

# The Ballroom Murder

by LEIGH STRAW

## KEYNOTE

*The Ballroom Murder* is a true crime story that gripped Perth nearly 100 years ago, and demonstrates the power of the press and privilege in an extraordinary judicial outcome.

## ABOUT THE BOOK

In August 1925, Audrey Jacob shot dead her former fiancé, Cyril Gidley, in full view of hundreds of guests at a charity ball in Perth's Government House. When she was arrested, she still held the gun in her hand. It was an open and shut case of wilful murder – that is until Jacob assigned prosecutor Arthur Haynes to her defence. His ability to play the press and the jury for sympathy would lead to a sensational result. Not only did Jacob escape the gallows, she was found not guilty of Gidley's murder. Straw, the author of a number of books about notable Australian female criminals, tells a story that is rich with first-hand newspaper accounts from the day.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Leigh Straw is an academic, historian and writer. She is the author of true crime biographies of Australian crime figures Kate Leigh and Dulcie Markham, and Australia's first female detective, Lillian Armfield. Leigh was the joint winner of the 2018 Margaret Medcalf Award for her book *After the War: The Mental and Physical Scars of World War I*. Leigh is Deputy Head of the National School of Arts and Sciences and Senior Lecturer in History at the University of Notre Dame Australia.

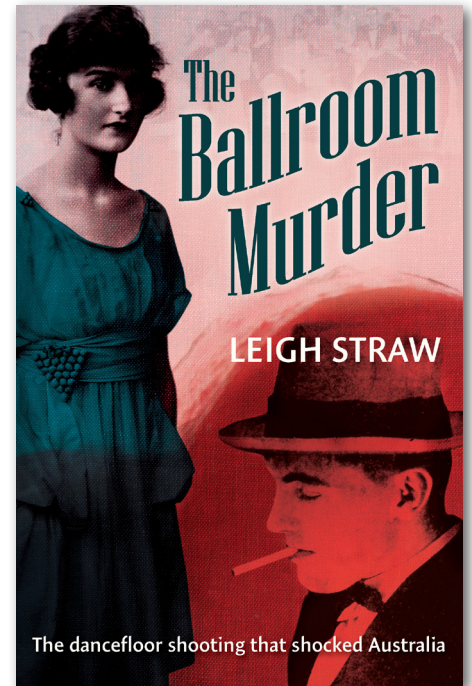


## KEY POINTS

- This lively account looks at the unique defence that Audrey Jacob's lawyer, Arthur Haynes, mounted that resulted in a sensational criminal case, with a publicity campaign in the media that ensured a sympathetic outcome for his client.
- Leigh's previous novel, *The Petticoat Parade*, was a social history on Josie de Bray, a brothel madam who owned most of Roe Street, Perth from WWI up to the 1940s.

## PRAISE FOR THE BOOK

'... this is a fascinating deep dive into the greatest Aussie murder mystery you've never heard about. Michael Adams, *Forgotten Australia* podcast



Pub. Date	2 August 2022
ISBN	9781760990572
eISBN	9781760990589
RRP	\$32.99 AU \$37.00 NZ \$19.95 US
Genre	Non-Fiction
Format	PB, C
Extent	184 pp



**CONTACT: Claire Miller**  
**MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS**  
**MANAGER**

**M** +61 (0)419 837 841  
**T** +61 (0)8 9430 6331  
**E** [cmiller@fremantlepress.com.au](mailto:cmiller@fremantlepress.com.au)  
**f** Find us on Facebook  
**t** @FremantlePress



**FREMANTLE PRESS**  
[fremantlepress.com.au](http://fremantlepress.com.au)