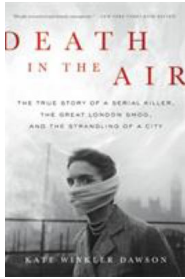


Books by the Stack



***Death in the Air: The True Story of a Serial Killer, the Great London Smog, and the Strangling of a City* by Kate Winkler Dawson**

A historical narrative describes the events of December 1952 in London, when a smog descended that halted the entire city, as well as allowed a serial killer, John Reginald Christie to strike at least seven victims.

Why you'll like it: *True crime. Atmospheric. Suspenseful. Nature writing.*

About the Author: Kate Winkler Dawson is a seasoned documentary producer, whose work has appeared in The New York Times, WCBS News and ABC News Radio, Fox News Channel, United Press International, PBS NewsHour, and Nightline. She teaches journalism at The University of Texas at Austin.

Questions for Discussion

1. How vividly did the author recreate the time period for this book? What, if anything, seems too dry or unnecessarily detailed?
2. Does the author attempt to remain objective about the subject? Is the book objective and balanced or deeply personal and strongly biased?
3. What was original about this book? How does it distinguish itself from the other books you have read on a similar topic?
4. What did you find surprising about the facts introduced in this book?
5. What did you learn about the time period in which the book is set that you did not previously know?
6. What did you think of the structure and style of writing?
7. Have you ever encountered a "pea-souper" type of fog? How did you feel navigating in it?
8. What would you have done during those five days if you had lived in London?
9. Why did John Reginald Christie hid the bodies in his apartment and the garden?
10. Do you agree or disagree with the death penalty?

