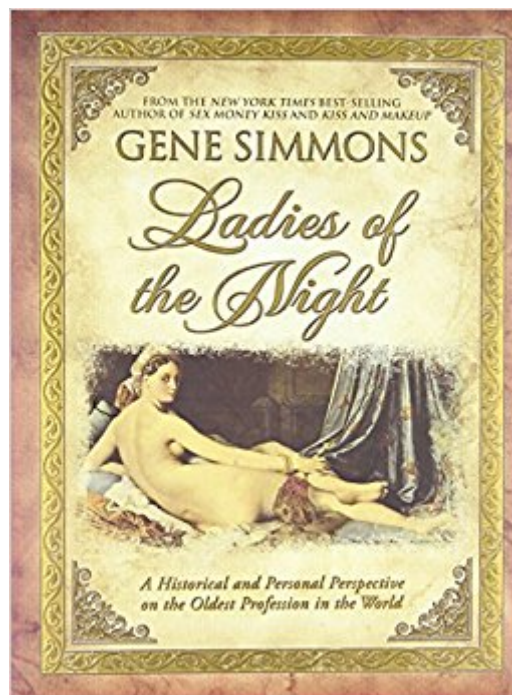




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Ladies Of The Night: A Historical And Personal Perspective On The Oldest Profession In The World



Synopsis

Gene Simmons -- mega-rock star, businessman, marketing genius and self-proclaimed free spirit -- follows up his best-selling books *Kiss and Make-Up* and *Sex, Money, Kiss with Ladies of the Night*, an examination of the history of prostitution. Simmons makes the case that men have been stepping out on women since the beginning of time, and that the practice is not about to stop. For that reason alone, Simmons argues that prostitution should be legalized. He argues that prostitution is a victimless crime that could be made safe and become a large source of tax revenues. Simmons, who has never used a lady of the night, believes no one should have to pay for sex, whether it is through prostitutes or marriage. Regardless of where you stand on the issue, Simmons' book is an arresting, informative, humorous, and outrageous exploration of the world's oldest profession, drawing on human nature, history, science, and public policy.

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Customer Reviews

Simmons, the fire-breathing leader of rock icon Kiss -- who once bragged that he had bedded more than a thousand women -- delivers an entertaining if sometimes simplistic short overview of prostitution. Simmons (*Kiss and Make-up*) manages to work into his narrative both the Greek philosopher Diogenes and Nevada's Moonlight Bunny Ranch brothel. Other than the occasional sex joke, Simmons is serious about giving his subject its historical due, stating upfront, I am not here to judge women's personal choices or how they choose to empower themselves. The book doesn't cover what Simmons admits is the dark side of prostitution, focusing primarily on one

of his favorite issues: money. Since throughout history, women have never had access to power, Simmons argues that prostitution has been a way for women to monetize the only thing that women have ever owned. Using numerous famous illustrations (e.g., William Hogarth's 18th-century painting *A Harlot's Progress*), Simmons and coauthor McCarron support this argument by adroitly exploring a range of topics: Sumerian goddess of sexuality Ishtar; the adulterous jara and jatini of ancient India; legal prostitution in Amsterdam's toleration zones; and Theodora, wife of Roman emperor Justinian, who Simmons considers the very first prostitution reformer. All this from the man who once wrote a song on the Kiss album *Love Gun* titled *Got Love for Sale*. (July) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

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This book is a very easy, fast read. Since it's clear that Gene and his co-author (Julie McCarron) had done their homework, I wish they had included their sources, because I'd love to be able to cite some of the information that was included. Since they chose to omit references, that leaves it an entertaining book, but unfortunately not one that can be used credibly in serious discussions on the topic. I understand that he wrote this to reach the widest audience possible, but I think it could have easily been written at higher than a third-grade reading level: as most people have graduated high

school these days, if not attended at least some college. Overall, this is still a very beautifully-produced and enjoyable book.

lovely

not know

Great coffee Table Book and I love Gene!

Gene Simmons proves yet again that he can tackle any subject and make it very entertaining. Even for people who are not fans of the greatest band in the world, this book is very informative and fun to read. This book will definately hold your interest until his next book (his adaptation of The Art of War) arrives. Thank you Gene!

When you can think what to buy think this- Great gift for the guy who has everything

Gene Simmons of "KISS" fame is, of course partially known for his legions of women fans and his unabashed appreciation of their regard. He is less known, perhaps, insofar as I know, for his deep respect for his fascinating mother and his companion, the beautiful but grounded Shannon Tweed. So, given the fact that Simmons has been surrounded for decades by women both empowered and not, it is perhaps not surprising that he chose to write about the "world's oldest profession" which, largely, has been a feminine domain (with multitudinous exceptions). Simmons does not believe in the institution of marriage, and his personal philosophy regarding the proper relationships between man and woman is either profoundly off-putting or curiously frank and enlightened, depending on your point of view. But at least his writing provokes thought about the commodification of the female body as a source of empowerment, sometimes, the only empowerment women were ever able to enjoy for much of human history. Simmons admits freely that he is not discussing the dark side of prostitution and celebrating sexual exploitation and enslavement. He is, rather, discussing the role prostitution has played in the lives of some women and how some turned it into a kind of liberation through money and goods in exchange for sexual favors in order to craft their own worlds and their own realities in the very teeth of hostile societies. And this almost Foucaultian idea, the commodification of body and acquisition of liberation through money (i.e. "power-knowledge"), is an intriguing take on the old question of whether or not prostitution is "good," "bad," or "somewhere in

between depending."I did not care for the first chapter which I thought a little pseudo-scientific and which radially oversimplifies human sexuality in general, but past that, the prose is very, very simple and a very fast read. The history, while selectively chosen to support the hypothesis, is competent and generally correct, although not especially scholarly in presentation. But this is not Simmons' aim, so that is really beside the point. And, he punctuates his text with a pleasing and dry sense of humor that does not mock the subject and reduce it to a chauvanistic meditation. And, to Simmons credit, I found absolutely nothing but regard - even respect - for his selected subjects.Do I agree with Simmons? No, not especially. But the text did make me think about an old issue I have not thought of in years in a new way, and that's always appreciated.The last thing I will mention is that this book, while coffee table size, is very attractive and solidly constructed. The reprinted images of famous works like "The Harlot's Progress" and Roman frescoes are complimentary to the text and well chosen in very high-quality repro. But parents should be warned that many of these images are graphic and not suitable for minor children.Recommended for those who want an engaging and attractive primer on the history of prostitution or who have an interest in Simmons' personal philosophy. And certainly, any KISS fan would love it.

A fun, amusing read with solid scholarly underpinnings that should further galvanize the growing movement to legalize prostitution. Anyone who stands against the exploitation of women must know that removing the fear of criminal prosecution will empower women who wish to earn a living by renting their bodies for sexual recreation, wipe out human-trafficking rings and vicious pimps who clog our criminal justice system -- and add billions of dollars to our national coffers. What this country needs in every neighborhood is an old-fashioned, well-run whorehouse -- the kind with a guy playing piano in the parlor -- and Gene Simmons has made his case with this fascinating potpourri of social history and SEX!

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