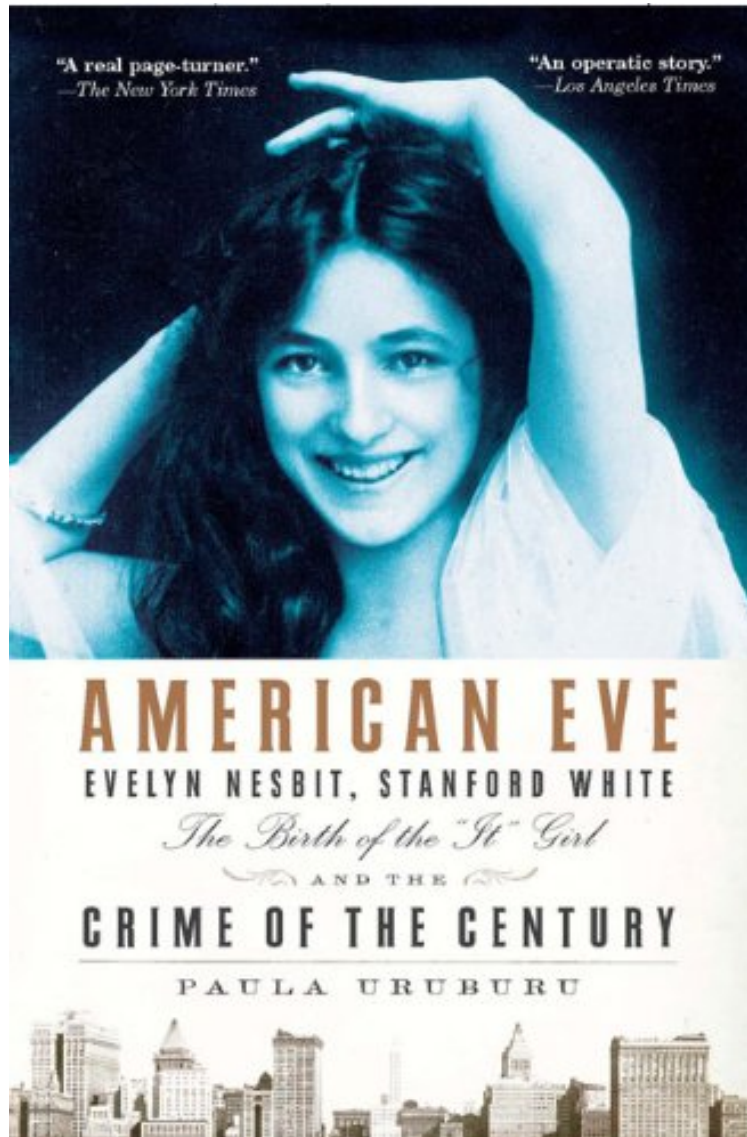


[FREE] American Eve: Evelyn Nesbit, Stanford White, the Birth of the "It" Girl and the Crime of the Century

American Eve: Evelyn Nesbit, Stanford White, the Birth of the "It" Girl and the Crime of the Century

Paula Uruburu

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Paula Uruburu : American Eve: Evelyn Nesbit, Stanford White, the Birth of the "It" Girl and the Crime of the Century before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised American Eve: Evelyn Nesbit, Stanford White, the Birth of the "It" Girl and the Crime of the Century:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. America Eve chronicles the life and wild love triangle of Evelyn Nesbit, Stanford White and Harry Thaw which led to murder. By C. M. Mills. America Eva is the sobering account of the life and wild career of Evelyn Nesbit. Nesbit was a famous model and minor actress who was the most photographed ingenu in America a century ago. Evelyn was born in a small town near Pittsburgh. Her father was a feckless lawyer who died when she was a young lass. Her brother Howard and she grew up with an ambitious mother. Evelyn was a beautiful and nubile stunner. She was soon modeling for well known artists and photographers. She became the mistress of Stanford White the famous architect. She wed the erratic Harry K. Thaw a Pittsburgh millionaire. Thaw murdered White blaming him for taking away Evelyn's virginity. The two Thaw trials were the most famous legal cases in the early twentieth century. Thaw spent a few years in a mental institution. He and Evelyn divorced in 1915. She lived into her eighties suffering from drug and alcohol abuse. She remarried a showman but that marriage did not last. This book shows us the rise of the cult of celebrity and how modern media made a star out of Evelyn. Nesbit was the first It girl and a famous Gibson girl. The sensational murder trial of Thaw set the pattern for tabloid journalism in the new century. Dr. Paula Uruburu of Hofstra University has written a readable and well researched story of a female Horatio Alger whose life was destroyed by sexual intrigue. A good book. Well worth a read.

