



# The Thieves' Opera

*Lucy Moore*

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## **The Thieves' Opera** Lucy Moore

Georgian London was a city of extraordinary contrast: its elegance and refinement thrived amid appalling filth and foul smells, decadence and depravity. Crime was everywhere, from pickpockets and prostitutes to murderous highwaymen, as London bulged with riches from its overseas colonies. The Thieves' Opera is the story of the city, and of its two greatest criminals, Jonathan Wild and Jack Sheppard. Wild, whose excesses led to his being known as "Thief-taker General," dominated London's criminal world. And Sheppard spent his time drinking, gambling, housebreaking, and whoring. When Sheppard refused to bow to Wild's authority, Wild had him arrested. But Sheppard's extraordinary ability to escape from prison-repeatedly-made him a celebrated folk hero. Eventually the rivalry spiraled to a dramatic climax involving the entire city. An eminently readable blend of popular history and scholarship, this book is a fascinating window into a world that confounds the modern imagination.

## **The Thieves' Opera Details**

Date : Published January 27th 2000 by Mariner Books (first published November 6th 1997)

ISBN : 9780156006408

Author : Lucy Moore

Format : Paperback 320 pages

Genre : History, Nonfiction, Crime, True Crime, Literature, 18th Century, European Literature, British Literature, Biography

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## From Reader Review The Thieves' Opera for online ebook

### Allison Thurman says

Library

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### Niffer says

An interesting book that gives the reader a good sense of the time period and the motivations of the characters. I very much enjoyed it.

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### Bob Aarhus says

While this effort has demonstrated its popularity in making the thieves of London's early 18th century accessible, anyone who has spent time studying this particular part of history will realize "The Thieves Opera" is a largely derivative work, owing its existence to a host of previous works from which it borrows -- sometimes verbatim -- quite liberally. Furthermore, the organization of the book is choppy, unable to choose between a chronological narrative of the lives of Jack Sheppard and Johnathan Wild, and a commentary on the various aspects of English life during this wild and unpredictable time. It does, however, demonstrate the inherent weakness of the "thief-taking" legislation that brought Wild his fame, fortune, and ultimate execution.

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### Lee Langford says

An in depth study of Crime and Criminals in the Georgian-era of British History, focusing upon the life-and-crimes of Thief-Taker General (and, paradoxically, Crime-Boss) Jonathan Wild, and Burglar and Prison-Escapologist, Jack Sheppard. Together with tales of notorious Pirates and Highwaymen of the day - as well as details of William Hogarth's moralistic paintings and etchings, illustrated throughout, such as of 'A Rake's Progress', 'A Harlot's Progress', and 'Beer Street and Gin Lane' - this is a must-book, recommended to all those interested in the history of crime.

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### Jim says

Entertaining

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### Jason says

Very interesting history of two famous (infamous) men from the early 18th century. Gives a good flavour of the period.

## **JFH says**

### **Interesting read**

As a reader of fact and fiction, this factual book is a quick and easy flowing read. A must read, truly enjoyed reading it. May re read it ..

Time to find more historic books to enjoy reading

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## **Joshua says**

Explore the dark underbelly of eighteenth century London with Lucy Moore and learn of the peculiar, perilous lives of Jonathan Wild, thief-taker, and Jack Sheppard, House-Breaker. Where do the lines blur between law and disorder?

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## **Christopher Probert says**

A fascinating look into the Georgian underworld. Immensely readable, Jonathan Wild and Jack Sheppard's exploits are shown in all their nefarious ingenuity. I wondered why I hadn't heard of these folk heroes before reading this. A great book to read and to re-read.

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## **Jo says**

A biography of 18th century villains Jonathan Wild and Jack Sheppard. I've come across references to these two in other books about the era but this is the first proper study of them I've come across. It was interesting although some of the historical detail didn't seem to correspond with what I've read before.

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## **Kaethe says**

Free on Kindle currently

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## **Walt says**

Lucy Moore did a very thorough job discussing the rise of the thief takers. She provides an excellent description of life in London and the basic social problems of society at that time. However, the text did become seemingly repetitive and dull. Had she not gone into such unnecessary detail, I would have given her a fourth star.

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## **Roger Neilson says**

The author cleverly uses the complimentary characters of Wild and Shephard to explore a massive range of soivial snd poloucal issues through the period of their lives. I found it dascinating and both horrifying and entertaining. For me there were many echoes with our current day in the way our society is being corrupted and the difference in treatment of different levels of that society.

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## **MH says**

Moore uses the lives of the dashing thief Jack Shepherd and corrupt thief-taker Jonathan Wild (John Gay's models for MacHeath and Peachum in *The Beggar's Opera*) to give a street-level history of crime and class in Georgian London. Deeply researched and enthusiastically written, full of interesting facts and moments, it's a compelling and eminently readable history.

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## **Cheryl says**

*The Thieves' Opera* is a very well-written, interesting account of the villains and robbers that populated sections of London during the 17th century. It reads more like a story than a history book and yet it is still very informative.

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