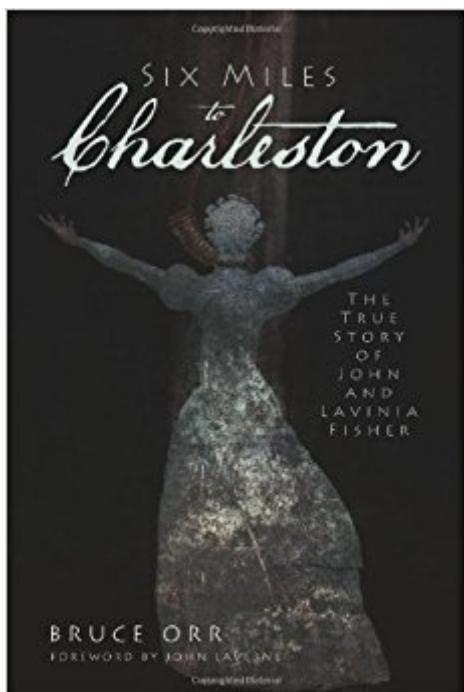


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Six Miles To Charleston: The True Story Of John And Lavinia Fisher (Murder & Mayhem)



Synopsis

In 1819, a young man outwitted death at the hands of John and Lavinia Fisher and sparked the hunt for Charleston's most notorious serial killers. Former homicide investigator Bruce Orr follows the story of the Fishers, from the initial police raid on their Six Mile Inn with its reportedly grisly cellar to the murderous couple's incarceration and execution at the squalid Old City Jail. Yet there still may be more sinister deeds left unpunished, an overzealous sheriff, corrupt officials and documents only recently discovered all suggest that there is more to the tale. Orr uncovers the mysteries and debunks the myths behind the infamous legend of the nation's first convicted female serial killer.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Bruce Orr was raised in the Lowcountry of South Carolina and grew up hunting and fishing the plantations of Berkeley County with his father and brothers. It was during those times he spent many evenings listening to the tales and legends surrounding this historic area. As a young boy, he had an insatiable appetite for the bizarre, unexplained and paranormal and was always searching for answers behind the events he heard at the hunt clubs and fish camps. As he grew into an adult, this natural curiosity in seeking the facts brought him into law enforcement where he eventually became a detective and a supervisor within his agency's Criminal Investigative Division. Now retired, he uses the skills he obtained in his career to research some of the most notorious cases within the Charleston area. He seeks answers through historical documentation in an effort to

separate fact from fantasy and to keep the truth from being lost in legend.

Bruce Orr tells a riveting story based upon facts thought to be long lost to time. As someone who also grew up around Charleston, he proves that legends and stories of the low country over time often morph into tall tells. Bruce has applied his skills as a seasoned detective to unravel a story I have heard numerous times. He not only brings a great deal of new information to light but also humanizes an injustice that took place close over 200 hundred years ago. I am willing to bet once you begin reading this you won't want to put it down. Thank you Bruce for your research and insights.

On our first trip to Charleston, SC, my husband and I took one of the historic carriage tours and as we passed by the Old Jail, we heard the story of Lavinia and John Fisher. The tale was so gruesome and haunting that it spooked our 7-year-old goddaughter, who insisted on sleeping with the lights on for the duration of our stay. Retired detective Bruce Orr sets out to find the truth in *Six Miles to Charleston: The True Story of John and Lavinia Fisher*, and what he discovers is even more shocking and disturbing than what we previously knew to be true. In the late 1810s, John and Lavinia Fisher ran a hotel on the outskirts of Charleston called Six Mile House. The legend told by historians is that the beautiful Lavinia would poison their patrons with oleander tea. Then as they slept, husband John would rob and murder these men and then take them into secret chambers under their inn where he would dismember their bodies and leave the remains. One potential victim was able to escape the clutches of the Fishers, and ran into town to tell the authorities. The police are said to have found dozens of victims buried under their inn. Both John and Lavinia were hanged--Lavinia was said to have worn her wedding dress to the gallows and haunts the city to this day. Lots of other myths have spread about Lavinia including she was the first woman hanged in the United States and she was the first female serial killer. Orr figured that if the case were indeed this sensational, that there had to be some kind of paper trail. "I don't care when the events occurred, the fact that a married couple who robbed and murdered their guests and were executed for it means it's going to be documented somewhere." Orr used police reports, court documents and newspaper articles to discover a totally different tale and one where the Fishers were probably the victims. In fact, almost every "fact" that we have heard about this case is incorrect. Charlestonians pride themselves on getting their history correct, and anyone licensed as a tour guide must take an exhaustive exam. After reading *Six Miles to Charleston*, it's time for Charleston to rewrite their history books to reflect the real reason that John and Lavinia Fisher were arrested and hanged.

Even websites like Wikipedia need to set the record straight. Maybe then, we'll see a little less of Lavinia's ghost haunting the Holy City.

I found this different take on John and Lavinia Fisher quite interesting. I have always heard the myth - Lavinia was the first female serial killer put to death in the US... she haunts the sugar shack to this day, etc. But what Bruce Orr does is really inspect the facts of what happened at the time and that in fact, Lavinia may have put to death for a crime that she didn't commit or that really didn't even happen.

Great book...enjoyed learning how everything took place. Would recommend if you enjoy history. Totally contrary to what you may have heard.

Six Miles to Charleston is a quick and interesting read about the facts behind the ghost story of John and Lavinia Fisher. The legend is dark and gruesome, but the true story is full of prison escapes, corrupt government, and years of bitter land disputes. Actually looked into getting the book because it was mentioned on a ghost television show. Was worth the read.

It wasn't exactly what I thought it was going to be. It was good but totally drawn out.

I absolutely enjoyed this book. I appreciate the lengths the author went to with research. It's about time this was looked at so analytically. More than just paranormal rhetoric.

Best nonfiction/biography I've ever read. The author writes the information in a way that makes it feel like I'm reading a story, not just a whole bunch of facts. Great read, enjoyed it immensely!

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