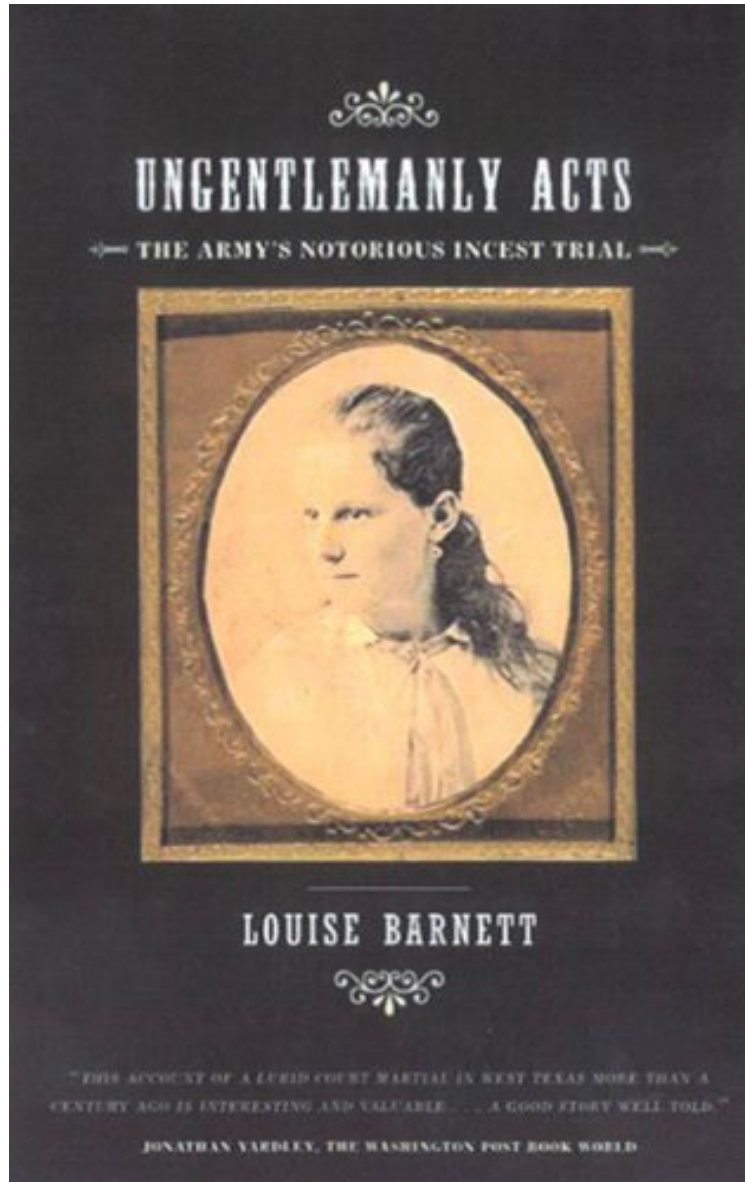


(Download) Ungentlemanly Acts: The Army's Notorious Incest Trial

Ungentlemanly Acts: The Army's Notorious Incest Trial

Von Louise Barnett

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Von Louise Barnett : Ungentlemanly Acts: The Army's Notorious Incest Trial before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ungentlemanly Acts: The Army's Notorious Incest Trial:

Kundenrezensionen Hilfreichste Kundenrezensionen 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A page turner about frontier life and the Army legal system Von Kenneth S. Smith This is a fascinating account of the court

marshal of Army Captain Andrew J. Geddes for 'Conduct Unbecoming and Officer'. He accused another officer, Lieutenant Louis H. Orleman, of incest with his daughter Lillie. Orleman preempted the charges of Geddes by filing his own complaint that Geddes tried to seduce and abduct his daughter. The act of incest was so unspeakable at the time (1879), the Army chose to court marshal Geddes instead Orleman for 'Conduct Unbecoming' with specifications 'not fit to be specified'. The Army was out to get Geddes (for other improprieties) and the trial was a sham with Geddes found guilty and cashiered from the Army. He was reinstated due to the diligence of Inspector General Dunn, but higher powers, General Sherman in particular, wanted Geddes out of the Army as unfit. Geddes was tried a few years later on trumped up charges of being drunk on duty and again cashiered. The main events of this book took place at Fort Stockton in Western Texas. The author masterfully paints a picture of the bleak frontier and the problems inherent with isolated outposts: drunkenness, adultery, seduction, gossip, and petty feuds that blossomed into hatred. The book also contains a wealth of interesting information about the Army legal system, the moral mindset of the time, Army units and personnel, literature of the time, and many other facts and observations. I read this book cover-to-cover and highly recommend it to any fan of American History. 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Mostly excellent Von D. C. Carrad A well-written story of Army life in the second half of the 19th century, the American frontier, old-style military justice and some other interesting subjects. I would unhesitatingly give this book five stars if it were not for the fact that the author has a feminist ax to grind and keeps grinding it in the most inappropriate places -- it's a bit like going to an opera and every five minutes the leading tenor feels compelled to wave Chairman Mao's Little Red Book about and quote from it. I suppose she will have to be forgiven as she is an academic at an East coast university and would probably be disbarred if she did not bung this feminist rhetoric into everything she writes. Her ax is only a medium-sized one and she does keep it mostly under control, but it does detract from the rest of the book. Without this stuff this would be a five star book. I recommend you buy it, read it and ignore the PC stuff that crops up every fifth page or so. Hope she will write some more history books and tone down the rhet.

