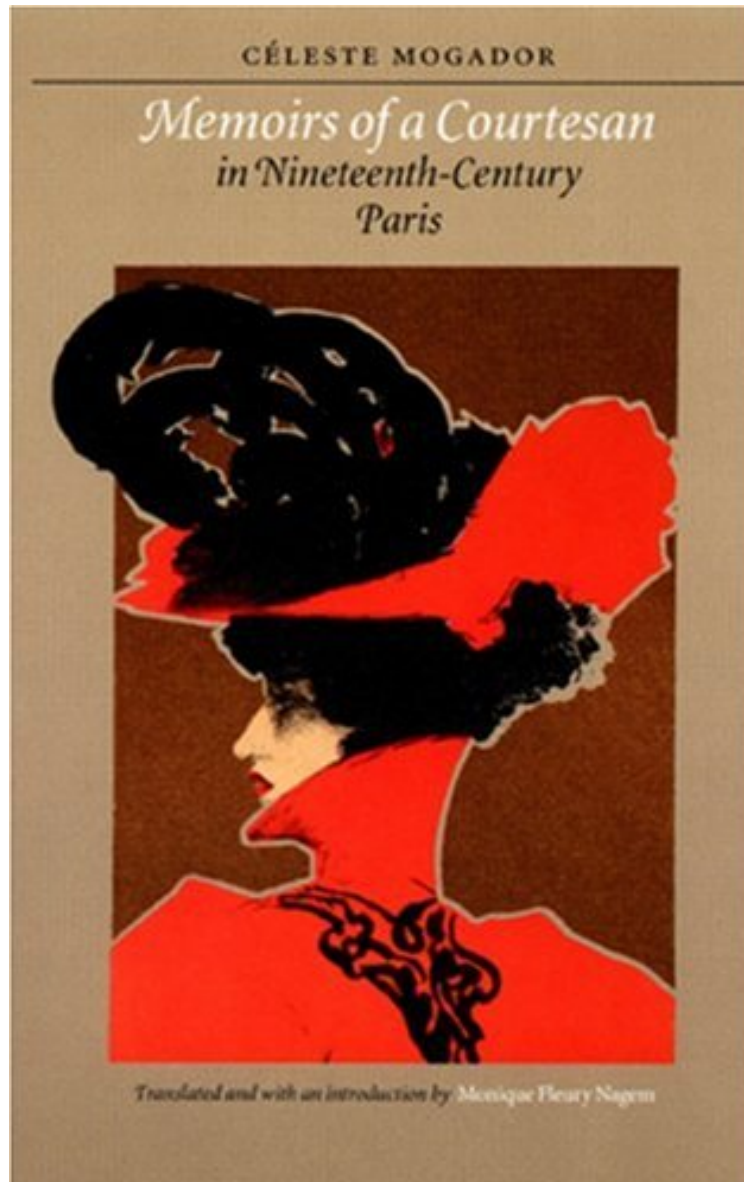


[Free and download] *Memoirs of a Courtesan in Nineteenth-Century Paris* (European Women Writers)

Memoirs of a Courtesan in Nineteenth-Century Paris (European Women Writers)

Celeste Mogador

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Celeste Mogador : *Memoirs of a Courtesan in Nineteenth-Century Paris* (European Women Writers) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Memoirs of a Courtesan in Nineteenth-Century Paris* (European Women Writers):

30 of 50 people found the following review helpful. The book is good, but...By LeighPersonIf you are searching for an inside look into the world of courtesans, you will be disappointed. A courtesan is a high priced prostitute, but I am still waiting for any mention of any sex act. The title implies that these are memoirs of her experiences as a courtesan, not her life outside of her chosen profession. The story is pretty good in itself, but it doesn't get into depth on the professions of these women at all. Instead, this woman talks about growing up and meeting people. There's really nothing indicating she's a courtesan beside the fact that she just says so. It is beyond me why this book was condemned because of "immoral and unsuitable for public consumption". I am still waiting for anything remotely showing that such a phrase fits at all. She seems more like a courtesan wannabe than a real one.

When Cleste Mogador's memoirs were first published in 1854 and again in 1858, they were immediately seized and condemned as immoral and unsuitable for public consumption. For a reader in our more forgiving times, this extraordinary document offers not only a portrait of the early life of an intelligent, courageous, and infinitely intriguing Frenchwoman but also an exceedingly rare inside look at the world of the courtesans and prostitutes of nineteenth-century France.

"Mogador (born Cleste Venard in 1824) was the queen of the Bal Mabille and gained her fame in Parisian dance halls and as an equestrienne, a daring circus rider, at the Hippodrome. Her life, exemplary of bohemian Paris in the 1840s and 1850s, bridges the periods of the Second Republic and the Third Empire. . . . [Mogador's memoirs] contribute to our understanding of how desire was presented and consumed in 19th-century Paris. . . . Refreshing details of daily life are everywhere in these pages, as [Mogador] tells us what was in a bouquet and what she and others wore. She recounts the feints, slights, and homage experienced at a ball, the fevers of the gambling tables, the drama of a boar hunt in the countryside on a nobleman's estate. . . . The settings of social life, high and low, in 19th-century Paris are etched in many memorable passages."Los Angeles Times