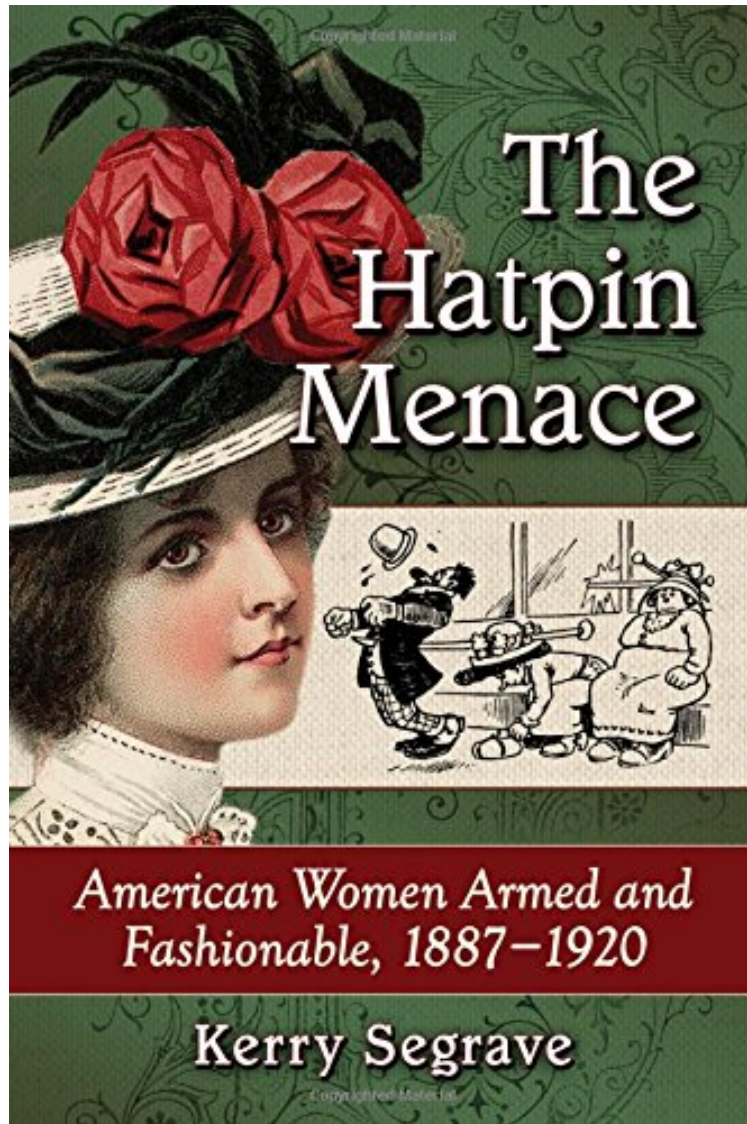


[E-BOOK] The Hatpin Menace: American Women Armed and Fashionable, 1887-1920

The Hatpin Menace: American Women Armed and Fashionable, 1887-1920

Kerry Segrave

*ePub | *DOC | audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF*



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#931738 in Books 2016-02-16Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.00 x .50 x 5.90l, .0 #File Name: 1476662150220 pages | File size: 45.Mb

Kerry Segrave : The Hatpin Menace: American Women Armed and Fashionable, 1887-1920 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Hatpin Menace: American Women Armed and Fashionable, 1887-1920:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Bruce ParadisoExcellent book for enthusiasts.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Forgotten social history told in an engaging way. Hatpins held hats on but

could also be used as weapons. By Lyndon Brecht I ran across this book by accident, and found the title irresistible. I recall long ago looking at a grandmother's box of old stuff, things like spoon rings--and hatpins. Being a birder I know about those big hats and how the demand for feathers nearly wiped out species like the reddish egret. Hatpins are just that, large pins used to secure hats on heads, through the underlying hair, long hair piled up on the head. Turns out that hatpins could be very large, a foot or more long. The sharp end sticking out from a hat could be a hazard in public transportation or other areas where people were packed in close. The pins could also be fashion accessories, jeweled at the top end. And they could be weapons for women to use against "mashers" or sometimes fight off muggers. They could also be used as offensive weapons in attacks on police, or anyone else--the book has a chapter on that, often drunken women stabbing officers--but they could actually kill. The book is well written and seems to be well-researched, at least using popular media sources. It's not an academic style study, but is informative and intriguing. The chapters are Big Hats (really big!), Hatpin Fashion, two chapters look at the hatpin as a weapon, offensive and defensive, and one looks at group use of the hatpin--as in striking women carrying them and rioting against "scabs." Chapter 6 looks at accidents (remember those sharp ends sticking out?). Chapter 7 looks at hatpins abroad (not a very good chapter) and the last chapter discusses hatpin hysteria on the part of male legislators trying to pass laws regulating in one way or another--sometimes passed but difficult to enforce. I get the impression that hatpins were one of those standard jokes by which men belittle women. There are traces of a sly feminism in the book.

Between 1887 and 1920, the humble hatpin went from an unremarkable item in every woman's wardrobe, to a fashion necessity, to a dangerous weapon (it was said). Big hair and big hats of the era meant big hatpins, and their weaponized use sparked controversy. There were "good" uses of hatpins, such as fending off an attacker in the street. There were also "bad" uses, such as when a woman being arrested tried to stab a police officer. But seriously: All those protruding pins seemed to threaten people everywhere in the public sphere. It did not sit well with the patriarchy, who responded with hysterical crusades and often ludicrous legislation aimed at curbing the hatpin and disarming American women.

About the Author Cultural historian Kerry Segrave is the author of dozens of books on such diverse topics as drive-in theaters, lie detectors, jukeboxes, smoking, shoplifting and ticket-scalping. He lives in British Columbia.