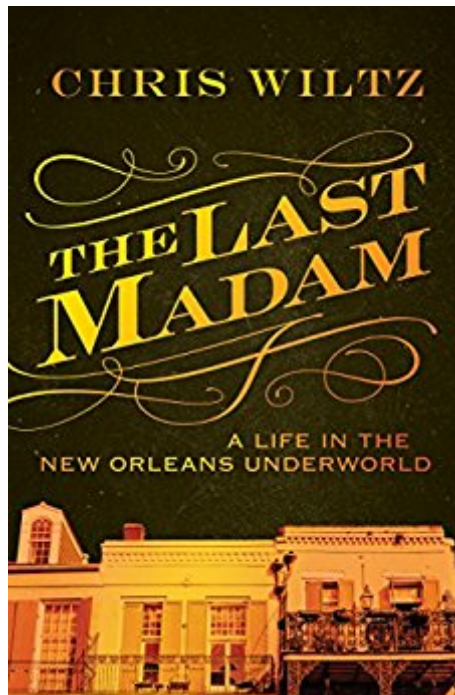




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The Last Madam: A Life In The New Orleans Underworld



Synopsis

The “raunchy, hilarious, and thrilling” true story of the incomparable Norma Wallace, proprietor of a notorious 1920s New Orleans brothel (NPR). Norma Wallace grew up fast. In 1916, at fifteen years old, she went to work as a streetwalker in New Orleans’s French Quarter. By the 1920s, she was a “landlady” or, more precisely, the madam of what became one of the city’s most lavish brothels. It was frequented by politicians, movie stars, gangsters, and even the notoriously corrupt police force. But Wallace acquired more than just repeat customers. There were friends, lovers, and also enemies. Wallace’s romantic interests ran the gamut from a bootlegger who shot her during a fight to a famed bandleader to the boy next door, thirty-nine years her junior, who became her fifth husband. She knew all of the Crescent City’s dirty little secrets, and used them to protect her own interests—she never got so much as a traffic ticket, until the early 1960s, when District Attorney Jim Garrison decided to clean up vice and corruption. After a jail stay, Wallace went legitimate as successfully as she had gone criminal, with a lucrative restaurant business—but it was love that would undo her in the end. The Last Madam combines original research with Wallace’s personal memoirs, bringing to life an era in New Orleans history rife with charm and decadence, resurrecting “a secret world, like those uncovered by Luc Sante and James Ellroy” (Publishers Weekly). It reveals the colorful, unforgettable woman who reigned as an underworld queen and “capture[s] perfectly the essential, earthy complexity of the most fascinating city on this continent” (Robert Olen Butler).

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Customer Reviews

I very much enjoyed this story about one of NOLA's true characters. It was a quick read and fully immersed me in the seamy underside of a wonderful, many layered city.

This is a very informative book about the old new Orleans, and a woman who lived her life the way she wanted and to the fullest.

Pretty well written book detailing a famous Madams's life in New Orleans . I really enjoyed this book and lost myself in it.

To be fair I should have gotten a sample of the book before buying it (\$1.99). I would have loved to know this story, but not in its writing style.

I really enjoyed this book.

Interesting read about the early eras of the "profession", associated crime, legalities, payoffs,etc.Not what I expected as a story versus mini biographies of involved officials,etc.

This is a well written story depicting Norma Wallace's life. The story is so well researched and written that you really get to know Norma and her life as the last Madam, plus her own personal life and struggles. Her persona was interesting as she thought like a man, tough and unyielding in many respects, but knew how to deal with all the different personalities she interacted with. An excellent history lesson of that era.

Was a great read. I am from Louisiana so I was familiar with everything.

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