

January 2009

REVIEW: The Body in the Reservoir: Murder and Sensationalism in the South

April Renfroe-Warren
Monroe-Walton County Library

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/glq>

 Part of the [Criminology and Criminal Justice Commons](#), [History Commons](#), [Psychology Commons](#), and the [Sociology Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Renfroe-Warren, April (2009) "REVIEW: The Body in the Reservoir: Murder and Sensationalism in the South," *Georgia Library Quarterly*: Vol. 46 : Iss. 1 , Article 22.
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/glq/vol46/iss1/22>

This Review is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@Kennesaw State University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Georgia Library Quarterly by an authorized editor of DigitalCommons@Kennesaw State University. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@kennesaw.edu.

Off the SHELF

The Georgia Library Quarterly reviews books on aspects of life in Georgia and the South, including history, literature, politics, education and genealogy. Materials written by Southern authors or published by regional publishers may also be considered, as well as those on libraries and librarianship.

Sarah McGhee, Off the Shelf Co-editor, Chestatee Regional Library System, smcghee@chestateelibrary.org

Karen Odom, Off the Shelf Co-editor, Houston County Public Libraries, kodom@houpl.org

See more Off the Shelf reviews at http://gla.georgialibraries.org/glg_bookreviews.htm

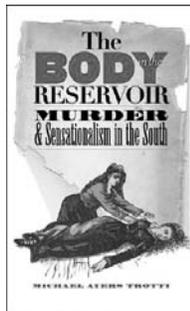
NONFICTION

The Body in the Reservoir: Murder and Sensationalism in the South

by Michael Ayers Trotti

(University of North Carolina Press, 2008; ISBN 978-08078-5842-4, \$24.95)

In *The Body in the Reservoir: Murder and Sensationalism in the South*, Michael Ayers Trotti examines criminal sensationalism in the South and its evolution from colonial times to the progressive era. The history of crime and the media in the South is interesting, and the book is well-researched; however, the academic writing style is at times difficult to follow for the casual reader. The murders covered in greatest detail were committed in or around the Richmond, Va., area from 1867 to 1911. The author contends that, while public interest in crime was not particular to the South, Southern newspaper coverage of these events varied from Northern newspapers, most especially Southern papers' protective treatment of women. Yet, Southern and Northern newspaper editors' differences were minimum compared to the views of African-American newspaper editors. Due to the high rate of lynching, African-American newspapers focused on innocent and acquitted defendants rather than dramatic trials and executions. The most intriguing chapters of the book dealt specifically with African-American perceptions on crime, sensationalism and African-American newspapers'



differing news coverage. *The Body in the Reservoir* expands our understanding of Southern history and reveals the origins of our own post-modern fixation on murder and violence. Recommended for academic libraries. ►►

— Reviewed by **April Renfroe-Warren**
Monroe-Walton County Library
Uncle Remus Regional Library System

CHILDREN'S NONFICTION

Carry Me: Animal Babies on the Move written and illustrated by Susan Stockdale (Peachtree Publishers, 2005; ISBN: 1-56145-328-5, \$15.95)

Carry Me is a simple picture book that depicts how various animals carry their young. The text is sparse and concise, yet conveys the different modes of transportation beautifully, using specific action words such as perched, carted, braced, stretched, etc. The illustrations are bright, using large blocks of color and simple lines. Perfect for one-on-one sharing, the illustrations allow parents and educators the opportunity to discuss the different animals and their young. At the end of the book, Stockdale profiles each animal in the book and where they live, providing a great geography tie-in. A bibliography of books the author consulted in

