



THE BARREL MURDER - a Detective Joe Petrosino case (based on true events)

Michael Zarocostas

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

THE BARREL MURDER - a Detective Joe Petrosino case (based on true events)

Michael Zarocostas

THE BARREL MURDER - a Detective Joe Petrosino case (based on true events) Michael Zarocostas
Based on true events, The Barrel Murder traces the NYPD's investigation of the April 14, 1903 barrel murder, in which a man was found stabbed to death, dismembered, and placed on display in a barrel in Little Italy. Two NYPD outcasts hunt for the killer: Detective Joe Petrosino (a stocky "Dago" nicknamed Bulldog Joe) and Inspector Max Schmittberger (a giant "Yid" nicknamed The Broom).

Commissioner Teddy Roosevelt appointed Petrosino the first Italian-American detective in the NYPD and reinstated Schmittberger after The Broom confessed to grafting and blew the whistle on his fellow cops. By 1903, however, Roosevelt is in the White House, and Tammany Hall casts a long Irish shadow over the NYPD again. To complicate matters, investigative reporter Lincoln Steffens seeks Petrosino's help in finding out if there is a crooked lawman behind a gambling syndicate in the City.

As they work the barrel murder, Petrosino and Schmittberger encounter a lunatic doctor, the Secret Service, vicious Sicilian mafiosi known as the Morello Gang, and a mysterious code that may unlock the secrets of the killing and Steffens' alleged syndicate.

Note to the reader: This novel is based on an actual murder that occurred in New York City in 1903 and the criminal investigation that followed. Several of the main characters are real persons or inspired by real persons. Joe Petrosino, the central character, was the first Italian-American detective in the NYPD's Central Bureau appointed in 1895 by Teddy Roosevelt (then President of the Board of New York City Police Commissioners). Petrosino and a few other brave men protected the immigrant masses and fought against the most feared criminals in the city's history. Their story begins here.

THE BARREL MURDER - a Detective Joe Petrosino case (based on true events) Details

Date : Published November 9th 2013 by Gotham West (first published November 7th 2013)

ISBN :

Author : Michael Zarocostas

Format : Kindle Edition 338 pages

Genre : Mystery, Business, Amazon, Fiction

 [Download THE BARREL MURDER - a Detective Joe Petrosino case \(bas ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online THE BARREL MURDER - a Detective Joe Petrosino case \(b ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online THE BARREL MURDER - a Detective Joe Petrosino case (based on true events) Michael Zarocostas

From Reader Review THE BARREL MURDER - a Detective Joe Petrosino case (based on true events) for online ebook

John says

Enjoyable book.

Robyn McIntyre says

This book involved a lot of research because it is based on real events and real New York City detectives at the turn of the century.

A swarthy man who could be Italian or Middle Eastern is found murdered, his body bent double and stuffed into a wooden barrel on a New York street. These are the days when the NYC police force is dominated by Irish immigrants and there is considerable and open prejudice in the ranks against Italians and Jews, among others. Detective Joe Petrosino has been lucky; he was smiled upon by Teddy Roosevelt, who appointed him the first Italian American detective in the Central Bureau. Teddy was intent on removing graft and stamping out Tammany Hall and Joe is an honest cop. But Teddy has moved on to Washington, and Joe Petrosino can see the Tammany ways are back. He and other cops who stood for Reform are on the outs. This is not a good time to be fighting with the Irish cops over the murder of an unknown man in a barrel. But Joe just can't help himself. And from there, things can only get worse.

Was it a crime of passion by a mentally disturbed doctor or was it really a message from a gang of drug dealers and counterfeiters who moved over from Sicily? And are they working on their own or with others? And might those others be people Joe knows and works for? Adding to his problems are a couple of muckraking journalists and an uncertainty about whether his big Jewish partner, Inspector Max Schmittberger, is really reformed from taking graft.

Michael Zarocostas does a good job of telling the facts and giving the reader just enough flavor of the times to stay engaged without getting bogged down. He is also faithful to the thinking of the times in that he does not pull any punches when it comes to the kind of talk people in Joe's position may have both heard and engaged in, including racial slurs that are made more shocking by the offhand way in which they are uttered. Zarocostas's prose itself is a little on the terse side. The connections between sentences and paragraphs is not always a smooth one, which makes the read a little bumpy.

The book is sprinkled with pictures of many of the main participants as well as photos of newspaper articles printed about them and the case as it unfolded which add to the sense of witnessing the events.

