical Considerations and Modern Perspectives

The ethical implications of capital punishment in general, and hanging specifically, remain a fiercely debated topic. The question of whether any state has the right to take a human life continues to

provoke intense ethical and philosophical discussions. Furthermore, the potential for errors within the justice system, leading to the wrongful execution of innocent individuals, underscores the profound moral weight of capital punishment.

The Ongoing Debate on Capital Punishment

While some argue that the death penalty serves as a just punishment for heinous crimes, others contend that it is a cruel and unusual punishment, violating fundamental human rights. The debate is further complicated by concerns about racial and gender biases within the justice system, raising questions about the fairness and equity of capital punishment's application.

Conclusion:

The history of women executed by hanging reveals a dark chapter reflecting societal prejudices and legal inequalities. Examining these historical instances is not merely an academic exercise; it's crucial for understanding the evolution of justice systems and the ongoing struggle for equitable treatment. By confronting this uncomfortable history, we can work towards a future where such injustices are eradicated and human rights are upheld for all.

FAQs:

1. Were women always given the same treatment as men during capital punishment proceedings? No, historical records reveal significant disparities in treatment, often reflecting societal biases and patriarchal legal systems.
2. What other methods of execution were used for women historically? While hanging was common, other methods like burning at the stake or beheading were also used in different cultures and historical periods.
3. Are there any contemporary examples of women facing the death penalty by hanging? While extremely rare, it is possible in some countries with such legal systems and methods of execution, although specific examples would require extensive, up-to-date legal research.
4. What role did public opinion play in the use of hanging as a punishment for women? Public opinion, often influenced by societal norms and biases, played a significant role in shaping both the application and the acceptance of capital punishment, including hanging, for women.
5. How has the legal treatment of women convicted of capital crimes changed over time? There has been a significant shift towards greater legal protections and equal treatment for women within the criminal justice system, although significant challenges remain globally.

women executed by hanging: Last Woman Hanged Caroline Overington, 2014-11-01 Two husbands, four trials and one bloody execution: Winner of the 2015 Davitt Award for Best Crime Book (Non-fiction) -- the terrible true story of Louisa Collins. In January 1889, Louisa Collins, a 41-year-old mother of ten children, became the first woman hanged at Darlinghurst Gaol and the last woman hanged in New South Wales. Both of Louisa's husbands had died suddenly and the Crown, convinced that Louisa poisoned them with arsenic, put her on trial an extraordinary four times in order to get a conviction, to the horror of many in the legal community. Louisa protested her

innocence until the end. Much of the evidence against Louisa was circumstantial. Some of the most important testimony was given by her only daughter, May, who was just 10-years-old when asked to take the stand. Louisa Collins was hanged at a time when women were in no sense equal under the law -- except when it came to the gallows. They could not vote or stand for parliament -- or sit on juries. Against this background, a small group of women rose up to try to save Louisa's life, arguing that a legal system comprised only of men -- male judges, all-male jury, male prosecutor, governor and Premier -- could not with any integrity hang a woman. The tenacity of these women would not save Louisa but it would ultimately carry women from their homes all the way to Parliament House. Caroline Overington is the author of eleven books of fiction and non-fiction, including the top-selling *THE ONE WHO GOT AWAY* psychological crime novel. She has said: 'My hope is that *LAST WOMAN HANGED* will be read not only as a true crime story but as a letter of profound thanks to that generation of women who fought so hard for the rights we still enjoy today.' Praise for *LAST WOMAN HANGED* 'The story she tells ... is a useful challenge to any tendency to simple moral indignation' -- Beverley Kingston, *Sydney Morning Herald* 'This is a fascinating book, a terrific read, and an excellent reminder of who tells the stories, and whose stories are forgotten' -- Frances Rand, *South Coast Register* '... what's ... interesting is Caroline Overington's even-handed appraisal of Collins's alleged crime(s) that led her to become the last woman hanged in New South Wales in 1889' -- *Launceston Sunday Examiner*

