

# True Stories Of The Sultry South And Women Behaving Badly

The South is a land of mystery and intrigue, a place where the heat and humidity can make people do strange things. And when it comes to women, the South has a long history of producing some of the most scandalous and outrageous characters in American history.



## Southern Sin: True Stories of the Sultry South and Women Behaving Badly by Lee Gutkind

★★★★☆ 4 out of 5

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In this article, we'll take a look at some of the most notorious women from the Southern United States, women who made headlines for their bad behavior and their defiance of social norms. We'll learn about their lives, their loves, and their crimes, and we'll see how their stories continue to fascinate us today.

### Belle Starr

Belle Starr was born Myra Maybelle Shirley in Missouri in 1848. She was a beautiful and headstrong young woman who grew up in a rough and

tumble frontier environment. When she was 14 years old, she married a man named Jim Reed, but the marriage was short-lived. Reed was killed by a group of outlaws, and Starr was left to fend for herself.



Starr soon became involved with a group of outlaws, and she quickly gained a reputation for her fearlessness and her skill with a gun. She was known to ride with the likes of Jesse James and Cole Younger, and she participated in several robberies and stagecoach holdups.

In 1883, Starr was captured by law enforcement and sentenced to life in prison. However, she was pardoned by the governor of Missouri after only two years, and she returned to her life of crime.

Belle Starr was killed in 1889 by a deputy sheriff named Ed Reed. She was shot in the back while she was trying to escape from custody.

## Myra Clark Gaines

Myra Clark Gaines was born in New Orleans in 1805. She was the daughter of a wealthy planter, and she grew up in a life of privilege. In 1822, she married a man named Daniel Clark, but the marriage was unhappy. Clark was a cruel and abusive husband, and Gaines soon left him.



Myra Clark Gaines, wealthy plantation owner and socialite

Gaines returned to New Orleans, where she became a prominent socialite. She was known for her beauty, her intelligence, and her lavish lifestyle. However, Gaines was also a controversial figure. She was known for her outspoken views on race and gender, and she often clashed with the city's establishment.

In 1834, Gaines married a man named Judah Touro, a wealthy Jewish merchant. However, the marriage was annulled after only a few months, and Gaines was left with nothing.

Gaines spent the rest of her life fighting for her rights. She filed a series of lawsuits against her former husband, Daniel Clark, and she eventually won a large settlement. However, Gaines' victory was short-lived. She died in 1885, and her estate was quickly squandered by her relatives.

## **Varina Davis**

Varina Davis was born in Mississippi in 1826. She was the daughter of a wealthy planter, and she grew up in a life of privilege. In 1845, she married Jefferson Davis, a rising star in the Democratic Party.



When the Civil War broke out in 1861, Davis became the First Lady of the Confederate States of America. She was a tireless supporter of her husband, and she often visited Confederate soldiers in the field. After the war, Davis was arrested and imprisoned for treason. However, she was eventually released, and she returned to Mississippi to live out her days.

Varina Davis was a controversial figure. She was criticized for her support of slavery, and she was often seen as a symbol of the Old South. However, she was also a strong and independent woman, and she played an important role in the Confederate cause.

The women of the Southern United States have a long history of defying social norms and breaking the rules. They have been involved in some of the most notorious crimes and scandals in American history, and their stories continue to fascinate us today.

These women were complex and often contradictory figures. They were strong and independent, but they were also victims of the society in which they lived. They were beautiful and charming, but they were also capable of great cruelty. They were women who loved and lost, and they were women who made their mark on history.



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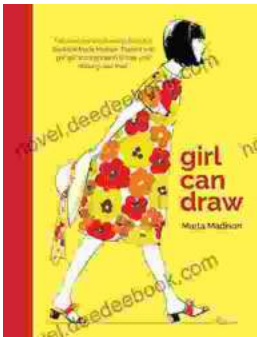
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