

MILWAUKEE MAYHEM

MURDER AND MYSTERY
IN THE CREAM CITY'S FIRST CENTURY

MATTHEW J. PRIGGE

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



WISCONSIN
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

MILWAUKEE MAYHEM

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



In many of the stories in Matthew Prigge's collection, the general public took thrills from the crime stories in their newspapers, even eagerly visiting places where murders or suicides happened. Has society changed in the last hundred years?

Does Prigge handle sensitive content well? Why or why not?

Was there one particular story that stood out to you? What did you find most compelling about it?

While most of these stories have unhappy endings, not all are absent of good deeds. What examples of the better parts of human nature can you recall from the book?

Prigge asserts that these stories of Milwaukee’s “orphans of history” are significant because “We cannot fully understand this place without knowing what lives in its underbelly.” How important is this true crime legacy to understanding Milwaukee as a city today?

Describe Prigge’s writing style. Is it appropriate for the subject?

Which section—Murder, Vice, Accidents, or Secrets—most intrigued you? Why?

If this book was written about “mayhem” in Milwaukee in the last fifty years, would the tone change? How might it be different or the same?

