MY LIFE AS A HONOLULU PROSTITUTE

BY: FRAN O'HARA

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Good luck
Joan O'Hara
DEDICATION

I dedicate this humble effort to make the mispent years of my life count for something, as fair warning to young girls who are always in danger of being trapped in the White Slave Racket.

I dedicate this book to warning them.
INTRODUCTION

I am not a bad typist, but I had not planned to type this book. But it is certainly the only way this book will ever, ever, get printed on the Island of Oahu. That is no way to publish a book. I have got to mimeograph it.

I have not a single other choice. No printer will take it. They are all afraid of it.

It is simply too hot for them.

Sorry but maybe the miracle will yet happen and somebody will gather enough courage to let me use a printing press.

If you read this book, you will be pretty well prepared to follow the newspaper accounts of the lawsuits that are sure to follow its publication. Surely someone will file suit for libel against me, trying to save their face.

It ought to be fun. I have the evidence. And I have the witnesses.

Just a word in time, fine feathered friends.

And besides, what wonderful publicity!
MY EARLY HOME LIFE

If you will read this book to its conclusion, you will know the truth. I was born in Chicago, Illinois, in 1913, the year preceding the 1st World War. The early years of my life were happy and normal. Being the only child of a physician, I was given the best schooling in preparation for a career.

My parents were Catholic, and were strict in the regimentation of my life. I was permitted however to attend parties and movies with other children of my own age. At about the age of seventeen, I met a girl and her boy friend at one of these parties. The girl was bedecked in jewelry and clothing that had me fascinated, and interested to know how to go about getting such finery. I was young, easily led, and with a little psychological persuasion on their part, I agreed to their sordid plans and went into the business of the "oldest Profession". After the first few experiences I was completely disillusioned, and was so ashamed of myself that I did not want to go home to face my parents. Eventually my conscience became easier and I got used to this means of making fast money.
I LEAVE HOME

One month later, I left my home and started for San Francisco with a girl friend who was an old hand at "the trade". We started working in one of the better class houses, and I became definitely committed to the practice of prostitution. My father and mother tried every means available to frighten me into going home, but being headstrong, and enticed by the seemingly fabulous earnings, I resisted their every attempt. Although I actually loathed the life, my sense of shame and sin aroused in me a perverse independence. How often I have since regretted that I did not humble myself and go home. Again and again I planned to get away from the life of sex slavery, with all its fearful and revolting experiences. As I think back, I marvel that I withstood the abuses and shameful contacts which are an unavoidable part of the life of a prostitute.

THIRTEEN YEARS A PROSTITUTE

I was a prostitute for thirteen years. During that time I learned the history of many other girls who had taken up this life. In some cases they were seduced, in other cases bad company or professional procurers brought them in contact with the "leeches" who support the white slave racket.
All the money in the world could not compensate for the insults, indignities and lustful abuse of men.

I finally planned to save all of the money I could, then get out and stay out. I've known many who have tried to quit, but they eventually came back. Their general reaction is one of discouragement. They find that the public gives little help to the efforts of a prostitute who wants to return to normal, decent useful living.

No jobs, they are told, are available for such people. The police follow them suspiciously and interfere with their employment. Then they are driven back to the only place they seem welcome: a sporting house. They usually lack the strength to make a second attempt to quit.

**PROSTITUTION AND VENEREAL DISEASE**

Commercialized prostitution is the main source of venereal disease. From this genesis the disease spreads like cane fire. This has been loudly asserted by medical specialists and Government officials, but just as loudly denied by the prostitutes and those who share in their earnings. I can tell you from personal experience that the Government officials and the doctors are absolutely right. No system of control of venereal disease -
can possibly stop prostitutes from becoming carriers in a very large percentage of cases, and over long periods of time, thus infecting soldiers and sailors by the thousands, in addition to civilians and war workers so needed by our country.

Methods of control of these venereal diseases by the Army and Navy authorities are probably as good as could be devised. Applying the theory that "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure," prophylaxis aid stations for service personnel and civilians alike are provided.

These stations are situated within the immediate vicinity of the houses of prostitution. But what of the casual pickup?