women executed by hanging: Ugly Prey Emilie Le Beau Lucchesi, 2017-05-01 *Ugly Prey* tells the riveting story of poor Italian immigrant Sabella Nitti, the first woman ever sentenced to hang in Chicago, in 1923, for the alleged murder of her husband. Journalist Emilie Le Beau Lucchesi leads readers through the case, showing how, with no evidence and no witnesses, Nitti was the target of an obsessed deputy sheriff and the victim of a faulty legal system. She was also—to the men who convicted her and reporters fixated on her—ugly. For that unforgiveable crime, the media painted her as a hideous, dirty, and unpredictable immigrant, almost an animal. Featuring two other fascinating women—the ambitious and ruthless journalist who helped demonize Sabella through her reports and the brilliant, beautiful, 23-year-old lawyer who helped humanize her with a jailhouse makeover—*Ugly Prey* is not just a page-turning courtroom drama but also a thought-provoking look at the intersection of gender, ethnicity, and class within the American justice system.

women executed by hanging: Executed Women of 20th and 21st Centuries L. Kay Gillespie, 2009-06-15 *Executed Women of the 20th and 21st Centuries* provides a look into the lives, crimes, and executions of women during the 20th and 21st centuries. Rather than dealing with these women as numbers and statistics, this book presents them as human beings. Each of these women had lives, histories, and families. The purpose is not to condone their actions, but to suggest that those we executed are, in fact, humans—rather than monsters, as they are often portrayed.

women executed by hanging: Women and the Noose Richard Clark, 2023-02 A fascinating insight into the crimes of women, and how their executions took place From Sarah Malcolm, sentenced to be executed for multiple murders in the early eighteenth century, to Ruth Ellis, the last woman to be hanged in Britain in 1955, *Women and the Noose* traces the history of female crime through the cases of seventy women who met their end on the hangman's gallows. In this detailed account, each woman's story is revealed: her background, criminal acts and execution. Through their tales, historian Richard Clark highlights the wide range of crimes once punishable by death, from cold-blooded murder and crimes of passion to burglary and petty theft. He also shows how, as time went on, execution methods evolved, from burning at the stake to death by hanging, and how the public came to prefer a more humane, private death over the cruel, public scenes of earlier periods. Clark's frank treatment of events, combined with sympathetic revelations about the women's private lives, makes this revised and updated edition of *Women and the Noose* a chilling and surprisingly moving read.

women executed by hanging: Capital Punishment in Japan Petra Schmidt, 2002 This book provides an overview of capital punishment in Japan in a legal, historical, social, cultural and political context. It provides new insights into the system, challenges traditional views and

arguments and seeks the real reasons behind the retention of capital punishment in Japan.

women executed by hanging: *Women and the Gallows 1797-1837* Naomi Clifford, 2018-01-23 131 women were hanged in England and Wales between 1797 and 1837, executed for crimes including murder, baby-killing, theft, arson, sheep-stealing and passing forged bank notes. Most of them were extremely poor and living in desperate situations. Some were mentally ill. A few were innocent. And almost all are now forgotten, their voices unheard for generations. Mary Morgan – a teenager hanged as an example to others. Eliza Fenning – accused of adding arsenic to the dumplings. Mary Bateman – a ‘witch’ who duped her neighbours out of their savings. Harriet Skelton – hanged for passing counterfeit pound notes in spite of efforts by Elizabeth Fry and the Duke of Gloucester to save her. Naomi Clifford has unearthed the events that brought these ‘unfortunates’ to the gallows and has used contemporary newspaper accounts and documents to tell their stories--

women executed by hanging: *The Hanging Tree* V. A. C. Gatrell, Vic Gatrell, 1994 A history of mentalities, emotions, and attitudes rather than of policies and ideas, it analyses responses to the scaffold at all social levels: among the crowds which gathered to watch executions; among ‘polite’ commentators from Boswell and Byron on to Fry, Thackeray, and Dickens; and among the judges, home secretary, and monarch who decided who should hang and who should be reprieved. Drawing on letters, diaries, ballads, broadsides, and images, as well as on poignant appeals for mercy which historians until now have barely explored, the book surveys changing attitudes to death and suffering, ‘sensibility’ and ‘sympathy’, and demonstrates that the long retreat from public hanging owed less to the growth of a humane sensibility than to the development of new methods of punishment and law enforcement, and to polite classes’ deepening squeamishness and fear of the scaffold crowd.

