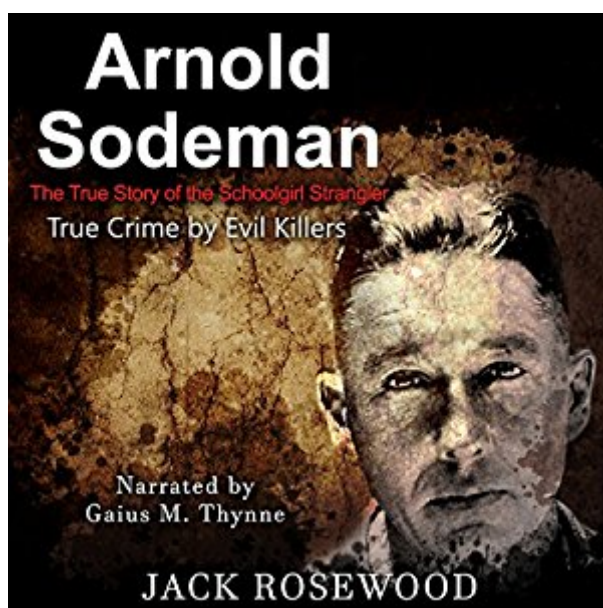


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Arnold Sodeman: The True Story Of The Schoolgirl Strangler: True Crime By Evil Killers, Book 1



Synopsis

Captured in the 1930s before the words psychopath and pedophile were part of common vernacular, notorious serial killer Arnold Sodeman murdered four young girls with little thought of remorse. Without guilt, the evil serial killer strangled them to death with their own clothing and left their small bodies alone in the Australian brush, earning himself a chilling position in the annals of Australian crime. The first victim in his child murder spree, 12-year-old Mena Griffiths, showed signs of having been sexually assaulted, although the man who would become known as The School-girl Strangler denied the assault, and blamed the killing of both Griffiths and the other girls on his inability to control himself after he'd been drinking. The horrific story of this true-life murderer - a tale of mental illness, childhood abuse, brain damage, and alcoholic blackouts - is true crime as its most terrible, and ranks among the worst child murders in world history. After his arrest, Sodeman calmly confessed, saying that when intoxicated, he became overcome by thoughts of revenge, and like a real-life Jekyll and Hyde, transformed from doting husband and family man into a barbarian who strangled four little girls. He chose children and teens, he said, because he could lure them away much easier, but the cold-blooded killer really didn't seem to recognize the abhorrence of taking a child's life. Experts now say the handsome but strange Sodeman would likely have been unfit to stand trial for his crimes, given his family's extensive background of mental illness, but in the 1930s, the serial killer's biography was a tale that left Australia stunned.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I really enjoyed this author who gives the facts as they are with no add on or fillers which makes this a wonderful short listen that really holds your attention. My heart really went out to the families of these children as well as the victims. I think the thing that touched me the most was the letter his wife wrote to him asking for the truth and talked about their daughter. The next thing that really hit home as how he killed and then went visiting, to understand what I mean you will have to read or listen to this story. Mr. Thynne narration was great he gives the facts as they are only giving emotion if it is needed. He narrates a clean, clear, crisp audio with no background noises. There are no volume changes, if any breaks were taken I could not tell. He did no character voices but I didn't feel they were needed. The audio was done in even tones but in a way that you feel the effect of the horror of the act that was done. I told his performance was really good. He has a very nice pleasant voice to listen to that really pulls the listener in. I have mixed feelings about Mr. Sodeman. I do feel he used his alcohol as an excuse. I am not saying it didn't play a part in his act just that it is too easy to blame what you do on drinking. With his families past and how people thought he was strange I would have thought the family would have kept an eye on the whole family throughout the years and got help for those that needed it. There are a lot of interesting facts one being what they found in his brain that might have lead him to do what he did. If you love true crime and you are looking for an interesting listen that only gives the facts I hope you pick this up. It will make you wonder if he could have been helped before he started murdering if he had the help that we have today back then. There are places where you jaw will drop and others where your heart just about breaks for the victims as well as the families.

Here is another cringing book. He was a sick person as many saw. Only too bad he didn't get help as needed. I know it was a very long time ago, but, it is shameful how he could kill all these children and get away with it. People should have investigated him, especially if they knew his parents history. Here really is a sick person. What I don't understand is his reaction after he strangles them and they drop to the ground. It's like, "Oops, I dropped my candy bar", or whatever, for example. He is supposedly in a trance when he kills but then suddenly, out of a clear blue sky he wakes up. That's when the bodies fall to the floor after they were strangled. So, is he really aware of his actions or he is just too sick to understand? The main thing is that he got what he deserved.

I liked this book. No, I really, really liked this book. I read true crime, but too often there is a hundred pages or more of background information that didn't need to be added. This book has exactly the right amount of information. There is just enough background to make it worth the read. I wish there

were more books like this one that give the facts, fleshed out enough to be understood without endless trial notes, long winded background stories, etc. This is a horrifying story, slight gruesome without being macabre. The story is a fast read and if you are like myself, you will read it straight through to the end. Arnold Sodeman was a strange bird. No one will ever really know if his brain issues actually put him into a fugue state or if he merely claimed it to have a "reason" for a seemingly insensible crime.

Reading this book, you are not only horrified at the brutal nature of the crimes visited onto young children but also by their seeming inevitability. The perpetrator was doomed from the start, his family rife with mental illness and instability. In modern times, given the right circumstances he might have received the care he needed to curtail his deadly urges but in the 1930's there was almost no chance of him getting help before it was too late. This book is a short read that packs a wallop! The author packs in much historical information that puts the life of this brutal man in stark perspective. A good read for lovers of true crime.

The book showed some insight into the problems the brain has when there are chromosomes added or missing. It didn't change the outcome at court but is something that should be investigated and perhaps children can be diagnosed and helped before the condition turns them into killers. Like it did for Arnold. The author wrote the book well with the history and story of the time and then opened a door into the medical science of the brain it added more interest to the reading and allowed you to feel some empathy for Arnold.

The book *Arnold Sodeman: The True Story of the Schoolgirl Strangler: Historical Serial Killers and Murderers* is short and seems to be concise. Character development was minimal, there is very little in the book about Arnold Sodeman the man or his family. The book reminds us several times that mental illness ran through the father's side of his family. It's still not clear to me why he killed the schoolgirls. The book is okay and I will read more from this author.

A short review of the crimes of Arnold Sodeman, an Australian serial killer caught in the 1930's, who preyed on children and teens. He came from a background of mental illness.

This was a surprisingly well written and researched true story. I'd never heard of Sodeman before, but by the end of the story I felt sorry not only for his victims, but for the man himself. That is

something that rarely happens after I've read a "True story." Yep, I'd recommend this book and author.

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