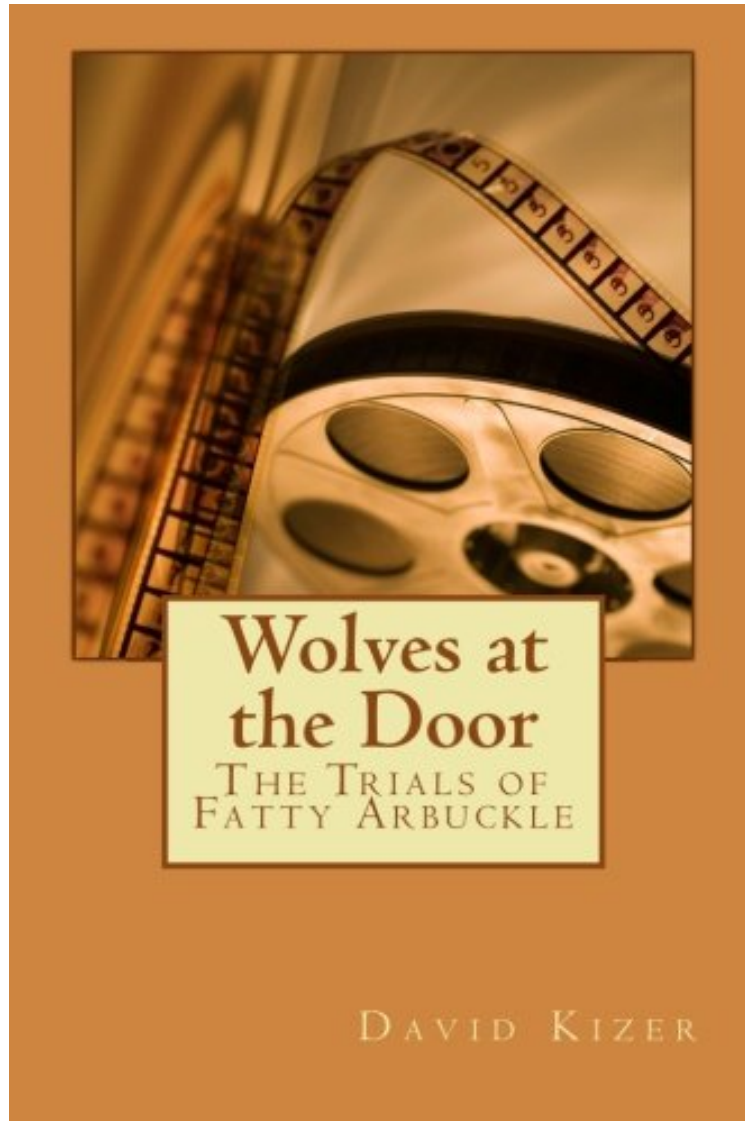


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Wolves at the Door: The Trials of Fatty Arbuckle

David Allen Kizer

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#3663902 in Books MR David Allen Kizer 2010-12-06 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.00 x 1.21 x 6.00l, 1.56 #File Name: 1460953614536 pages Wolves at the Door | File size: 43.Mb

David Allen Kizer : Wolves at the Door: The Trials of Fatty Arbuckle before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Wolves at the Door: The Trials of Fatty Arbuckle:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Could have been a lot better By Richard DiStefano This is a self-published book about the murder charges leveled against silent film star Fatty Arbuckle in 1921, and I'd like to cut the author, David Kizer, some slack. I admire that he took on such an ambitious project and saw it through. Some have said here that the book is poorly written (and it is) but I think the bigger fault is that it's poorly edited. Some of the