Sex indulgence incubated by the commercial house does not stop with professional prostitutes. These men thus infected, pass disease on to "easy pickups," usually too far away from home or their aid stations for immediate preventative measures.

Thus the danger of infection is magnified tenfold. Personally, through observations and experience of my own, I say positively that the majority of the diseases start from the prostitutes themselves.
The venereal disease problem in Honolulu was, and is, a desperate menace to society. Methods of control and prevention, and the good offices of the local board of health have been taxed to the utmost, but still the spread of diseases persists.

I want to mention some of the methods used in their all-too-often successful efforts to mislead health authorities as to their condition. In ordinary routine checkups, prostitutes are first subjected to a blood test; then a slide and a culture is taken. All of this is done at a central clinic. The girl is required to wait three days before the results of the tests are made known. If the tests prove positive, the girl is sent to a hospital, where she has to stay until she is cured—a period of two weeks or more, depending on the severity of the disease. After she is pronounced cured, another series of tests are made at the Central Clinic.

This is all handled by the Vice Squad. The Vice Squad also keeps the girls in line for their weekly examinations. Imagine taxpayers' money being spent on a Vice Squad that practically runs a harem, in the most literal sense of the word.
All results are made known to the "Madam" of the house where the girl works. Costs of the tests are borne by the girl herself. The cost is five dollars for a blood test, five dollars for a culture, and three dollars for a slide.

I will use a typical, true case to illustrate one way that all these precautions are rendered null and void by the prostitutes. A young Hawaiian-Chinese girl, nineteen, who worked in one of the houses, contracted gonorrhea. She was popular with the customers, very popular, and the money she made was a source of intense satisfaction to the "Madame". Both the Madame and the girl knew she was diseased, but she was kept working all the time, insidiously infecting man after man. Within a week or so, several different service men came in complaining that they had been infected. In the same house, there was an older girl who looked very much like the diseased girl. The Madame tried to induce the second girl to bear the brunt of the complaints, and when the latter refused to do so, she was fired. Here was an American citizen deliberately stabbing at the manpower of our country, simply to increase illegal earnings which were already incredible. A hundred or more
men were infected each day during a two week period, and that meant that a thousand or more contracted the disease from this one source.

In order to mislead the health department at the Central Clinic, the girls used to ply themselves with a sulfa drug to counteract the gonorrhea germs. This they did the night before their weekly visit to the clinic. The health authorities soon got wise to this trick. They began giving others tests, in order to determine whether or not the sulfa drug had been taken. In order to get action, I personally reported the above case of the 19 year old girl to the Vice Squad. One would expect action, would one not? Nothing was ever done about it. Why? The Honolulu Vice Squad known why! Soon you will know. Thus it is obvious that commercialized prostitution not only incubates and spreads venereal disease inside the houses, but by advertising and increasing the habit, sex dissipation, is responsible for an unbelievable multiplication of venereal disease cases outside the houses. From prostitute, to patron, to easy pickups—so it spreads.

In another case, a girl was put to work immediately after her tests were taken. She was not
allowed to wait for the required three day period. When the results came back, they were found to be positive. In the meantime, she had infected hundreds of men in just three days. This case was also reported to the Vice Squad. They did not take any action. Why?
The Honolulu Vice Squad can tell you that there is no method of control by which prostitutes can possibly protect those they entertain.

PROSTITUTION AND JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

Sexual delinquency cases involve very young people without parental guidance. The parents are all too often engrossed in war efforts, or in a mania for getting money fast, to bother at all. The juvenile's spare time is usually spent on the streets. In wartime Honolulu, humanity from every walk and every creed of life is present. The cheap thrills are thrown squarely in the face of the youngsters who usually learn more than their share of these things, and much more than parents reared in the old-fashioned homes, can possibly suspect.

Houses of prostitution generate sex indulgence which then spreads to the homes of the community—innocent, highly respectable homes.

I have heard of two especially appalling
cases where soldiers were approached by little children. In one case, a little girl only four or five years old pointed to dogs in the street and asked him if he would like to do what the dogs were then doing.

He said, "You shouldn't know anything about those things."

"She said, "Oh, not me. My sister likes to do that!"

