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Inspector Minahan Makes a Stand: Or the Missing Girls of England

By O'Donnell, Bridget.

Picador. 1 Cloth(s), 2012. hard. Book Condition: New. In Victorian London, the age of consent was just 13. Unwitting girls were regularly enticed or tricked and sold into prostitution, and could be trafficked to Brussels, Paris, or beyond. The official response was to turn a blind eye, until one Irish-born policeman wrote an incendiary report. Disgraced for testifying against a violent colleague, inspector Jeremiah Minahan had been transferred to the backwater of Chelsea as punishment. When he then reported Mary Jeffries, a trafficker who procured girls for Cabinet members and royalty, Minahan was forced out of the Metropolitan Police. Continuing as a private detective, he set out to expose the peers and politicians who took advantage of London's child prostitutes. The findings he revealed in 1885 sparked national outrage, including riots, arrests, a tabloid war, and a sensational trial, resulting in eventual reforms, while other secrets he uncovered were so fearful that he took them to his grave. Former BBC producer Bridget O'Donnell tells Minahan's extraordinary story, and those of the women he helped to protect. "A riveting book, deeply shocking one moment, rich in absurdity the next." Daily Mail (London) 368.



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