



Wisconsin Death Trip

By Michael Lesy



Download



Read Online



Get Print Book

Wisconsin Death Trip By Michael Lesy

First published in 1973, this remarkable book about life in a small turn-of-the-century Wisconsin town has become a cult classic. Lesy has collected and arranged photographs taken between 1890 and 1910 by a Black River Falls photographer, Charles Van Schaik.



[Download Wisconsin Death Trip ...pdf](#)



[Read Online Wisconsin Death Trip ...pdf](#)

Wisconsin Death Trip

By Michael Lesy

Wisconsin Death Trip By Michael Lesy

First published in 1973, this remarkable book about life in a small turn-of-the-century Wisconsin town has become a cult classic. Lesy has collected and arranged photographs taken between 1890 and 1910 by a Black River Falls photographer, Charles Van Schaik.

Wisconsin Death Trip By Michael Lesy Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #90113 in Books
- Color: Black
- Brand: Brand: University of New Mexico Press
- Published on: 2000-01-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.51" h x .63" w x 11.09" l, 1.89 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 148 pages

 [Download Wisconsin Death Trip ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Wisconsin Death Trip ...pdf](#)

Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

The last decade of the 19th century was, for some Americans, a time when great fortunes were to be made. For many others, however, the period was a time of economic dislocation, when the gap between city and countryside, rich and poor, grew ever wider. As the Indian Wars ended and the Gilded Age extended into America's first Imperial Age, social critics such as Mark Twain and William Dean Howells began to examine the dark side of the American dream: violence, poverty, degenerate behavior, suicide, and insanity.

In the late 1960s, another desperate time, historian Michael Lesy took a long look at fin-de-siècle America. Examining a collection of several thousand glass plate negatives and historical documents from Jackson County, Wisconsin, he concocted a sprawling treatise on a past that had been willfully forgotten, a brooding rejoinder to Edgar Lee Masters's *Spoon River Anthology*. First published in 1973, Lesy's *Wisconsin Death Trip*, now reissued in a handsome paperbound edition, became a key text of the counterculture, a book to shelve alongside *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee* and *Custer Died for Your Sins*--and it sometimes reads like a hip product of its time. Lesy documents the unsettling record of one small corner of rural America, turning up accounts of barn burnings, attacks by gangs of armed tramps, threatening and obscene letters, death by diphtheria and smallpox (the Wisconsin townsfolk had, some years, to attend several funerals a week), alcoholism, madness, business and bank failures, and even a case or two of witchcraft.

After reading Lesy's texts and viewing the sometimes unsettling images he's turned up, you would be forgiven for thinking that no one in small-town Wisconsin in our great-great-grandparents' time was well-adjusted--which is, of course, not the case. Hyperbole notwithstanding, this is a remarkable study, one that Lesy himself rightly calls an experiment in both history and alchemy. --Gregory McNamee

From Library Journal

As the title suggests, this is a truly strange book. Published in 1973, it is essentially a collection of photos taken in Black River Falls, WI, by Charles Van Schaik between 1890 and 1910. The subject matter ranges from children in coffins, to farm animals, to family portraits of some of the grimmest-looking people imaginable; the photos are accompanied by snippets from newspapers. The whole package seems to confirm that the good old days were actually awful.

Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Review

"Protestants behaving strangely in the 1890's. . . . an outbreak of craziness--multiple murders, suicides, ghost sightings, epidemics, guntoting teenagers, schoolmarm hooked on cocaine and general mental illness (well, an insane asylum was nearby)--all in a little town called Black River Falls, populated mostly by German and Scandinavian immigrants."

Compelling both as history and as literature, it is a small masterpiece of the historians art.

Lesy's reading of rural decay is history with a wrench, unfolding a scenario worthy of Dreiser, Faulkner, or Joyce Carol Oates at their grimmest.