Have no doubt about it, these things are directly caused by the commercialized sex racket in its every phase.

There are many, many local girls in this business. Usually they come from the middle class of people of this city. The kind that are just able to meet the rent, the ones that have never known abundance, the ones formerly unable to put anything in the bank more flexible than a four-bit piece.

With the coming of the war, these parents started to get a taste of the big money in war work. Naturally, everyone craves attention and love, and these wayward unfortunate girls were easily influenced by handsome, well dressed men, who flashed a big bank roll, owned a nice car, or showed lots of jewelry and a smooth line. These are the leeches—the
"Pimps" who prey on pretty, innocent girls of this community. Some of these girls are easily lured by the promise of big money, some are led by sheer sex curiosity, and easily flattered by these smooth-mannered sheiks.

Describing one of these perverted sleek looking individuals is easy. I can spot them a mile off. I should be able to. I've seen them all—every type. The large bankroll, flashy jewelry and flashy clothing are their trademarks. They live with the prostitutes, they keep them company as common-law husbands, but there is a catch. Most of the girls are in love with these men, and they collect all of the girls earnings. A few of the girls I've known have had Pimps beat them up if the unfortunate girls did not bring in enough "takes" or earnings.

The business of procuring girls to work in the brothels, or "factories", before the war, was usually handled by the same Pimp, or "procurer". He handled nothing but the transportation of the girls. The White Slave Racket! The fee for procuring a girl from the mainland ranges from $500 to $1000 depending on the looks and the capability of the girl. Capability? The word is strength!
The Madame arranged for the money to be paid to the procurers on the mainland, who still continued to enjoy the takes of the girl while she was working here, if they were her Pimps.

During these days, a few girls have filtered in from the mainland and started working in the houses here from two to four months later. These girls signed up as wives of defense workers, and got themselves jobs in war work here. After a few months of unsatisfactory service to their employers, they were either released or discharged. There in a nutshell is the story, ironical as it may be. The government constantly has been involved, if indirectly, in transporting prostitutes from the mainland.

WHERE THE MONEY GOES

An old prostitute saying is that "the woman always pays, but I'm going to make the men pay me." But it doesn't work out that way. The prostitute pays in many ways. First, she has to pay with her self respect. She must then harden herself against the disrespect, abuse, vulgar insults and disgusting demands of her clientele, some of who are on a level with the lowest form of animal life. The fine ones,
who display kindness and courtesy, cannot make up for the sexually perverted and intoxicated. Then, too, in Honolulu, the Paradise of the Pacific, grafters run rampant, and high officials are corrupt. The prostitute is also subjected to pressure every time there is a football benefit or any sort of political charity. She is charged higher fees and prices by doctors, lawyers, and landlords. Even the laundryman has his cut.

Taxes are collected by the Madame of the house, who also files the returns for them.

Finally, the prostitute pays with broken health and body. The ones that waxed old and fat in the trade during pre-war days, were always shoved out and younger girls stepped in to take their places. Nowadays, the rush business has put even these old ones back in circulation again. I have known of a case in which the girl involved jumped over the Pali due to overwork and an over dose of dope!

In regards to the dope situation, it is a known fact that prostitution and the dope habit thrive together. I will endeavor to give you some facts regarding the dope habit in a later chapter. In addition to all of this, prostitutes support the structure of graft and blackmail, which, as you will see later, takes full advantage of the fact that it is an illegal racket.
At the time of this writing, I am thirty-one years old, and until 8 months ago I had been a prostitute and a Madame since I was seventeen. I am writing this book because the police-controlled vice racket in Honolulu is rotten to the core, and should be shown in its inescapable light. So-called respectable business-men and officials of Honolulu and the Territory of Hawaii are getting rich from the houses of prostitution, and the inmates of those houses.

I am not going to attempt to excuse myself for the kind of life I have led. I shall tell you the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, and when you have finished reading this book, dear reader, a wave of nausea will engulf you.

