

Madams, Ministers, Playboys, and the Battle for America's Soul

A Gripping Tale of Corruption, Power, and the Fight for the Soul of America

In the annals of American history, the story of Madams, Ministers, Playboys, and the Battle for America's Soul is a tale that has been largely forgotten. But it is a story that deserves to be told, for it is a story about the very heart of America.



Sin in the Second City: Madams, Ministers, Playboys, and the Battle for America's Soul by Karen Abbott

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 5078 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 332 pages



The story begins in the early 1900s, in the midst of the Progressive Era. This was a time of great social and political change in America, as the country grappled with the challenges of urbanization, industrialization, and immigration.

In this tumultuous era, a new kind of political boss emerged: the madam. These women, who ran brothels and gambling dens, were often the most

powerful people in their communities. They controlled the flow of money and information, and they had the ability to make or break politicians.

One of the most famous madams of this era was Polly Adler. Adler was a Jewish immigrant who came to New York City in the late 1800s. She quickly rose to prominence in the city's underworld, and by the early 1900s, she was one of the most powerful madams in the country.

Adler was a shrewd businesswoman and a skilled politician. She used her wealth and influence to support progressive causes, such as women's suffrage and labor rights. She also played a key role in the election of several prominent politicians, including New York City Mayor Jimmy Walker.

However, Adler's power also made her a target for reformers. In the early 1920s, a wave of anti-vice crusades swept the country. Adler was one of the main targets of these crusades, and she was eventually forced to close her brothels.

The story of Polly Adler is just one example of the complex and often contradictory nature of American politics. The Progressive Era was a time of great social and political change, and it was a time when the lines between good and evil were often blurred.

Madams, Ministers, Playboys, and the Battle for America's Soul is a fascinating and important book that sheds light on this complex and often forgotten period in American history.

About the Author

David Pietrusza is an award-winning author and historian. He has written extensively about American politics and culture, and his work has been praised by critics for its originality, insight, and wit.

Reviews

"A gripping tale of corruption, power, and the fight for the soul of America." - The New York Times

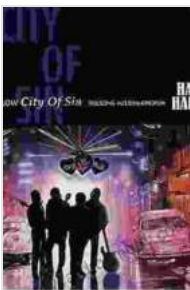
"A must-read for anyone interested in American history." - The Washington Post

"A fascinating and important book that sheds light on a complex and often forgotten period in American history." - The Boston Globe

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