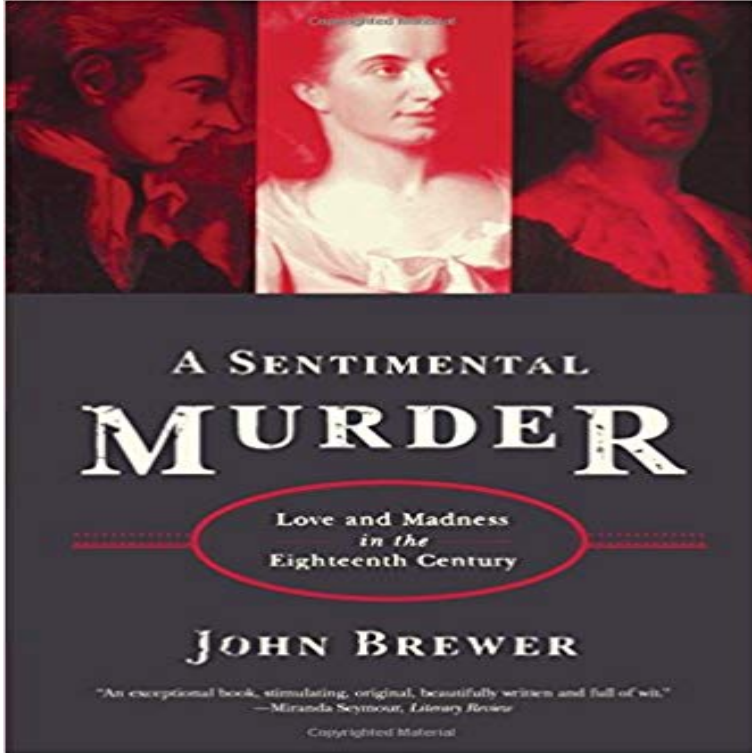


A Sentimental Murder: Love and Madness in the Eighteenth Century



One April evening in 1779, Martha Ray, the pretty mistress of a famous aristocrat, was shot dead at point-blank range by a young clergyman who then attempted to take his own life. Instead he was arrested, tried and hanged. In this fascinating new book, John Brewer, a leading historian of eighteenth-century England, asks what this peculiar little story was all about. Then as now, crimes of passion were not uncommon, and the story had the hallmarks of a great scandal--yet fiction and fact mingled confusingly in all the accounts, and the case was hardly deemed appropriate material for real history. Was the crime about James Hackmans unrequited love for the virtuous mother of the Earl of Sandwichs illicit children? Or was Ray, too, deranged by passion, as a popular novel suggested? In Victorian times the romance became a morality tale about decadent Georgian aristocrats and the depravity of wanton women who consorted with them; by the 1920s Ray was considered a chaste mistress destroyed by male dominance and privilege. Brewer, in tracing Rays fate through these protean changes in journalism, memoir, and melodrama, offers an unforgettable account of the relationships among the three protagonists and their different places in English society--and assesses the shifting balance between storytelling and fact, past and present that inheres in all history.

Historian Brewer (The Pleasures of the Imagination) uses an 18th-century English A SENTIMENTAL MURDER: Love and Madness in the Eighteenth Century.Sentimental Murder: Love and Madness in the Eighteenth Century (Text Only). by John Brewer. On Sale: 30/01/2014. Format: eBook. Book Overview Author InfoOne April evening in 1779, Martha Ray, the pretty mistress of a famous aristocrat, was shot dead at point-blank range by a young clergyman who then attempted On an April evening in 1779, a woman is shot on the steps of Covent Garden. Her murderer is a young soldier and Church of England ministerA Sentimental Murder: Love and Madness in the Eighteenth Century. By John Brewer. New York: Farrar, Straus, & Giroux, 2004. Pp. x+340. \$25.00. - Buy A Sentimental Murder: Love and Madness in the Eighteenth Century book online at best prices in India on Amazon.in. Read A SentimentalA Sentimental Murder: Love and Madness in the Eighteenth Century. By John Brewer. New York: Farrar, Straus, & Giroux, 2004. Pp. x+340. \$25.00.: A Sentimental Murder: Love and Madness in the Eighteenth Century (9780002571340) by John Brewer and a

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