

Midnight in Peking : How the Murder of a Young Englishwoman Haunted the Last of Days of Old China by Paul French 2012 Penguin

When a British schoolgirl's mutilated body is discovered at the foot of a haunted fifteenth century wall, alarm and fear ignite the city of Peking already on edge by the encroaching Japanese. The victim's father, Edward Werner, an eccentric scholar and long time inhabitant, grows impatient with the failure of local British and Chinese investigators to find the perpetrators of his daughter's gruesome murder. Determined to solve the mystery on his own, Werner instigates a private investigation only to encounter a subterfuge of political maneuvering by Chinese authorities and cover-ups among the ruling British elite. Writer and historian Paul French recreates the final days of British rule in 1937 Peking as he shares this true and riveting account of what one father discovers as he unravels the mystery of his daughter's death.

Kathy Swearingen