editing problems may seem trivial, although reading this book makes it apparent that commas in the wrong place, as well as the failure to place commas where required, can really detract from the reading experience. But there are also too many sarcastic comments, awkwardly worded sentences, strange asides, as well as the occasional bizarre randomly inserted paragraph giving us updates on what Babe Ruth was doing on certain days. (One of the bigger "WTF" moments came when Kizer diverted from his storyline for a single paragraph to tell us that, back in New York, the Yankees beat the Indians 9 to 0 and Babe Ruth hit a single and made a nice running catch in the outfield. Huh?) There are two things that this book really desperately needs: A comprehensive review by an experienced and competent editor, and some kind of explanation of the author's sources. I realize that it may be difficult at this point to properly add numbered footnotes throughout the text, but two or three pages explaining the author's research process and a description of the source materials would add a great deal to the book's credibility. Meanwhile, as I type this, Babe Ruth is lying peacefully in his grave at the Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Hawthorne, New York, beneath a tombstone with his name on it. Now that I've gotten those complaints out of the way, I do want to say that the author does seem to have some kind of legal background (There's no "about the author" so we can't be sure.) and has spent a lot of time analyzing the case, the evidence, and the strategies of the attorneys involved in the Arbuckle trials. At its best, the book can be a page-turner at times and for all its faults, it may be the best book available about what happened to Fatty Arbuckle. We have the makings here of a pretty good book, and I do hope that the author revisits it and gets it the thorough editing that it needs.

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Review of *Wolves at the Door* By Tom M. *Wolves at the Door* is a compelling read. Mr. Kizer brings to life the silent screen great Fatty Arbuckle and the ensuing scandal revolving around the death of actress Virginia Rappe in San Francisco in 1921. I have read other books recounting the machinations of the sordid details that poured out during the trial of this innocent man, but *Wolves at the Door* treads where none of the other books on this subject dare to go. Mr. Kizer's keen sense for the understatement and tremendous ability to set the mood of the 1920s (It's chock full of wonderful facts, trivia and provides the reader with the social, political and economic goings on during that time.) provides a full canvas for any reader to get a feel for what the roaring 20s were and would become. It's an ambitious book starting with two chapters giving detail of the goings on prior to and leading up to that eventful "party" at the St. Francis Hotel in San Francisco. The balance of the book rockets into what takes place after the arrest Fatty Arbuckle and his subsequent trial for the murder of Virginia Rappe. This where Mr. Kizer's gift of the understatement is intelligently displayed; the the competition between the lawyers is at times humorous and at times disturbingly upsetting. Mr. Kizer is a natural storyteller. His explanation of the legal tactics, procedures and legal challenges that existed at the trial are a delight to read for those in the legal profession or not. I found the book to be a quick read and would recommended *Wolves at the Door* to everyone.

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A Page-Turner By Donna R. One wouldn't normally think that an historical biography would be a page-turner. Certainly, one already knows how the end turns out. But, I couldn't put down *Wolves at the Door: The Trial of Fatty Arbuckle*. A rainy weekend gave me a great opportunity to relax and enjoy this very entertaining book, page after page. Before I started the book, I was one of those many people who had written off "Fatty" Arbuckle as the fat man who raped and murdered an innocent woman in a San Francisco hotel. How wrong I was! Now, because of the meticulously detailed account of events that the author, David Kizer, has pieced together, it will be difficult to see Roscoe Arbuckle as anything but an innocent man who became a victim of circumstances dictated by the times and by people more interested in their own moment of glory than in justice. *Wolves* contains a nice weaving of current world events that gives the reader a sense of the times in which Roscoe Arbuckle was tried, and tried again and again. I couldn't wait to see how things turned out for him. A great and fun read!

Although there are various misperceptions of the Roscoe 'Fatty' Arbuckle scandal, what did happen led to one of the most incredible public spectacles of the 20th Century. Roscoe was a gentle soul caught in the middle of a political and media hurricane led by Matthew Brady, the district attorney who would stop at nothing to convict him with or without real evidence. The attorneys on both sides introduced techniques now routinely employed every day in the profession. The witnesses were a mixture of Agatha Christie characters and the courtroom confrontations were at times, hostile and humourous. In the background, beating the drums of morality for a prohibition era public, was Randolph Hearst, who never printed a paper he didn't intend to sell. Interwoven with the story are the remarkable movements and achievements occurring simultaneously in the world of exploration, sports and religion as America raced into the 'Roaring Twenties.' The verdict is unforgettable and the aftermath for everyone involved changed their lives - in ways none of them could have ever imagined.