women executed by hanging: *Bedside Book of Bad Girls* Michael Rutter, 2012-07-23 Meet Kate Bender, who brutally murdered as many as thirty people in Kansas, including children, and buried them in her family’s orchard; Laura Bullion, the only woman to participate in a Wild Bunch train robbery; and Madam Vestal, a one-time Confederate spy who organized the famous Deadwood stagecoach robberies. Witness the execution of Elizabeth Potts and Ellen Watson, the first women hanged in Nevada and Wyoming. Drawing on fact and folklore, author and historian Michael Rutter brings 21 gun-slinging bad girls to life, and explores their motives, hopes, and dreams. He dispels many of the myths about these female outlaws, for sometimes the truth is stranger than fiction. Featuring forty-two historical images, *Bedside Book of Bad Girls* sheds light on figures and events often shrouded in fabrication and fantasy. Meet these fascinating characters, complete with their pistols and petticoats, their knives and knaves, their vices and victims.

women executed by hanging: *The Hanging of Jean Lee* Jordie Albiston, 2021 In 1951, Jean Lee was Australia’s last woman hanged. Award-winning poet Jordie Albiston’s acclaimed verse novel puts this woman’s tragic story within the context of her times. ‘As one might expect, it is a grim, tough story of the deterioration of a young woman’s life and its brutal end. It is divided into four sections with deliberately cold-hearted titles: Personal Pages, Entertainment Section, Crime Supplement and Death Notices. *The Hanging of Jean Lee* is economically and imaginatively conceived with a strong narrative drive. In a series of short connected poems, Jordie Albiston has made a heart-breaker out of her material, ringing the verse changes, using rhyme and blank verse in short chopped lines, colloquial language, reportage, and newspaper headlines with considerable skill.’ Dorothy Hewett, *Australian Book Review*, 1999 First published in 1998, *The Hanging of Jean Lee* was adapted for music-theatre and performed by Opera Australia. Jordie Albiston has published six collections of poetry. *Nervous Arcs* (1995), her debut, won the Mary Gilmore Award and *The Sonnet According to M* (2009) won the Kenneth Slessor Prize for Poetry. Her most recent work is *Element* (2020). She received the Patrick White award in 2019.

women executed by hanging: *Ruth Ellis: My Sister’s Secret Life* Muriel Jakubait, with Monica Weller, 2012-11-01 The secret double-life of Ruth Ellis and the Establishment cover-up that led to her unjust hanging Ruth Ellis, the last woman to be hanged in Britain, was convicted fifty years ago for shooting her lover David Blakely. The case became a notorious part of British criminal

history and was turned into the film, *Dance with a Stranger*. The story that has been perpetuated ever since is that of a peroxide tart who killed in a fit of passion. Yet, crucial questions were left unasked in the original trial. Ruth Ellis's sister, Muriel Jakubait, knew her longest of all. She has never given up her search for justice. Now after fifty years she has decided to reveal the hard facts about their shared upbringing, and seek to piece together the full true story of her sister. As she is at pains to point out, the jealous killer tag has never been substantiated. This is a story of power, espionage, lies, loyalty, poverty, sex and betrayal. It suggests a third man may have pulled the trigger for the fatal shots. And that he belonged to a web of espionage into which Ruth Ellis fell long before the shooting. Above all, it indicates that Ruth was being run by Stephen Ward, at least a decade before his name became public in the Profumo Scandal. Muriel's motive is about more than proving her sister Ruth's innocence. It's about reclaiming the right to tell the story of her own family, stripped bare of the many tabloid myths that have accrued over the decades. She shows that Ruth was somebody damaged at a very early age - who strove to make something of herself, only to be caught up in something much bigger and end up paying with her life.