You will react as only decent citizens should react. You will see to it that honest men are placed in power, and that the weak and the corrupt are weeded out. There is no room for them. Like the ravages of venereal disease or the crawling curse of cancer, these cankerous blights on decent society must be cut out of Honolulu city government just as fast as the axe can be made to cut their necks. The life of a prostitute is not an easy one, and the stringent rules of the Honolulu Police Department, headed by Chief of Police Gabrielsen, left
her no more freedom than a prisoner. She was literally a football for anyone who chose to throw her around. She was a target for every cheap grafter and stand-in thief, and they took full advantage of this fact.

But yes, Honolulu is still a heaven to the prostitute, as the earnings here cannot be touched anywhere else in the United States. By the same token, Honolulu is also a flesh-mine of gold for the low-down grafters.

There are over two hundred girls operating in the brothels in Honolulu. Their "lord and master" is Chief Gabrielson, and Gabrielson's orders are carried out rigidly by the Police Vice Squad. The Vice Squad is headed by a Captain in the Police Department, who sees to it that the girls stay in line and obey the rules and regulations. Further, the books of each Madame are inspected, to see just how much her "take" is. Why? You will learn about that, and also about how a house of ill-fame operates...

...how the girls are forced to live...methods of recruiting the girls. It does not make pretty
reading. For these girls, Honolulu city government seems worse than the most despicable of the Axis dictatorships.

In the following paragraphs, Mr. Respectable Citizen, I will give you a few laws that you never knew existed in your fair city. Who made them? By what authority are they enforced? And, believe me, these regulations are enforced—sometimes by preventing the girl from working, sometimes by the fiendishly simple expedient of beating up the transgressor, just as I was beaten.

You must know of that incident. I will tell you about it. You will not forget easily.

Chief Gabrielson ruled that we could have one day off every week, but we had no place to go. The following is a list of restrictions that we, the sporting girls, were made to follow strictly:

Could not visit Waikiki Beach at any time.
Could not patronize any bars, or the better class cafes.
Could not own any property.
Could not own an automobile.
Could not have a steady "boy-friend".
Could not be seen on the streets with any men.
Could not attend any dances.
Could not wire any money to the mainland unless we first consulted the Madame.
Could not visit a friend's apartment at any time.
Could not be out of the brothel after ten-thirty at night.
Could not visit any Army or Navy post.
Could not marry service personnel.
Could not take a trip to the outside islands unless we first checked out of the brothel.
Could not ride in the front seat of a taxicab at any time.
Could not check out of any brothel after ten-thirty at night.
Could not check out from one house to the other; we were to stay where we were put.
Could not visit the golf courses.
Could swim only at Kailua Beach.
Could not tell anyone the Mainland unless we first consulted the Madame.
Could not ride in a taxicab with a man.
THE WHITE SLAVE RACKET

The Madames are women from the mainland. Before any of them can open a house, she must first get the "nod" from Chief Gabrielson. Girls are recruited from San Francisco, principally. The local "Madames put in an order by mail, and pay $500 to $1000 for each girl, depending upon the girl's age.

The Madame, when she is notified who is coming, visits police headquarters and gives the name of the girl and the date of her arrival. From there, Chief Gabrielson takes over. A detective meets the boat off port and the girls are herded like cattle into the "receiving station". At the time I arrived, the receiving station was the Blandelli Hotel. The Vice Squad was there. They explained the rules and regulations of the Polico Department, and put strong emphasis on the fact that they, the Police Department, have all out authority. In no uncertain terms, the girls were told that any violations whatsoever would result in banishment from the Territory. From the hotel, we were taken to the Police Department, where we were fingerprinted and photographed. Thence we were taken to
our houses to begin work. No medical examination was required at this time, and venereal diseases were rampant and sickening. We also had to have a license. That cost one dollar per year. We girls usually started to work around one p.m., and ended around 5 a.m. the next morning. A mere 16 hours a day!

The Madams and Chief Gabrielson had an understanding. The girls were to spend only six months here, and then were to be shipped back to the mainland. Whether the girl's "record" was up to standard or not, she was not to stay any longer than six months. She got to know too much in that length of time. The girls were also under orders not to return for a year. If they did, they would be jailed. After a year had passed, the girl, if she wanted to return, would contact the Madam, who in turn would call on Chief Gabrielson and get that man's approval.

