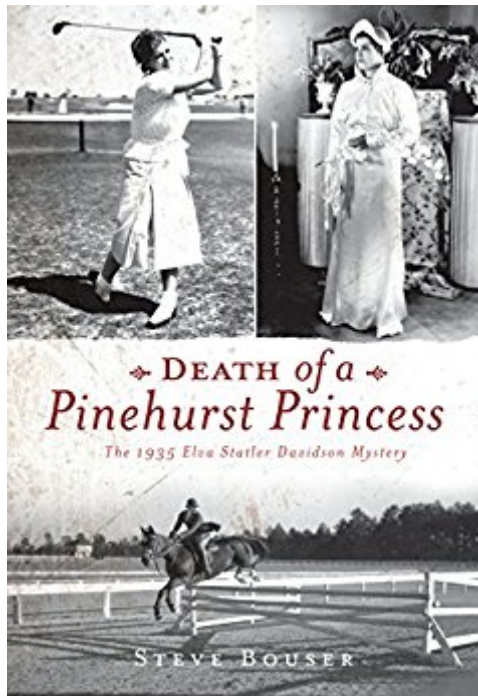


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Death Of A Pinehurst Princess: The 1935 Elva Statler Davidson Mystery (True Crime)



Synopsis

A news media frenzy hurled the quiet resort community of Pinehurst into the national spotlight in 1935 when hotel magnate Ellsworth Statler's adopted daughter was discovered dead early one February morning weeks after her wedding day. A politically charged coroner's inquest failed to determine a definitive cause of death, and the following civil action continued to expose sordid details of the couple's lives. More than half a century later, the story was all but forgotten when local resident Diane McLellan spied an old photograph at a yard sale and became obsessed with solving the mystery. Her enthusiastic sleuthing captured the attention of Southern Pines resident and journalist Steve Bouser, who takes readers back to those blustery winter days so long ago in the search to reveal what really happened to Elva Statler Davidson.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book chronicled the death of Elva Statler Davidson but really didn't give any new insight into her death as I expected. Interesting in that it told a story of what occurred at the time, but the writer, as noted in his resume is a newspaper guy, didn't really create an engaging story. It could have been summed up in a couple of pages.

Discovering all the available information about a 75-year-old mystery and knitting them together into a "page-turner" is not an easy task. Steve Bouser, an excellent writer, has successfully woven the disparate personal reminiscences, written documents, and the rumors and speculation that swirled around Elva Statler Davidson's death at the time into a compelling and coherent whole. I found that his acerbic, lightly sardonic writing style fit the subject matter perfectly, both in describing the central mystery of the central character's death and the unique southern North Carolina setting where her sad life ended. I read this book straight through and enjoyed every word of it. The negative reviews that his book has received are so far off of the mark as to lead me to suspect them to be motivated more by some hidden personal agenda than by objective literary analysis.

This is an intriguing unsolved mystery. The photos in the book add to the reading. I went on a Read and Go trip to Pinehurst and saw many of the places mentioned in the book. I hope that it will, at some point, be solved.

Having moved from PA to Pinehurst, I enjoyed the book and could easily relate to all the mentioned places in the book - was very informative regarding the history of Pinehurst and the book was well written.

Interesting subject but poorly written. Each chapter was a rehashing of the previous and the ending was anti-climactic. The reader was led to believe that a conclusion would be revealed but the conclusion was merely a restating of the evidence and biased hypothesis of the writer. My husband would not even finish the book. Not worth the cost.

Loved this book and since I live locally knowing all the locations mentioned throughout the book made it that much more interesting in. If you are interested in true life crime stories then you will enjoy this book. It has been passed around to friends and family all of whom have enjoyed and it and went out and bought their own copies.

The book provided every possible angle to look at the tragedy. It also provided a detailed history of the city of Pinehurst which is crucial to fully understanding the events. I would highly recommend it to readers who enjoy mysteries.

Thought this book could have been written in five pages. It was very drawn out. I was disappointed in the book.

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