women executed by hanging: Harnessing the Power of the Criminal Corpse Sarah Tarlow, Emma Battell Lowman, 2018-05-17 This open access book is the culmination of many years of research on what happened to the bodies of executed criminals in the past. Focusing on the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, it looks at the consequences of the 1752 Murder Act. These criminal bodies had a crucial role in the history of medicine, and the history of crime, and great symbolic resonance in literature and popular culture. Starting with a consideration of the criminal corpse in the medieval and early modern periods, chapters go on to review the histories of criminal justice, of medical history and of gibbeting under the Murder Act, and ends with some discussion of the afterlives of the corpse, in literature, folklore and in contemporary medical ethics. Using sophisticated insights from cultural history, archaeology, literature, philosophy and ethics as well as medical and crime history, this book is a uniquely interdisciplinary take on a fascinating historical phenomenon.

women executed by hanging: The Hanging of Betsey Reed Rick Kelsheimer, 2007 In 1845 twenty thousand people gathered in Lawrenceville, Illinois, to witness the hanging of Betsey Reed for poisoning her husband. Considered a witch by some, a victim by others; this is her story.

women executed by hanging: Legacy of Violence John D. Bessler, 2003 The first comprehensive history of lynchings and state-sanctioned executions in Minnesota. Minnesota is one of only twelve states that does not allow the death penalty, but that was not always the case. In fact, until 1911 executions in the state were legal and frequently carried out. In *Legacy of Violence*, John D. Bessler takes us on a compelling journey through the history of lynchings and state-sanctioned executions that dramatically shaped Minnesota's past. Through personal accounts of those involved with the events, Bessler traces the history of both famous and lesser-known executions and lynchings in Minnesota, the state's anti-death penalty and anti-lynching movements, and the role of the media in the death penalty debate. Bessler reveals Abraham Lincoln's thoughts as he ordered the largest mass execution in U. S. history of thirty-eight Indians in Mankato after the Dakota Conflict of 1862. He recounts the events surrounding the death of Ann Bilansky, the only woman ever executed in Minnesota, and the infamous botched hanging of William Williams, which led to renewed calls for the abolition of capital punishment. He tells the story of the 1920 lynching in Duluth of three African-Americans circus workers - wrongfully accused of rape - and the anti-lynching crusade that followed. The significant role that Minnesota played in America's transformation to private, after-dark executions is presented in the discussion of the midnight assassination law. Bessler's account is made more timely by thirty-five hundred people on death row in America today - more than at any other time in our nation's history. Is Minnesota's current approach superior to that of states that have capital punishment? Bessler looks at Minnesota history to ask whether the application of the death penalty can truly solve the problem of violence in America.--BOOK JACKET.Title Summary field provided by Blackwell North America, Inc. All Rights Reserved

women executed by hanging: The Last Woman to be Hanged Robert Hancock, 2020-11-26

On the eve of her hanging, Ruth Ellis wrote to a friend: 'I must close now but remember I am quite happy with the verdict, but not the way the story was told, there is so much that people don't know.' Ruth Ellis was the last woman to be hanged in Britain. This is her story. In July 1955 Ruth Ellis was sentenced to death for the shooting of her lover, motor-racing driver David Blakely. Barely three months later she was executed at Holloway prison. In this book, Robert Hancock sets the record straight. Using official documents including the transcript of her trial at the Old Bailey, he unlocks the full, secret background to the story of the last woman to be hanged in Britain. Meticulous and fair in its analysis, *The Last Woman to be Hanged* is an absorbing portrait of the tragic life of a young woman, a vivid snapshot of an era and a gripping account of a notorious case that shocked the nation.

women executed by hanging: Execution Simon Webb, 2011-12-31 Judicial hanging is regarded by many as being the quintessentially British execution. However, many other methods of capital punishment have been used in this country; ranging from burning, beheading and shooting to crushing and boiling to death. *Execution: A History of Capital Punishment in Britain* explores these types of execution in detail. Readers may be surprised to learn that a means of mechanical decapitation, the Halifax Gibbet, was being used in England five hundred years before the guillotine was invented. Boiling to death was a prescribed means of execution in this country during the Tudor period. From the public death by starvation of those gibbeted alive, to the burning of women for petit treason, this book examines some of the most gruesome passages of British history. This carefully researched, well-illustrated and enthralling text will appeal to those interested in the history of British executions.