Dear Readers, would you call this a government either by or for the people? Maybe, but the scum of all people...the Gestapo of Honolulu...the dirty swindlers who prey upon women and sell every pledge, sell every oath of office, sell ev
every oath of office, sell every obligation they hold to society—these men are not for the people!

Yet they walk in society. They walk with a semblance of responsibility and respectability, for prostitutes' pay. Are the prostitutes the criminals? Or, perhaps, is the Vice Squad the real criminal?

Compared to these scurvy—those officials wherever they are who prey on the prostitute, a prostitute herself reaches the height of responsibility and respectability. At least, she frankly sells herself. She breaks the law, of course, but she is neither a pimp nor a hypocrite nor a cheap grafter. And compared to those unspeakable monsters, the Pimp is a Prince of Society. He plies his filthy trade—he is often a hypocrite, but, as unspeakable as it may be, he fulfills a service; and, criminal though his methods may be, he earns his money. Soon, people will ask the Vice Squad questions, and they will ask them insistently.

THE DOPE HABIT FEEDS ON PROSTITUTES.

I am not exaggerating in saying fifty
percent of the prostitutes here are syphilitic. Thirty-three and one third percent are narcotic addicts... opium smokers and morphine users. The fact is that along with any red light district goes dope and liquor. Madames resort to many and varied measures to keep their girls from leaving them. Morphine is dope that promotes a false and high feeling. It creates indifference, disdain for everything.

Personally, I have never used dope, but I could have got all I wanted. The Madames would rather their girls had the habit! Then the Madam has a hold over the girl. It was all a masterpiece of simplicity. Madames dissatisfied with the girl, could threaten the girl by threatening to cut off the girl's supply of dope. And then a girl under the influence of dope can work longer. Yes, the Madames approved of "h oppies".

There was a certain doctor who the girl's went to for morphine shots. I understand that he was finally caught, and was told to either stand trial or leave the Islands. He left the Islands.
As I have previously mentioned, dope is plentiful. The girls get all they want. They pay good prices for it. And rest assured that those doctors put their prices high—when the prostitutes want dope, she pays and pays, and pays, or not a drop or a grain. Morphine cost ten dollars a shot and up. How and why those doctors were not arrested for such criminal practice is beyond me, and I had a pretty good education.

I did a lot of studying at one time—typing, words, writing—and as I sit here writing this I am not about to be fooled by the veneer of respect those doctors covered themselves with. The Vice Squad, I venture to say, could tell you the names of those doctors.

THE RACKET

A few years ago, several of the Madames got together and decided to approach Chief Gabrielson. They wanted to force him to give the girls more privileges. The Madames backed down though. They were afraid that Chief Gabrielson might close them up, and some of them had only
recently bought their places. They had paid as high as $50,000 for them, and discretion seemed the better part of defiance. That price, the $50,000 was only for the lease and good will.

Would you like to become a Madam? Before you can do so, you must call on Chief Gabrielson, and unless you get the "nec" from him, you cannot open your place. But suppose he does give you the "nec"? You will not open. Chief Gabrielson will snap the stool trap shut before you could even say, "I was gypped".

Gabrielson still advises you (or did) to call upon attorney Fred Patteson; he will handle the lease. Leases, those for "house" locations, range in price from $300 per month and up, and they are for five to ten years. Ordinarily, and for legitimate purposes, most of these places would rent for around $100 a month. Well, you've got your lease and his approval, let's say. The next thing you need is furnishings, and then you will need expense money.

Chief Gabrielson suggests that you visit Mr. Horbert Truslow.
On the first floor of the Stangenwald Building, which is located on Merchant Street. Ah, but Brother Truslow is very accommodating. He will lend you any amount, and he will only charge you twenty per cent interest.

Truslow is the financial "angel" for the district. He once served time at Oahu Prison.

Don't think that Chief Gabrielson gives his approval to every girl who wants to become a Madame. Many girls I know went to him, and he gave them a curt, flat refusal. This was due to the fact that they had the reputation of being talkative. They might not keep quiet if over the Fedorals should try to stop in and get the low-down on prostitutes in Honolulu. So those girls soon received orders to sail. Obviously enough, Gabrielson did not want anyone operating as a Madame who would not keep quiet on the way things were run.

