

Miss Kopp's Midnight Confessions

AMY STEWART



The feisty, fiery Kopp sisters are back in another unforgettable romp by international bestseller Amy Stewart.

Deputy sheriff Constance Kopp is outraged to see young women brought into the Hackensack jail over dubious charges of waywardness, incorrigibility, and moral depravity. The strong-willed, patriotic Edna Heustis, who left home to work in a munitions factory, certainly doesn't belong behind bars. And sixteen-year-old runaway Minnie Davis, with few prospects and fewer friends, shouldn't be publicly shamed and packed off to a state-run reformatory. But such were the laws — and morals — of 1916.

Constance uses her authority as deputy sheriff, and occasionally exceeds it, to investigate and defend these women when no one else will. But it's her sister Fleurette who puts Constance's beliefs to the test and forces her to reckon with her own ideas of how a young woman should and shouldn't behave.

Against the backdrop of World War I, and drawn once again from the true story of the Kopp sisters, *Miss Kopp's Midnight Confessions* is a spirited, page-turning story that will delight fans of historical fiction and lighthearted detective fiction alike.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. How do the Kopp sisters' roles evolve throughout the series, and how are the roles becoming more defined?
2. This third book is written in the third person instead of from Constance's point of view. Why do you think the author chose to do this? What does it allow that Constance's point of view did not?
3. In the newspaper interview, Constance explains the six requisites she believes are necessary for a detective, and says, "At midnight a woman will tell almost anything if she finds one who is sympathetic to tell it to." This is also included in the book's epigraph. In what ways are "help" and "sympathy" important themes in Constance's life?

BOOK DETAILS

Format: Paperback
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AUTHOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Amy Stewart is the award winning author of seven books, including the bestsellers *The Drunken Botanist* and *Wicked Plants*. She and her husband live in Eureka, California, where they own a bookstore called Eureka Books.

REVIEWS

'The cases here are based on the experiences of real women, a technique that Stewart has employed in previous volumes. Collectively, the story lines intersect to create an intriguing window into women's rights and the social mores that women challenged on the eve of World War I. VERDICT: A lovely addition for series fans and aficionados of historical fiction.' **LIBRARY**

JOURNAL

'Constance's ability to hold her own in male-dominated investigations and courtrooms, as well as her determination to present the facts, makes her a welcome 'vision of an entirely different kind of woman', hopefully with more tales to come. Lively and admirable female characters emboldened by their circumstances, impeccably realized and given new life by Stewart.' **KIRKUS**

'... Amy Stewart does an impressive job of bringing her historical characters back to life and shaping her factual material into a reasonably neat fictional plot with some clear messages about women's lives.' **SYDNEY MORNING HERALD**

4. How do the sisters' roles evolve throughout the series, and how are the roles becoming more defined?
5. What do you think of the rapport between Sheriff Heath and Constance? How has their relationship changed since the first book?
6. In the book, parents ask the police to arrest daughters for lack of morals and for waywardness—things as simple as staying out late, dating, or taking jobs. Before Constance takes on more responsibility, there is little or no defense available for these women. Were you surprised to learn about this part of history?
7. Even though Constance supports and defends women like Edna who are in jail for leaving home, Constance expresses concern when Fleurette goes off on her own adventure. Constance even follows her and asks others to check on her too. How is Constance similar to the parents who turn in their daughters? How is she different?
8. Norma is protective of her family. She initiates spying on Fleurette, handles all of Constance's fan mail, and takes care of the farmhouse. Does she enjoy her role? Do you think that role might change?
9. Even though Constance and May have very different personalities and jobs, they are both in strong positions for women at the time. How does being a woman affect their lives and their positions? Do they have to act differently than men in the same positions? If so, in what ways?
10. Why does Fleurette lie about her experience on the show? What is she feeling at the end about her homecoming?



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