Kurzbeschreibung The shocking story behind the U.S. Army's longest court-martial—full of sex, intrigue, and betrayal. In April 1879, on a remote military base in west Texas, a decorated army officer of dubious moral reputation faced a court-martial. The trial involved shocking issues—of sex and seduction, incest and abduction. The highest figures in the United States Army got involved, and General William Tecumseh Sherman himself made it his personal mission to see that Captain Andrew Geddes was punished for his alleged crime. But just what had Geddes done? He had spoken out about an "unspeakable" act—he had accused a fellow officer, Louis Orleman, of incest with his teenage daughter, Lillie. The army quickly charged not Orleman but Geddes with "conduct unbecoming a gentleman," for his accusation had come about only because Orleman was at the same time preparing to charge that Geddes himself had attempted the seduction and abduction of the same young lady. Which man was the villain and which the savior? Louise Barnett's compelling examination of the Geddes drama is at once a suspenseful narrative of a very important trial and a study of prevailing attitudes toward sexuality, parental discipline, the army, and the appropriate division between public and private life. It will enrich any reader's understanding of the tumultuous post-Civil War period, when the United States was striving to define its moral codes anew. From Kirkus s From Rutgers English professor Barnett (*Touched By Fire*, 1996), an artfully reconstructed chronicle of a notorious US Army incest-accusation trial that sheds remarkable clarity upon the emerging military and moral climate of the post-Reconstruction Southwest. In 1879, Capt. Andrew Geddes of the Army's Department of Texas filed a complaint against Lt. Louis Orleman, his neighboring officer at remote Fort Stockton, alleging criminal intercourse between the officer and his daughter, Lillie. The Army moved swiftly by trying Geddes, ostensibly on Orleman's countercharge of attempted seduction of Lillie, but evidently more to punish Geddes' violation of both Victorian morality and military frontier codes of silent manliness. Barnett recreates the trial, its aftermath, and the harsh, complex social environment of Fort Stockton (which won notoriety for these events and for related violence and corruption), emphasizing the dramatic ambiguities and human failings wrought in the crucible of the militarized Texas frontier. For example, though the author finds Geddes' account plausible and Orleman's less so (as did the military's appellate review, overturning Geddes' conviction), she explores how Geddes' reputation as a seamy lothario provoked top generals Ord and Sherman essentially to order an otherwise exemplary soldier's destruction. And she sets the narrative in a generous context of contemporaneous events, ranging from the 1869 H.B. Stowe Lord Byron incest scandal to the depredations of 1870s Texas rife with sliding scales of hatred among Mexicans, African-American soldiers who'd been refused billets nearer civilization, white settlers, and the displaced, despised, and still-threatening Comanche and other tribes reminiscent of Cormac McCarthy's *Blood Meridian*. Such detail evokes the paranoia, clannishness, and artificial moralities that, focused by the trial, would long remain in American military and civic life. Barnett brings intellectual fervor to potentially dry material, particularly in her portrait of the long-suffering Lillie Orleman, offering subtle interpretations of gender and racial volatility and finding startling metaphors within this singularly perverse interlude in the dissipated post-Civil War military. (24 bw photos) -- Copyright 2000, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights

reserved. From *Library Journal* Barnett (English, Rutgers; *Touched by Fire*) examines the army's court-martial of Captain Andrew Geddes and contemporary novels such as *Infelice* to illuminate late 19th-century American thought on incest. Her book stages the conflict that sent Geddes to trial: he had accused fellow officer Louis Orleman of incest with his teenage daughter, Lillie; but Orleman accused Geddes of attempting to seduce and abduct Lillie. Barnett argues that the army court-martialed Geddes largely because public scrutiny of incest uncomfortably forced Americans to question their views of family, sexuality, and gender roles. She also places the trial in the context of life on a western Texas military fort staffed mainly by black soldiers surrounded by white civilians, Mexican Americans, and Native Americans. This is an absorbing, well-documented book, although more discussion of 19th-century laws and attitudes about incest might have enriched it. Recommended for public and academic libraries with military, gender, or American West history collections. -Charles L. Lumpkins, Pennsylvania State Univ., State College Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.