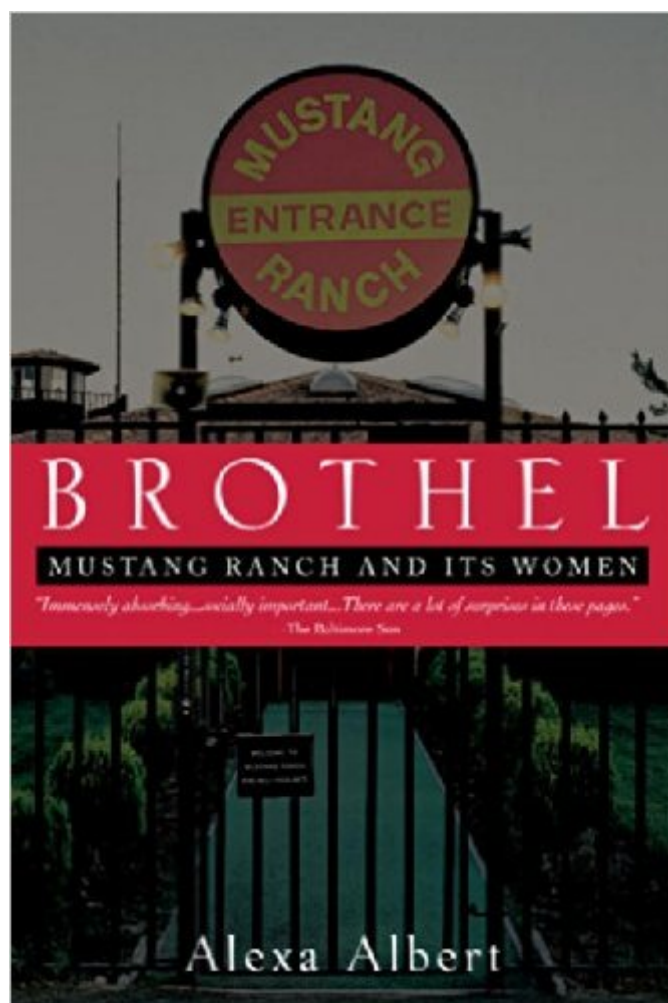


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Brothel: Mustang Ranch And Its Women



Synopsis

When Harvard medical student Alexa Albert conducted a public-health study at the Mustang Ranch brothel in Nevada, the only state in the union where prostitution is legal, neither she nor the brothel could have predicted the end result. Having worked with homeless prostitutes in Times Square, Albert was intimate with human devastation caused by the sex trade, and curious to see if Nevada's brothels offered a less harmful model for a business that will always be with us. The Mustang Ranch has never before given an outsider such access, but fear of AIDS was hurting the business, and the Ranch was eager to get publicity for its rigorous standards of sexual hygiene. Albert was drawn into the lives of the women of the Mustang Ranch, and what began as a public-health project evolved into something more intimate and ambitious, a six-year study of the brothel ecosystem, its lessons and significance. The women of the Mustang Ranch poured their stories out to Albert: how they came to be there, their surprisingly deep sense of craft and vocation, how they reconciled their profession with life on the outside. Dr. Albert went as far into this world as it is possible to go — some will say too far — including sitting in on sessions with customers, and the result is a book that puts an unforgettable face on America's maligned and caricatured subculture. From the Hardcover edition.

Book Information

Paperback: 276 pages

Publisher: Ballantine Books; Reprint edition (June 25, 2002)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0449006581

ISBN-13: 978-0449006580

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.6 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars — See all reviews (118 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

At first glance, I was reluctant to even pick *Brothel* up off the bookshelf for fear that someone might see me looking at a dirty book. That fear, in and of itself, reveals my own religious socialization that has taught me since birth that prostitutes are evil and doomed to Hell. Never mind the fact that it

takes two to tango; it was always the woman that was going to cook, not the poor dumb man who was obviously seduced. However, any close look at this profession rapidly leads to the obvious conclusion that prostitution largely exists to satisfy the needs of men to have pleasure with women. It is difficult to imagine that prostitution is a popular career goal amongst women, and I daresay that even those who do work at the Mustang Ranch today did not anticipate in their youth that one day they would be prostitutes. Having sex with multiple partners of various sizes, shapes, smells and predilections every day is a job description that could, in my mind, only be offset by meaningful financial reward. Alexa Alberti's book is a remarkably candid look at the world's oldest profession (I argue that it is the second oldest; the oldest being those who are quick to judge the morals of others). As a medical student, now an MD, Dr. Alberti's account escapes the clinical prose common to the New England Journal of Medicine and breaths a style of common reality into her subject. Being a woman, writing about a most sacred cow of manhood, the expectation might be that her account would be somewhat less than objective. I must admit that as I perused the dust cover (held very close to my chest under my raincoat) that I was skeptical. Oh no! Another women's studies book slamming men for something we can't help. I was pleasantly surprised that Dr.

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