"This" is an impressive example of the poetry of history. . . . There can be no question that this original work makes us deeply feel one form that misery has taken; and in causing us to feel, as well as consider, "Wisconsin Death Trip" has enlarged on the uses of history.

Protestants behaving strangely in the 1890s. . . . an outbreak of crazinessmultiple murders, suicides, ghost sightings, epidemics, guntoting teenagers, schoolmarms hooked on cocaine and general mental illness (well, an insane asylum was nearby)all in a little town called Black River Falls, populated mostly by German and Scandinavian immigrants.

In Van Schaicks time, ordinary people did not have cameras, difficult contraptions that involved black powder and heavy glass plates; to record the passages of a lifebirths, marriages, store openings, funeralssso they turned to a professional. Lesy noticed Van Schaickss many pictures of dead infants and children, dressed in their christening gowns, now placed in tiny coffins. As he looked for the story behind these photos, he found a story of plagues: of murder, suicide, farm and business failures, madness, addiction, tramp armies, and the ruin of childhood and the desolation of families by epidemics of diptheria, typhoid, smallpox, and flu. Lesy made a montage, using items from the local paper, contemporaneous regional fiction and poetry, asylum records and the photographs left by Van Schaick, who in Lesys pages emerges as Arbuss unknown ancestor

[This] is an impressive example of the poetry of history. . . . There can be no question that this original work makes us deeply feel one form that misery has taken; and in causing us to feel, as well as consider, "Wisconsin Death Trip "has enlarged on the uses of history.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Steven Zakrzewski:

Why don't make it to be your habit? Right now, try to prepare your time to do the important act, like looking for your favorite publication and reading a e-book. Beside you can solve your problem; you can add your knowledge by the guide entitled Wisconsin Death Trip. Try to face the book Wisconsin Death Trip as your friend. It means that it can being your friend when you feel alone and beside that course make you smarter than before. Yeah, it is very fortunated for yourself. The book makes you a lot more confidence because you can know anything by the book. So , let us make new experience in addition to knowledge with this book.

Consuelo Collier:

Book is to be different for each grade. Book for children right up until adult are different content. As you may know that book is very important for all of us. The book Wisconsin Death Trip seemed to be making you to know about other expertise and of course you can take more information. It doesn't matter what advantages for you. The guide Wisconsin Death Trip is not only giving you much more new information but also to become your friend when you sense bored. You can spend your own personal spend time to read your book. Try to make relationship with all the book Wisconsin Death Trip. You never truly feel lose out for everything should you read some books.

Alan Trevino:

Are you kind of active person, only have 10 or maybe 15 minute in your time to upgrading your mind talent or thinking skill possibly analytical thinking? Then you are receiving problem with the book as compared to can satisfy your short period of time to read it because all of this time you only find e-book that need more

time to be go through. Wisconsin Death Trip can be your answer mainly because it can be read by you actually who have those short free time problems.

Ann Clark:

Beside this kind of Wisconsin Death Trip in your phone, it may give you a way to get closer to the new knowledge or information. The information and the knowledge you can got here is fresh through the oven so don't always be worry if you feel like an older people live in narrow village. It is good thing to have Wisconsin Death Trip because this book offers to you readable information. Do you oftentimes have book but you rarely get what it's exactly about. Oh come on, that will not end up to happen if you have this in your hand. The Enjoyable set up here cannot be questionable, like treasuring beautiful island. Techniques you still want to miss that? Find this book along with read it from currently!

**Download and Read Online Wisconsin Death Trip By Michael Lesy
#PJTLDY68UNI**

Read Wisconsin Death Trip By Michael Lesy for online ebook

Wisconsin Death Trip By Michael Lesy Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Wisconsin Death Trip By Michael Lesy books to read online.

Online Wisconsin Death Trip By Michael Lesy ebook PDF download

Wisconsin Death Trip By Michael Lesy Doc

Wisconsin Death Trip By Michael Lesy Mobipocket

Wisconsin Death Trip By Michael Lesy EPub