



The Widow of Walcha

By Emma Partridge

First published in 2022

Genre and Subject

True Crime

Australian Non Fiction

Criminal Trials

Synopsis

All farmer Mathew Dunbar ever wanted was to find love and have a family of his own. That's why, just months after meeting Natasha Darcy, the much-loved grazier didn't hesitate to sign over his multi-million-dollar estate to her. When Mathew died in an apparent suicide soon afterwards, in a stranger-than-fiction twist, Natasha's estranged husband -- who she was once charged with trying to kill -- was the first paramedic on the scene after the murder. Journalist and author Emma Partridge travelled to the cool and misty town of Walcha in the Northern Tablelands of NSW in the months after Mathew Dunbar's death, drawn by the town's collective worry that Natasha was going to get away with murder. Partridge spent months researching the case, interviewing Mathew's friends, family and Natasha herself in an attempt to uncover her sickening web of lies and crimes. *The Widow of Walcha* is about one of the most extraordinary criminal trials in Australia's history and reveals Natasha's sickening crimes against those she claimed to love, fuelled by her obsession with money.

Author Biography

Emma Partridge, has been covering crime for various media for many years and is now the Senior Crime Editor at Nine News.

If you liked this book, you may also like...

- *The schoolgirl, her teacher and his wife* by Rebecca Hazel
- *Missing, Presumed Dead: The double murder case that shocked Australia* by Mark Tedeschi
- *Last woman hanged* by Caroline Overington

Author biography from—<https://www.simonandschuster.com.au/books/The-Widow-of-Walcha/Emma-Partridge/9781760859428>

Discussion Starters

1. How would you describe the book in one sentence? What is the main point or purpose of the book?
2. What are some of the questions or criticisms you have about the book? How would you challenge or debate the author's claims or arguments?
3. How did the book change your opinion or perspective on the topic? Did it confirm or contradict any of your assumptions or expectations?
4. What was the most memorable or impactful story, anecdote, or example in the book? Why did it stand out to you?
5. What was the most surprising or shocking thing you learned from the book? How did it make you feel?
6. How did the author engage and persuade you as a reader in the book?
7. How did the author's choice of how to frame and organize the book impact its effectiveness for you?
8. How did the author address any counter arguments or criticisms in the book? Did they acknowledge any limitations, gaps, or biases in their research or writing? Did you find their arguments convincing?
9. What are some of the ethical, moral, or social implications of the book? How does it challenge or support your values or beliefs?
10. Did the book inspire you to take action, change your behavior, or think differently about something?
11. What are some of the limitations or biases of the book? How does it reflect the author's background, perspective, or agenda?