women executed by hanging: Women and the Noose Richard Clark (Writer on capital punishment), 2007 From the Publisher: Tracing the history of female crime and execution from 1726 to 1955, *Women and the Noose* presents the cases of more than 50 women who met their end on the hangman's gallows. From the criminal act to the execution day itself, these women's stories illustrate the range of crimes punishable by execution, such as petty theft and murder, as well as reactions to the death sentence, including the pleading the belly defense. Richard Clark also discusses the developments in execution methods, from burning at the stake to the short- and long-drop, as well as the move from very public hangings to more dignified private events. Clark's frank treatment of the executions combined with sympathetic revelations about the women's private lives makes for a chilling and surprisingly moving read.

women executed by hanging: Outrages Naomi Wolf, 2020-10-09 From New York Times bestselling author Naomi Wolf, *Outrages* explores the history of state-sponsored censorship and violations of personal freedoms through the inspiring, forgotten history of one writer's refusal to stay silenced. Newly updated, first North American edition--a paperback original In 1857, Britain codified a new civil divorce law and passed a severe new obscenity law. An 1861 Act of Parliament streamlined the harsh criminalization of sodomy. These and other laws enshrined modern notions of state censorship and validated state intrusion into people's private lives. In 1861, John Addington Symonds, a twenty-one-year-old student at Oxford who already knew he loved and was attracted to men, hastily wrote out a seeming renunciation of the long love poem he'd written to another young man. *Outrages* chronicles the struggle and eventual triumph of Symonds—who would become a poet, biographer, and critic—at a time in British history when even private letters that could be interpreted as homoerotic could be used as evidence in trials leading to harsh sentences under British law. Drawing on the work of a range of scholars of censorship and of LGBTQ+ legal history, Wolf depicts how state censorship, and state prosecution of same-sex sexuality, played out—decades before the infamous trial of Oscar Wilde—shadowing the lives of people who risked in new ways scrutiny by the criminal justice system. She shows how legal persecutions of writers, and of men who loved men affected Symonds and his contemporaries, including Christina and Dante Gabriel Rossetti, Algernon Charles Swinburne, Walter Pater, and the painter Simeon Solomon. All the while, Walt Whitman's *Leaves of Grass* was illicitly crossing the Atlantic and finding its way into the hands of readers who reveled in the American poet's celebration of freedom, democracy, and unfettered

love. Inspired by Whitman, and despite terrible dangers he faced in doing so, Symonds kept trying, stubbornly, to find a way to express his message—that love and sex between men were not “morbid” and deviant, but natural and even ennobling. He persisted in various genres his entire life. He wrote a strikingly honest secret memoir—which he embargoed for a generation after his death—enclosing keys to a code that the author had used to embed hidden messages in his published work. He wrote the essay *A Problem in Modern Ethics* that was secretly shared in his lifetime and would become foundational to our modern understanding of human sexual orientation and of LGBTQ+ legal rights. This essay is now rightfully understood as one of the first gay rights manifestos in the English language. Naomi Wolf's *Outrages* is a critically important book, not just for its role in helping to bring to new audiences the story of an oft-forgotten pioneer of LGBTQ+ rights who could not legally fully tell his own story in his lifetime. It is also critically important for what the book has to say about the vital and often courageous roles of publishers, booksellers, and freedom of speech in an era of growing calls for censorship and ever-escalating state violations of privacy. With *Outrages*, Wolf brings us the inspiring story of one man's refusal to be silenced, and his belief in a future in which everyone would have the freedom to love and to speak without fear.

women executed by hanging: *Severed* Frances Larson, 2014-11-06 Our history is littered with heads. Over the centuries, they have decorated our churches, festooned our city walls and filled our museums; they have been props for artists and specimens for laboratory scientists, trophies for soldiers and items of barter. Today, as videos of decapitations circulate online and cryonicists promise that our heads may one day live on without our bodies, the severed head is as contentious and compelling as ever. From shrunken heads to trophies of war; from memento mori to Damien Hirst's *With Dead Head*; from grave-robbing phrenologists to enterprising scientists, Larson explores the bizarre, often gruesome and confounding history of the severed head. Its story is our story.