The only true disappointment in this book lies in the ending. It's obviously the first book in a series, but it should have been able to stand alone. By the last chapter, Schmittberger has taken a leave and Joe has promised to talk to his lady friend's father about marriage. But these relationships are not addressed. Further, Joe's decision to take a risky action related to his career is only asserted, not depicted. We don't know whether it succeeded, partially succeeded, or failed. No doubt readers will discover the answer in the second book, but it would have been nice to have some things made a little clearer.

Ralph says

Excellent true real crime story! The author did a great job putting the reader in the early 1900s.

Ken Bour says

I thought this was a pretty interesting story based upon events that occurred in the early 1900's. I would recommend it as an engaging crime novel; however, the pacing is a bit slow. This one weakness is made palatable by the author's vivid and rich descriptions.

Anna says

Based on a true story about one of the first Italian NYC detectives.

Being Italian I found it very interesting to see how Italians were viewed in the early 1900's.

Moved a little slow at times but I it kept my interest.

victor harris says

Enjoyable murder mystery read based on an actual homicide in New York City in 1903. Facile use of dialogue and scene setting.

Cory says

Truth is stranger than fiction.

Abi Barnes says

Detective is usually my thing and loved the look of this book. It's based around a case some may know about and I found it very interesting to hear a story of around that time. It's based around the terrible murder in neywork, 1903. I became emotionally attached to the characters due to their story's and the way the book was written, it was wrote very well. I became gripped to the story and couldn't put it down, it always kept me guessing. I highly recommend this book if you love detective genres or are just looking for a great read.

Sandra Mudd says

The Barrel Murder

The Barrel Murder

Ok story but it was hard to stay involved. I kept putting it down then going back to it because of sheer determination to finish it. At the end it felt unfinished.

Suspense Magazine says

“The Barrel Murder” is a novel based on true events. It once again proves that the greatest mysteries and thrillers are real. A murder victim is found in a barrel on the lower east side of New York. The year is 1903. “The Barrel Murder” is an incredible story about the beginning of the Mafia in New York, Tammany Hall run police corruption, counterfeiting and money laundering, and the incredible bravery of two police officers. Joseph Petrisino and Max Schmittberger were the lowest of the low in the New York Police Department: a token ‘Dago’ and ‘Jew’ in an Irish run city and state government. These two will fight the city, the department, and each other, to fight corruption and try and solve the Barrel Murder.

Michael Zarocostas takes us along on the personal journey of these two men. We get to know their strengths, weaknesses, loves, and fears. We follow them through a murder investigation that hits roadblocks at every turn. They are disliked by their fellow officers and superiors, and in the case of Petrisino, by his fellow Italian immigrants. The fact that these two men stood for justice in a system where most succumbed to graft and corruption is testament to the people who made this country as great as it has become.

A riveting portrayal of city, state, and federal corruption at the turn of the century, “The Barrel Murder” is part Mario Puzo’s Godfather and Robert Towne’s Chinatown. Michael Zarocostas has written a police procedural with such suspense and fluidity, you will forget it is based on fact...the sign of a great work of literature.

I highly recommend “The Barrel Murder.”

Reviewed by J.M. LeDuc, author of “Cornerstone” published by Suspense Publishing, an imprint of Suspense Magazine

Jim says

The true story of a murder case in NYC taking place in 1903. A man is found murdered inside a barrel, and horribly his manhood has been cut off and shoved into his mouth. NYC's finest go to work on this grisly case. Protagonists Joe Petrosino and his partner Max Schmittberger begin to investigate. Both Petrosino and Shmittberger are seasoned detectives, and the NYC police brass want this case solved quickly. Nothing is as easy as it seems. Witnesses refuse to talk. A crazy doctor admits to the crime before killing himself. But as the case actually unfolds it must weave through crooked cops, the Mafia, and the cop bashing reporters of the press. "The Barrel Murder" by Michael Zarocostas does have a smooth and even pace to it's story line. First half of the novel reads quickly and easily. Getting to it's conclusion seems to drag after the half way point. Interesting this is from an actual crime which does add to it's ebb and flow. Overall "The Barrel Murder" was a pretty good read. I'd recommend this to anyone who's a fan of true crime mysteries. 4 stars out of 5 for sure. Pick this one up and enjoy Mr. Zarocstas journey through the dirty old streets of 1903 NYC You'll enjoy it too.
