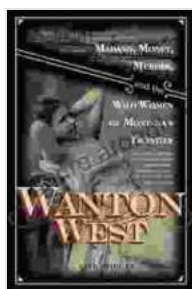


Madams, Money, Murder, and the Wild Women of Montana Frontier

In the untamed and unforgiving landscape of Montana's frontier, a captivating tale unfolds—a tale of madams, money, murder, and the wild women who dared to defy the odds. Amidst the bustling towns and desolate mining camps, these women emerged as formidable forces, shaping the very fabric of the Wild West.

Unveiling the Forgotten Stories of Remarkable Women

Step into the dimly lit saloons and dance halls where madams reigned supreme. These women, often labeled as outcasts or temptresses, were more than mere courtesans. They were shrewd businesswomen, savvy investors, and influential figures within their communities. Like Kate Rockwell, the infamous "Madame Cora," they navigated the treacherous waters of the male-dominated frontier with wit, intelligence, and an unwavering spirit.



Wanton West: Madams, Money, Murder, and the Wild Women of Montana's Frontier by Lael Morgan

★★★★☆ 4.2 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 1699 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 329 pages
Lending : Enabled



Beyond the saloons, women also found their place in the rough-and-tumble world of gambling and bootlegging. From Belle Starr, the notorious outlaw and poker shark, to Virginia City's "Poker Alice" Tubbs, these women proved they could play any hand life dealt them. They gambled their fortunes, defied societal norms, and forged their own paths, proving that the frontier was not just a man's world.

In this captivating narrative, readers will encounter the infamous and the forgotten, including:

- **Mary "Chicago May" Field:** A madam turned philanthropist who established orphanages and fought for women's rights
- **Lizzie Borden:** Yes, the same Lizzie who supposedly "took an axe" in Massachusetts. She reinvented herself in Montana, becoming a successful saloon owner and gambler
- **The "Diamond Queens":** Two sisters who scandalized society with their lavish lifestyle and scandalous love affairs

Murder Most Foul: The Dark Side of the Frontier

However, the allure of wealth and adventure came with a deadly underbelly. The Montana frontier was a breeding ground for violence, and women were often the victims. From the unsolved murder of Butte's "Blonde Venus" Margaret Walsh to the grizzly end of "Wild Bill" Hickok, the book delves into the dark and twisted side of the frontier.

Female Detectives and Law Enforcement Officers: Breaking Barriers

In the face of adversity, some women dared to take on roles typically reserved for men. Josephine Marcus Earp, the wife of famed lawman Wyatt Earp, became a renowned detective. In Helena, Mamie Thurman served as the city's first female police matron. These pioneering women challenged traditional gender roles and paved the way for future generations.

Beyond the Brothels and Saloons: Women in Business and the Arts

While many women found their niche in the entertainment and illicit industries, others carved out unique roles in more conventional professions. From successful merchants to revered artists, they proved that women could succeed in any endeavor. The book highlights the accomplishments of:

- **Lucretia "Lucy" Udell:** A talented sculptor and painter who immortalized the spirit of the frontier in her artwork
- **Emilia Engelhardt:** A prosperous rancher who became one of Montana's largest landowners
- **Daisy Bernard:** A successful businesswoman and hotelier who played a pivotal role in the development of Bozeman

The Legacy of the Wild Women: A Complex and Fascinating Chapter in History

The lives of these women offer a complex and nuanced view of the American West. They were not simply victims or outlaws but resilient and resourceful individuals who left an indelible mark on Montana's history.

Their stories challenge our preconceived notions of gender roles and reveal the indomitable spirit that shaped the American frontier.

: A Window into a Hidden World

"Madams, Money, Murder, and the Wild Women of Montana Frontier" is a captivating journey into a forgotten world, where women triumphed over adversity and left a lasting legacy. It is a tribute to their courage, resilience, and the indomitable spirit that forged the American West.



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