



## At Day's Close: Night in Times Past

*A. Roger Ekirch*

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"Remarkable....Ekirch has emptied night's pockets, and laid the contents out before us."—Arthur Krystal, *The New Yorker*

Bringing light to the shadows of history through a "rich weave of citation and archival evidence" (*Publishers Weekly*), scholar A. Roger Ekirch illuminates the aspects of life most often overlooked by other historians—those that unfold at night. In this "triumph of social history" (*Mail on Sunday*), Ekirch's "enthraling anthropology" (*Harper's*) exposes the nightlife that spawned a distinct culture and a refuge from daily life.

Fear of crime, of fire, and of the supernatural; the importance of moonlight; the increased incidence of sickness and death at night; evening gatherings to spin wool and stories; masqued balls; inns, taverns, and brothels; the strategies of thieves, assassins, and conspirators; the protective uses of incantations, meditations, and prayers; the nature of our predecessors' sleep and dreams—Ekirch reveals all these and more in his "monumental study" (*The Nation*) of sociocultural history, "maintaining throughout an infectious sense of wonder" (*Booklist*).

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