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Too Innocent. By Book Woman. What a beauty! Evelyn, the young showgirl and model who became famous at 14, shines in the photos of this book. She could, by turns, look sultry or innocent and that intoxicating combination brought her fame. Her likeness was sold on postcards and she adorned many of the advertisements of her day. It also brought her men, one being Stanford White. He was a married man with an eye for young girls, the designer of Madison Square Garden. He approached Evelyn and her mother in an avuncular way, dispelling any mistrust with his thoughtfulness and open wallet. This went on for a while, and Mama Nesbit relaxed her parental protectiveness which was never strong to begin with. So one night White plied Evelyn with champagne and raped her in his tower apartment above MSG when she passed out. As atrocious as this sounds, it was probably worse then than it would be now. Young women, especially of dubious trade like Evelyn was, had only one hope for their future. If they kept their virginity intact, they might hope to make a decent marriage to a man who would support them and elevate their status. Once robbed of that, a girl would be considered damaged goods and likely be consigned to an uncertain and disgraced future. Even more than that, however, White had won Evelyn's trust and his betrayal stunned her beyond measure. For a while, she continued the liaison, hoping that he would leave his wife and take her on. But his eye continued to roam for new conquests, and her appeal to him waned once he had taken her prize. She tried to move on with her life. Enter Harry K. Thaw of Pittsburg, a millionaire of sadistic habits. Mental illness ran in his family, and Harry ran hot and cold in his courtship of Evelyn. She put him off, knowing her shameful secret, but he browbeat it out of her. This gave him new power in their relationship and fueled his hatred of White, which was already blooming. At 17, Evelyn was raped by Thaw as he beat her with a dog whip. Nonetheless, she married him, thinking that no one else who knew her past would ever have her. Poor dear. But it gets worse. Thaw's fixation on White reaches epic heights, to the point where he demands that Evelyn have the cosmetic dentistry paid for by his predecessor replaced by work that he pays for--leaving her with subsequent damage. Then one night in 1906 (with Evelyn present) he shoots White to death during a performance at the Garden. He shouts to the crowd, "I did it because he ruined my wife!" His trials (there were two) made her a key witness, having to tell the world her sordid tale in Harry's defense. His family promised her a million dollars and a divorce if she testified, but she only got the latter. Harry was declared not guilty by reason of insanity and was committed to a facility for the criminally insane. Evelyn went on to raise the son that she claimed was Thaw's, although he disavowed the boy, and spiraled down into alcoholism after the trial. In her time, Evelyn was portrayed as a villainess, a seductress who lured men to their doom. But she is more correctly understood as a victim, of her times and her men and her mother. Read the book to understand HER . . . she really was quite nice.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. One of the best trial books I have ever read! By book lover from PAI could not put down this book on the role of Evelyn Nesbit in the Harry K. Thaw murder of architect Stanford White. This book, on the first Trial of the Century in the 20th century, is compelling reading. The author has mastered all of the literature and complicated testimony and stories about the murder, and tells the story in a way that the reader can decide whether Thaw was guilty or not (he used one of the first "innocent by reason of mental illness defenses). I was fascinated by all of the twists and turns in a story that I knew only a little about when I began, and highly recommend this book for anyone interested in high profile trials, or law.

The scandalous story of America's first supermodel, sex goddess, and modern celebrity Evelyn Nesbit. By the time of her sixteenth birthday in 1900, Evelyn Nesbit was known to millions as the most photographed woman of her era, an iconic figure who set the standard for female beauty, and whose innocent sexuality was used to sell everything from chocolates to perfume. Women wanted to be her. Men just wanted her. But when Evelyn's life of fantasy became all too real and her insanely jealous millionaire husband, Harry K. Thaw, murdered her lover, New York City architect Stanford White, the most famous woman in the world became infamous as she found herself at the center of the Crime of the Century and a scandal that signaled the beginning of a national obsession with youth, beauty, celebrity, and sex.

From Publishers Weekly
Uruburu, an associate professor of English at Hofstra who has consulted for the History Channel, examines the notorious life of model and chorus girl Evelyn Nesbit (1885-1967), whose rise to stardom was as spectacular as her subsequent fall. Born in rural Pennsylvania, Florence Evelyn Nesbit was an exceedingly pretty infant who by 15 had achieved success as an actress and model in New York City, where her blend of sultry sexuality and unspoiled purity attracted the eye of famed architect and playboy Stanford White. But Pittsburgh heir and sexual sadist Harry K. Thaw wanted Nesbit for himself and vowed to expose White's immoral conduct with underage girls. Thaw went on to brutally rape and beat Nesbit, yet she agreed to marry him. Still consumed with jealousy, Thaw shot White to death in 1906, leading to a headline-grabbing trial. Uruburu's depiction of Nesbit's early life and career is richly detailed, but the book loses steam near the end and barely addresses Nesbit's post-trial tailspin into alcoholism. Still, readers will appreciate the parallels between Nesbit's It Girl status and our own celebrity-obsessed culture.

