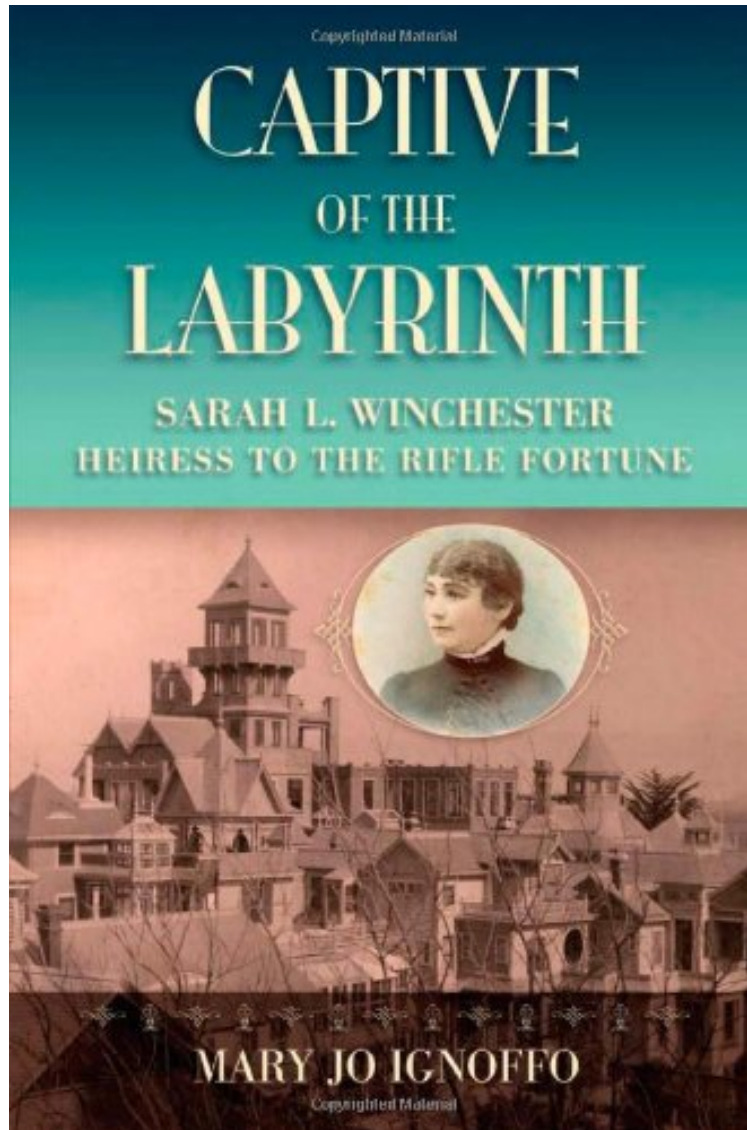


[Free download] Captive of the Labyrinth: Sarah L. Winchester, Heiress to the Rifle Fortune

Captive of the Labyrinth: Sarah L. Winchester, Heiress to the Rifle Fortune

Mary Jo Ignoffo

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Mary Jo Ignoffo : Captive of the Labyrinth: Sarah L. Winchester, Heiress to the Rifle Fortune before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Captive of the Labyrinth: Sarah L. Winchester, Heiress to the Rifle Fortune:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Well written, historical piece! By G. Olson This book was long overdue. Sarah Winchester was a very interesting woman and not the superstitious crazy lady you will hear about at

the "Winchester Mystery House." Mary Jo Ignoffo did a great job researching Sarah Winchester's history including her husband, family, her husbands' family, and friends. This book was such an interesting read, it was well written, and I'm so glad someone took the time to write it. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. ... tour - this tells the story of quite an amazing but very private person - very good. By Isolde C Watts If you are reading this because you have been to "the Mystery House" - do not believe what you are told on the tour - this tells the story of quite an amazing but very private person - very good. But there are still questions! On the other hand if you have not been to the house and have read the book - you will be frustrated by the 'mistruths' that you are being told - 'nough said! 9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. The Best One Yet. By San Jose expat This is the latest in Ignoffo's collection of San Francisco Bay Area/Northern California local history, and without question is her best yet. Rather than acquiesce to the long-held stories and legends surrounding Sarah Winchester and the Winchester Mystery House, she dives deeper to get a sense of the woman behind the stories. Incredibly well-researched, Ignoffo goes beyond the simple and obvious to reach a better understanding of a woman who was sadly living in the wrong century. The genealogy involved (another of the author's passions) requires close attention and possibly a cheat sheet, but the writing is genuinely involved and empathetic. Great read.

Since her death in 1922, Sarah Winchester has been perceived as a mysterious, haunted figure. After inheriting a vast fortune upon the death of her husband in 1881, Sarah purchased a simple farmhouse in San Jos, California. She began building additions to the house and continued construction on it for the next twenty years. A hostile press cast Sarah as the conscience of the Winchester Repeating Arms Company a widow shouldering responsibility for the many deaths caused by the rifle that brought her riches. She was accused of being a ghost-obsessed spiritualist, and to this day it is largely believed that the extensive construction she executed on her San Jos house was done to appease the ghouls around her.

From Publishers Weekly In this scattered but well-meaning biography of the heiress to the massive Winchester arms fortune, Ignoffo's attempts to undercut rumors of eccentric behavior become bogged down in historical minutiae. Born in 1839 in New Haven, Conn., Sarah Lockwood Pardee entered the Winchester dynasty in 1862 when she wed William Wirt Winchester, the son of the founder of the legendary Winchester Repeating Arms Company. The Winchester rifle became the preferred gun of the expanding American frontier, and Sarah moved westward herself four years after William's death in 1881, using her substantial wealth to settle in a then undeveloped California. Rumors of her spiritualist leanings and reclusive tendencies began after Sarah purchased a large ranch in the Santa Clara Valley, christening it Llanada Villa, which became the titular labyrinth. When completed, it was over three stories high, with rooms and hallways tacked on at random. Sarah purchased several more properties surrounding Llanada and near San Francisco, all while remaining aloof from neighbors, primarily due to debilitating rheumatoid arthritis. While Sarah Winchester's intriguing life has been largely overlooked by historians, Ignoffo does her subject few favors with a lack of organization and frequent tangents. (Dec.) (c) Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved. Captive of the Labyrinth is an excellent read. Ignoffo finally sets the record straight on one of the most fascinating and misunderstood women in California history. A real page-turner! Gary F. Kurutz, California State Library Director of Special Collections Like the gleaming metal on a rifles trigger, Ignoffos argument shines as she demystifies one of the most prominent aspects of the Winchester mythology-the one revolving around the Winchester repeater, guilt, and the macabre. Michelle Stonis, Southern California Quarterly