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The Devil in the White City is a fact crime drama by journalist and renowned non-fiction author Erik Larson. The book describes the events of the 1893 Chicago World's Fair, where the serial murders of 27 to 200 women were carried out by one Henry Howard Holmes over the course of the fair. Larson employs a novelistic style in his writing, but insists that "anything between quotation marks comes from a letter, memoir, or other written document."

The book juxtaposes its two main characters, the aforementioned H.H. Holmes, and Daniel Hudson Burnham, as embodying elements of "the great dynamic that characterized the rush of America toward the twentieth century." As the book is set in 1893, it is to be expected that the cultural, ethical and moral values of the time are different from the values we espouse in the present day. This is a period when national pride and competition between nations are commonplace in every field, from architecture to industry to the arts.

The author, at the end of his introduction to the book, emphasizes the book as being about "the evanescence of life, and why some men choose to fill their brief allotment of time engaging the impossible, others in the manufacture of sorrow," referencing Burnham and Holmes respectively. Larson presents it as "a story of the ineluctable conflict between good and evil, daylight and darkness, the White City and the Black."

The rights to a film adaptation for this book were purchased by actor and producer Leonardo DiCaprio in 2010. It is to be made into a motion picture at an undisclosed time in the future, produced by DiCaprio's own production company Appian Way, as well as Warner Brothers, with the legendary Martin Scorsese directing.

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