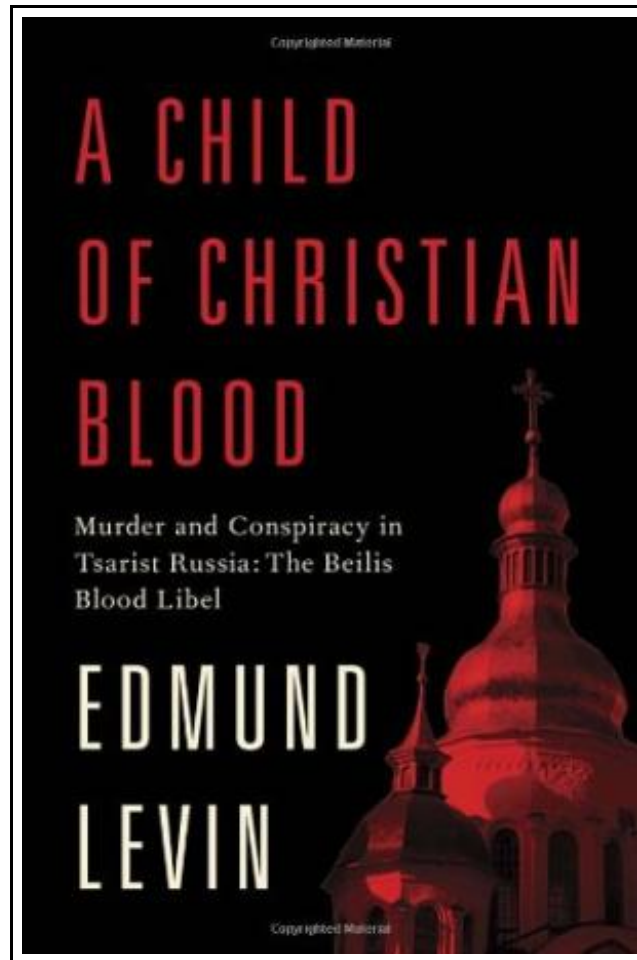


A Child of Christian Blood: Murder and Conspiracy in Tsarist Russia: The Beilis



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Reviews

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(Harold Spencer)

A CHILD OF CHRISTIAN BLOOD: MURDER AND CONSPIRACY IN TSARIST RUSSIA: THE BEILIS



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Schocken. 1 Cloth(s), 2014. hard. Book Condition: New. On March 20, 1911, in a cave near Kiev, the body of 13-year-old Andrei Yushchinsky was found with dozens of stab wounds. Russian police arrested Mendel Beilis, a brick factory clerk and father of five, and charged him with Andrei's murder in a blood libel, a Jewish ritual killing of a Christian child. Despite the fact that there was no evidence linking him to the crime, that he had a solid alibi, and that his main accuser was a career criminal who was herself under suspicion for the murder, as Edmund Levin explains in his gripping account, Beilis was imprisoned for more than two years before being brought to trial. As a handful of officials and journalists diligently searched for the real killer, anti-Semite groups whipped Russian citizens into a frenzy, assuring them that this was only the latest example of centuries of Jewish ritual murder. Tsar Nicholas II's prosecution called an array of "expert witnesses" pathologists, a theologian, a psychological profiler whose laughably incompetent testimony horrified educated Russians, and brought to Beilis's side an array of international supporters including Thomas Mann, H.G. Wells, Anatole France, Arthur Conan Doyle, Jane Addams, and the archbishop of Canterbury. Levin shows how the schism was resolved by a split decision the jury decided that the murder was indeed a ritual killing, but Beilis himself was innocent and notes that even today, Andrei's grave is a pilgrimage site for those who refuse to believe the blood libel is a myth. "Thorough, lucid, and on all counts admirable . researched almost entirely from primary sources by Levin. This may well be the definitive book on its subject, and it is to be hoped that it finds a wide readership." "Washington Post" In 1911 in Kiev, Russia, Jewish factory worker Mendel Beilis was arrested for...



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