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## Island of Vice: Theodore Roosevelt's Doomed Quest to Clean Up Sin-Loving New Yor

By Zacks, Richard.

Doubleday. 1 Cloth(s), 2012. hard. Book Condition: New. The author of *The Pirate Hunter*, *An Underground Education*, and *History Laid Bare* here paints a vivid portrait of the lewd underbelly of 1890s New York, and of Theodore Roosevelt as the puritanical, cocksure police commissioner resolved to clean it up. Richard Zacks wryly chronicles how young Roosevelt went head to head with Tammany Hall, took midnight rambles with muckraker Jacob Riis, and tried to convince two million New Yorkers to enjoy wholesome family fun. And inevitably, when Roosevelt's crackdown succeeded too well, even his supporters turned on him, TR discovered that New York loves its sin more than its salvation. "Here is young Teddy Roosevelt as the reformist New York City Police Commissioner confronted in 1895 with a cabal of unaccountably wealthy police officials, whole neighborhoods of brothels, and the paws of the Tammany Tiger in everything. A delicious municipal history, impeccably researched, excitingly told." *E.L. Doctorow* "One of the achievements of *Island of Vice* is that Zacks penetrates beneath the bluster into the psychology of this strange, restless man." *NPR* 433.

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