women executed by hanging: *The Practice of Execution in Canada* Ken Leyton-Brown, 2010-04-10 It is easy to forget that the death penalty was an accepted aspect of Canadian culture and criminal justice until 1976. *The Practice of Execution in Canada* is not about what led some to the gallows and others to escape it. Rather, it examines how the routine rituals and practices of execution can be seen as a crucial social institution. Drawing on hundreds of case files, Ken Leyton-Brown shows that from trial to interment, the practice of execution was constrained by law and tradition. Despite this, however, the institution was not rigid. Criticism and reform pushed executions out of the public eye, and in so doing, stripped them of meaningful ritual and made them more vulnerable to criticism.

women executed by hanging: *The Wonders of the Invisible World* Cotton Mather, 1862

women executed by hanging: *Until You are Dead* Frederick Drimmer, 1990 Recounts in human terms the extraordinary true stories of the most noteworthy men and women we have executed--the crimes of misfortunes that brought them to that pass and, above all, how they faced death.--Jacket.

women executed by hanging: *In Cold Blood* Truman Capote,

women executed by hanging: *Oxford English Dictionary* John A. Simpson, 2002-04-18 The Oxford English Dictionary is the internationally recognized authority on the evolution of the English language from 1150 to the present day. The Dictionary defines over 500,000 words, making it an unsurpassed guide to the meaning, pronunciation, and history of the English language. This new upgrade version of The Oxford English Dictionary Second Edition on CD-ROM offers unparalleled access to the world's most important reference work for the English language. The text of this version has been augmented with the inclusion of the Oxford English Dictionary Additions Series (Volumes 1-3), published in 1993 and 1997, the Bibliography to the Second Edition, and other ancillary material. System requirements: PC with minimum 200 MHz Pentium-class processor; 32 MB RAM (64 MB recommended); 16-speed CD-ROM drive (32-speed recommended); Windows 95, 98, Me, NT, 200, or XP (Local administrator rights are required to install and open the OED for the first time on a PC running Windows NT 4 and to install and run the OED on Windows 2000 and XP);

1.1 GB hard disk space to run the OED from the CD-ROM and 1.7 GB to install the CD-ROM to the hard disk: SVGA monitor: 800 x 600 pixels: 16-bit (64k, high color) setting recommended. Please note: for the upgrade, installation requires the use of the OED CD-ROM v2.0.

women executed by hanging: Legal Executions in New England Daniel Allen Hearn, 2015-08-13 Between 1623 and 1960 (the date of the last execution as of 1999), Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont legally put to death more than 700 men and women for a wide variety of capital crimes ranging from army desertion to murder. This is a companion volume to *Legal Executions in New York State* and *Legal Executions in New Jersey*, both published by McFarland. It is comprised of chronologically arranged biographical entries for the executed persons. Each entry gives personal data on the executed person, including age, ethnicity, and gender, as well as a detailed account of the crime for which he or she was sentenced to death and information on the place and method of execution. Fully indexed.

women executed by hanging: The Death Penalty in America Hugo Adam Bedau, 1964

women executed by hanging: In a Grove (森田) Ryunosuke Akutagawa, 2011-10-15

women executed by hanging: Hanging in Chains Albert Hartshorne, 1891

women executed by hanging: Tyburn's Martyrs Andrea McKenzie, 2007-12 Tyburn is the most famous killing field in London. Here's its story in all its bloody glory.

women executed by hanging: Ellen Thomson Vashti Farrer, 2013 North Queensland was alive with goldrush excitement when a young widow moved to the new township of Port Douglas. Vashti Farrer opens the door on a colonial world, and hard pioneering lives in a tropical paradise. This illustrated book describes the men in Ellen Thomson's life, including the husband she was blamed for killing. It follows her agonising trial and surprise hanging, as well as the roles of Aborigines, Chinamen, policemen, Ellen's children and a judge whose mind was made up. This riveting true story leaves readers wondering if justice was done.