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From Booklist
Americans have always been intrigued by sex and scandal. Even in seemingly more innocent eras, sexually fueled transgressions and crimes had the power to transfix the public. Uruburu recounts the salacious details of an early-twentieth-century crime that both shocked and gripped the collective public consciousness. A superstar by turn-of-the-century standards, Evelyn Nesbit, model, actress, and advertising creation, represented an idealized version of American womanhood. When her unbalanced millionaire husband shot and killed her lover, renowned New York architect and man-about-town Stanford White, the stage was set for a virtual media circus. All the decadent details revealed at the trial were devoured by a public just as hungry to see young, beautiful, and successful women crash and burn as they are today. Uruburu draws some valid comparisons between then and now in this tell-all biography of one of the first in a long line of tarnished It Girls.

--Margaret Flanagan
a Paula Uruburu serves up an intriguing and meticulously researched slice of American history. Evelyn Nesbit typified the glorious excesses of the Gilded Age, and this story has everything: sex, deception, drama, and a lurid love triangle, all culminating in the crime of the century.

a --Karen Abbott, author of "Sin in the Second City: Madams, Ministers, Playboys, and the Battle for America's Soul"
a By centering her book on the ever-fascinating figure of Evelyn Nesbit, the stunningly beautiful chorine whose sexual charisma still burns through the Victorian photographs that adorn the book, Uruburu has produced not only a tour de force of historical crime writing and an illuminating social history but a rollicking piece of storytelling: a work that brings to life an entire glittering era while maintaining a breathless narrative pace.

a --Harold Schechter, author of "The Devil's Gentleman: Privilege, Poison, and the Trial That Ushered in the Twentieth Century"
a Of all the famous beauties of a hundred years ago, Evelyn Nesbit is the only one who would still turn heads today. Paula Uruburu's triumph is to fix this very modern-looking girl in her proper time and place, and also to describe the New York of the early 1900s so vividly that we feel we, too, could be strolling towards the 21st Street apartment where the teen was seduced by Stanford White--or sitting in Madison Square Garden on the fatal evening that White was shot dead.

a --Mike Dash, author of "Satanas Circus: Murder, Vice, Police Corruption, and New York's Trial of the Century"
a Paula Uruburu has given life to the tragic American story of the poor, beautiful nymph whose fate is so often entangled with extreme wealth and the powerful man. Evelyn Nesbit is like a Dreiser heroine, a Sister Carrie, Jenny Gerhardt, although hers is a true story, harrowing in this writer's hands.

a --Martha McPhee, author of "La America" and "Gorgeous Lies"
a In "American Eve," a fascinating evocation of a woman and her times, Paula Uruburu does more than just tell the story of Evelyn Nesbit. Sex, money, scandal, celebrity, doom--the whole cocktail of America's obsessions is served up here in this intriguing, addictive book.

a --Zachary Lazar, author of "Sway"
a Wonderfully absorbing . . . A lurid tabloid story of yore brought to fresh life and relevance with remarkable insight, verve and wisdom. Old New York is laid bare in all its decadence and the cult of pubescent beauty traced to its source, all with worldliness, wit, humor, compassion, and suspense. The result is a real page-turner.

a --Philip Lopate, author of "Waterfront: A Walk Around Manhattan" and "Writing New York"
a Tragic now when a century ago it seemed merely scandalous, the story of Evelyn Nesbit is a gripping cautionary tale for those who believe Paris Hilton, Britney Spears and Lindsay Lohan are the first of their kind. How is it that after a century of feminism, young beautiful women still crash and burn for an eager public? Using newly available family sources, Paula Uruburu tells Evelyn Nesbit's story in all its darkness and terror.

a --Honor Moore, author of "The Bishop's Daughter"
a In "American Eve" a beautiful young woman, a lecherous prince of New York, and an unstable husband show us how the national sport of media-fed scandal began. Before the story ends, one man is dead, another is locked away, and Paula Uruburu has given us a look at an age of excess that looks remarkably like our own. It is page turning history at its best.

a --Michael DaAntonio, author of "Hershey: Milton S. Hershey's Extraordinary Life of Wealth, Empire, and Utopian Dreams"
a A real page turner.

a "The New York Times"
a Uruburu's smart, historically savvy narrative is as riveting as the juiciest gossip fest.

a "O, The Oprah Magazine"
a "American Eve" colorfully recreates the nasty underbelly of the Gilded Age...Nesbit's tragedy underscores how dangerous desire can be.

a "New York Post"
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a "Los Angeles Times"
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