

Never Seen the Moon: The Trials of Edith Maxwell by Sharon Hatfield

Welcome to Radio Bristol Book Club where readers from BCM and the Bristol Public Library come together each month to celebrate and explore books inspired by our region's rich Appalachian cultural and musical heritage! We invite you to read along and then listen to Radio Bristol on the fourth Thursday of each month at 12:00 noon when we dig deep into the themes and questions raised by the books, learn more about the authors, and celebrate the joys of being a bookworm!

Never Seen the Moon: The Trials of Edith Maxwell carefully yet lucidly recreates a young woman's wild ride through the American legal system. In 1935, free-spirited young teacher Edith Maxwell and her mother were indicted for murdering Edith's conservative and domineering father, Trigg, late one July night in their Wise County, Virginia, home. Edith claimed her father had tried to whip her for staying out late. She said that she had defended herself by striking back with a high-heeled shoe, thus earning herself the sobriquet "slipper slayer."

Sharon Hatfield's brilliant telling of this true-crime story transforms a dusty piece of history into a vibrant thriller. National news magazines and even detective magazines picked up Edith Maxwell story, Warner Brothers created a screen version, and Eleanor Roosevelt helped secure her early release from prison. Throughout the narrative, she discusses yellow journalism, the inequities of the jury system, class and gender tensions in a developing region, and a woman's right to defend herself from family violence.



Sharon Hatfield grew up loving Nancy Drew mysteries and listening to her grandmother read Grimm's Fairy Tales aloud. Years later, she's still interested in mysteries of various kinds, which has influenced her choice of nonfiction book topics. A native of Ewing, Virginia, she began writing poems and stories at an early age.



Please make plans to join us on Thursday, February 23rd at 12:00pm for our discussion of *Never Seen the Moon: The Trials of Edith Maxwell*. You can find us on the dial at 100.1 FM, streaming live on Radio Bristol, or via the Radio Bristol app. The book is available at the Bristol Public Library, so be sure to pick up a copy and read it ahead of time. The librarians will be happy to help you find it! We look forward to exploring this book on-air, and if you have thoughts or questions about the book that you would like to share with our readers, you can email info@birthplaceofcountrymusic.org (Subject line: Radio Bristol Book Club) – your book insights might appear on air with us!

Looking ahead: Our book pick for March is *To Live Here You Have to Fight: How Women Led Appalachian Movements for Social Justice* by Jessica Wilkerson; we'll be discussing it on Thursday, March 23rd. Check out a full list of the books we have read in 2023 [here](#), where you can also listen to archived shows.

Tonia Kestner is the Executive Director of the Bristol Public Library and an avid reader.