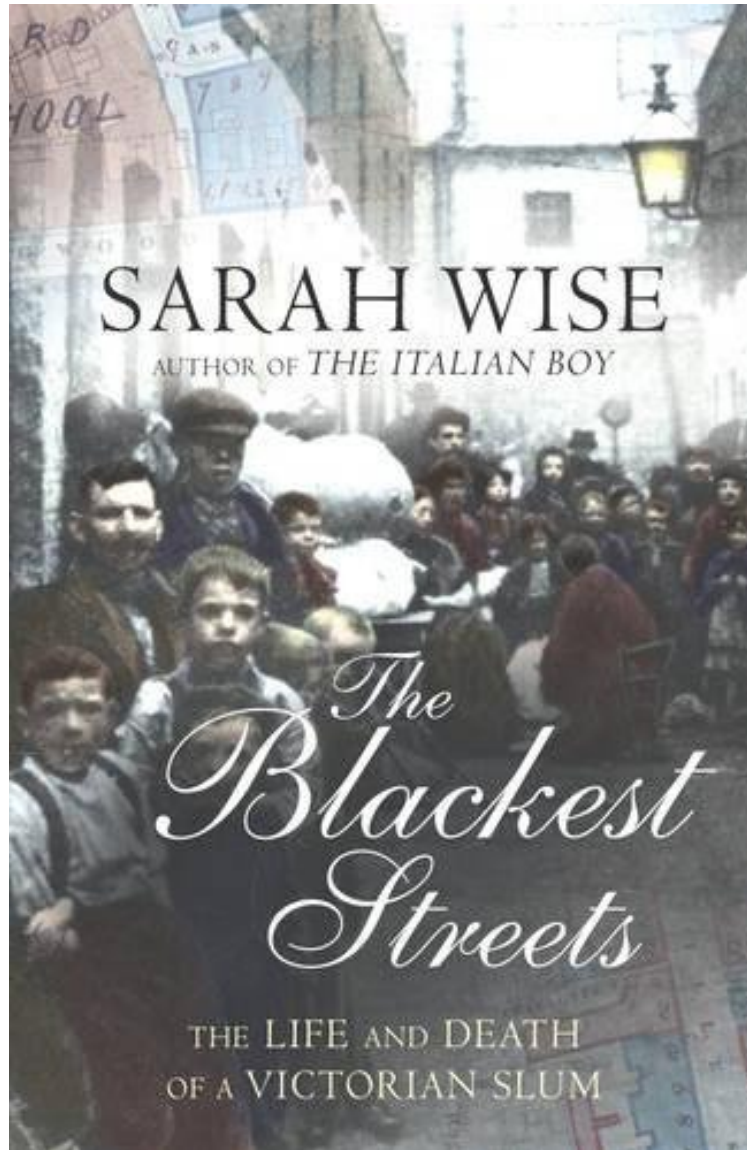


[PDF] The Blackest Streets: The Life and Death of a Victorian Slum

The Blackest Streets: The Life and Death of a Victorian Slum

Sarah Wise

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Sarah Wise : The Blackest Streets: The Life and Death of a Victorian Slum before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Blackest Streets: The Life and Death of a Victorian Slum:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Into the darkest despair.....By CustomerAs a family historian who has a few ancestors from this area I found this book fascinating. Sarah introduces us to the horror of life in this part of

London and then she takes us into the work of those who found that people living like this is unacceptable. A great addition to a library of books about London or as an insight as to how our ancestors lived. This book leaves me in awe that my forebears survived long enough to hand their genes down to me. 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. A Super Read By Ann Merriman Sarah Wise's "The Blackest Streets: The Life and Death of a Victorian Slum" is a fantastic read, well-researched, and well-organized. This is a complex topic, with facets one might not link to the issues faced by the poor of the Old Nicol slum. This book is for anyone, really; the casual history buff, the genealogist, the Londoner, and the professional historian. 2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating read By Leanne Brinton This book is a well researched look into the poorest slum in Victorian-era London with consideration of economic, social and political factors that contributed to it. I couldn't put it down.

A brilliant new book about the seedy side of Victorian London by a talented young historian. In 1887, government inspectors were sent to report on the horrifying, often lethal, living conditions of the Old Nichol, a notorious 15-acre slum in London's East End. Among much else, they found that the rotting 100-year-old houses were some of the most lucrative properties in the capital for their absent slumlords. Peers of the Realm, local politicians, churchmen and lawyers were making profits on these death-traps of as much as 150 per cent per annum. Before long, Old Nichol became a focus of public attention: its 6,000 inhabitants were condemned for their drunkenness and criminality. The solution to the problem lay in internment camps, some said, or forced emigration even eugenics. *The Blackest Streets* focuses on the last fifteen years of the nineteenth century, a turbulent period in London's history, when revolution was very much in the air when unemployment, agricultural depression and a crackdown on parish relief provided a breeding ground for communists and anarchists. Sarah Wise explores the real lives behind the statistics, excavating the Old Nichol from the ruins of history, laying bare the social and political conditions that created and sustained this black hole at the very heart of the Empire.

This is a book about the nature of London itself. Peter Ackroyd Wise describes the terrible conditions dispassionately, bringing out the resilience and self-respect of the slum-dwellers. Sunday Times About the Author Sarah Wise is a freelance journalist and author of *The Italian Boy*.