women executed by hanging: Writing to Save a Life John Edgar Wideman, 2018-05-03 When Emmett Till was murdered aged fourteen for allegedly whistling at a white woman, photographs of his destroyed face became a flashpoint in the civil rights movement. A decade earlier Emmett's father, Louis, had also been killed - court-martialled and hanged. Though the circumstances could hardly have been more different, behind both deaths stood the same crime, of being black. In *Writing to Save a Life*, John Edgar Wideman, born the same year as Emmett Till, investigates the tragic fates of father and son. Mixing research, memoir and imagination, this book is an essential commentary on racism in America - illuminating, humane and profound.

women executed by hanging: The Faithful Executioner Joel F. Harrington, 2013-05-02 Meet Frantz Schmidt: executioner, torturer and, most unusually for his times, diarist. Following in his father's footsteps, Frantz entered the executioner's trade as an Apprentice. 394 executions and forty-five years later, he retired to focus his attentions on running the large medical practice that he had always viewed as his true vocation. Through examination of Frantz's exceptional and often overlooked record, Joel F. Harrington delves deep into a world of human cruelty, tragedy and injustice. At the same time, he poses a fascinating question: could a man who routinely practiced such cruelty also be insightful, compassionate - even progressive? *The Faithful Executioner* is the biography of an ordinary man struggling to overcome an unjust family curse; it is also a remarkable panorama of a Europe poised on the cusp of modernity, a world with startling parallels to our own.

women executed by hanging: The Silent Patient Alex Michaelides, 2019-02-05 - THE RECORD-BREAKING, MULTIMILLION COPY GLOBAL BESTSELLER AND TIKTOK SENSATION - Discover the #1 New York Times and Sunday Times bestselling thriller with a jaw-dropping twist that everyone is talking about - as seen on TikTok. Soon to be a major film. Alicia Berenson lived a seemingly perfect life until one day six years ago. When she shot her husband in the head five times. Since then she hasn't spoken a single word. It's time to find out why. READERS LOVE THE SILENT PATIENT ★★★★ 'Everything you need from a psychological thriller with a killer twist that is impossible to see coming!' ★★★★ 'Fiendishly clever ... believe the hype.' ★★★★ 'Grabs your afternoon from the start and never lets go' ★★★★ 'A fantastic thriller with an incredible plot twist that I really

didn't see coming. I highly recommend.' □□□□ 'OMG, my heart is still pounding from the final chapters of this amazing thriller.' □□□□ 'I'm honestly speechless, best book I have read for a very long time' □□□□ 'The twists when they come, wow oh wow!' CRITICALLY ACCLAIMED 'The perfect thriller' AJ FINN 'Terrific' - THE TIMES Crime Book of the Month 'Smart, sophisticated suspense' - LEE CHILD 'Compelling' - OBSERVER 'Absolutely brilliant' - STEPHEN FRY 'A totally original psychological mystery' - DAVID BALDACCI 'One of the best thrillers I've read this year' - CARA HUNTER 'The pace and finesse of a master' - BBC CULTURE

women executed by hanging: Death on the Gallows West C. Gilbreath, 2017-05-23 The most comprehensive work ever done on legal executions by hanging in Texas. Arranged by counties, this book documents 467 executions in Texas, many that have been forgotten through the years. Thoroughly researched by West Gilbreath, a career law enforcement officer, this book is a must for any Texas history buff.

women executed by hanging: Let the Lord Sort Them Maurice Chammah, 2021-01-26 NEW YORK TIMES EDITORS' CHOICE • A deeply reported, searingly honest portrait of the death penalty in Texas—and what it tells us about crime and punishment in America “If you’re one of those people who despair that nothing changes, and dream that something can, this is a story of how it does.”—Anand Giridharadas, The New York Times Book Review WINNER OF THE J. ANTHONY LUKAS AWARD In 1972, the United States Supreme Court made a surprising ruling: the country’s death penalty system violated the Constitution. The backlash was swift, especially in Texas, where executions were considered part of the cultural fabric, and a dark history of lynching was masked by gauzy visions of a tough-on-crime frontier. When executions resumed, Texas quickly became the nationwide leader in carrying out the punishment. Then, amid a larger wave of criminal justice reform, came the death penalty’s decline, a trend so durable that even in Texas the punishment appears again close to extinction. In *Let the Lord Sort Them*, Maurice Chammah charts the rise and fall of capital punishment through the eyes of those it touched. We meet Elsa Alcala, the orphaned daughter of a Mexican American family who found her calling as a prosecutor in the nation’s death penalty capital, before becoming a judge on the state’s highest court. We meet Danalynn Recer, a lawyer who became obsessively devoted to unearthing the life stories of men who committed terrible crimes, and fought for mercy in courtrooms across the state. We meet death row prisoners—many of them once-famous figures like Henry Lee Lucas, Gary Graham, and Karla Faye Tucker—along with their families and the families of their victims. And we meet the executioners, who struggle openly with what society has asked them to do. In tracing these interconnected lives against the rise of mass incarceration in Texas and the country as a whole, Chammah explores what the persistence of the death penalty tells us about forgiveness and retribution, fairness and justice, history and myth. Written with intimacy and grace, *Let the Lord Sort Them* is the definitive portrait of a particularly American institution.

women executed by hanging: Drop Dead Lorna Poplak, 2017-07-29 From Confederation in 1867 until the abolition of the death penalty in 1976, 704 people were hanged in Canada. The book examines how trial, conviction, and punishment operated then, and the relevance of capital punishment today. It profiles notable individuals: victims, murderers, judges, jurors, the wrongfully convicted ... and the hangman.

women executed by hanging: Living on Death Row Hans Toch, James R. Acker, Vincent Martin Bonventre, 2018 PROSE Award Finalist for Psychology This book synthesizes scholarly reflections with personal accounts from prison administrators and inmates to show the harsh reality of life on death row.

women executed by hanging: Hanged at Winchester Steve Fielding, 2010 For decades the high walls of Winchester Prison have contained some of the country's most infamous criminals. Until hanging was abolished in the 1960s it was also the main center of execution for those convicted in Hampshire. Among the executions carried out here was the hanging of soldier Abraham Goldenberg for the murder of a bank clerk; William Podmore, hanged in 1930 after killing a garage owner in Southampton; and two Polish refugees who murdered a have-a-go hero during a bungled bank

robbery. Winchester was also the site of the last triple execution in Britain, when a Teignmouth coachman, a Southampton laborer and an eighteen-year-old rifleman based at Aldershot were hanged together for three unrelated crimes. Fully illustrated with photographs news cuttings and engravings, *Hanged at Winchester* features each of the cases in one volume for the first time and is sure to appeal to everyone interested in the shadier side of Hampshire's history.

women executed by hanging: The Electric Chair Craig Brandon, 2016-03-03 This book provides a history of the electric chair and analyzes its features, its development, and the manner of its use. Chapters cover the early conceptual stages as a humane alternative to hanging, and the rivalry between Edison and Westinghouse that was one of the main forces in the chair's adoption as a mode of execution. Also presented are an account of the terrible first execution and a number of the subsequent gruesome employments of the chair. The text explores the changing attitudes toward the chair as state after state replaced it with lethal injection.

women executed by hanging: A Handbook on Hanging Charles Duff, 1999-10-31 A Handbook on Hanging is a Swiftian tribute to that unappreciated mainstay of civilization: the hangman. With barbed insouciance, Charles Duff writes not only of hanging but of electrocution, decapitations, and gassings; of innocent men executed and of executions botched; of the bloodlust of mobs and the shabby excuses of the great. This coruscating and, in contemporary America, very relevant polemic makes clear that whatever else capital punishment may be said to be--justice, vengeance, a deterrent--it is certainly killing.

women executed by hanging: Executions in the United States, 1608-1987 M. Watt Espy, John Ortiz Smykla, Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research, 1987 This study furnishes data on executions performed in the United States under civil authority. It includes a description of each individual executed and the circumstances surrounding the crime for which the person was convicted. Variables include age, race, name, sex, and occupation of the offender, place, jurisdiction, date and method of execution and the crime for which the offender was executed.

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