Chief Gabrielson would question the girls' Madame to ascertain if the girl was too talkative, or a trouble maker. Did the girl always obey all of his orders and regulations without fail.
Did she know any prominent men? If she did, then she would not get his approval.

A lot depends on the Madam. If she likes you, all well and good. If she didn't, then she could tell Chief Gabrielson anything, and he would believe her.

After all, she was in actuality taking orders from him day after day. He considered it unlikely that he would be lied to.

The Chief likes the Madams who are quick to report rule infractions. The Madams try to stay on Gabrielson's good side. They don't want their places closed. Many of these houses are right now making a net profit of $25,000 per month. No house was permitted to have more than 30 girls. After the war, the houses would only average 10 girls. Transportation trouble.

Some of the Madams here in Honolulu are the most hard-hearted women I have ever met in my fourteen years experience. They are greedy. They are money hungry, and they drive their girls to the very breaking point.
Another way the Madamess contrive to keep their girls is to get them in debt. Every week or so, Pop Elie and Mickey Kane, the jewelers, used to come around with watches and diamonds. The Madam would stand good for our debts. Then she would deduct payments from our future earnings.

Very few girls make under a $100 a day, some of them double that and some of them made over $300 a day. It all depends upon the girl. She can make as much as she wants. There is always a line of men waiting to get into the brothels, and the Madamess are slave-drivers. The price charged is $3.00 per date. Of this, the Madam gets one dollar. Out of the remaining two dollars, the girl must pay the Madam for her room and board and laundry. The Madamess have a sweet racket.

I know, for later I was a Madam on Maui. There I hear the pay-off to the police department isn't as great as it is here.

Even if a girl was not feeling well, the Madame would make her continue on. The Madame usually gave the excuse that she had a heavy note to meet.
So the girl kept working. If she didn't the Madame might have reported her to Chief Gabrielson, and he might have given her a flesher cut of town.

If the members of the Vice Squad were around, a girl was not permitted by the Madame to mention how much she made during that day. I asked a certain Madame the reason for that, and she said, "Jean, the pay-off is so terrible here, and all of Madames got together to see if we could cut it down a little. That is why I don't want any of the girls to mention their takes in front of the Vice Squad.

It will get back, and then the heat will be on and we will have to pay twice as much as we have been paying."

So from then on we kept mum about how much we made. We did not even talk about it among ourselves, it was more or less a forgotten subject.

A short time later however, the Vice Squad started its own Gestapo investigation to ascertain each girl's day take, they knew who was
the most popular... the ones who made the most money and they tried to find out from these girls. I happened to be one of these girls and twice I was put through a stiff grilling. I might add that they never did get any information from me. Twice their figures tallied close to what I had made, but I gave them the wrong figure. The Madams actually hugged and kissed me after the Vice Squad had left.

For several months it was smooth sailing. Then the Madam told me that the pay-off had been increased to $100 per month for each girl. This continued for two more years, and the same Madam told me that the Vice Squad had informed her that the pay-off would be $60 per girl per month in the house. She had twenty-eight girls to pay for, so her pay-off was $1,680 per month. If it is true what she tells me, the Vice Squad collected something around $25,000 a month, there being about five hundred girls (prostitutes) in town. I hope that you are not naive enough to believe that they kept all of that money for themselves.

At this writing, and this is Tuesday, August 29 (twenty-ninth) 1944, I understand that the pay-off is still fifty dollars per girl per month in each house.
I also hear that this money is still collected monthly by the Vice Squad.

Once a year, the police "put the bite" on each of the houses for an additional $500 or $1000 for tickets to the police benfits, the annual football game, etc.

Also it is the policy of some members of the Vice Squad, and other police department members, to come to the houses after hours ordinarily closed, after hours, and be entertained by the girl of their choice.

Formerly, when the entertainment prices were $5 per guest, the Madame began charging the girls $15 a day for room and board. When the price was reduced to $3 per guest, the Madame began charging the girls $3 per day for room and board.

PERSECUTION

But to get back to the days when I was a harlot. Betty, one of my co-workers, and I decided we needed a rest.

We told the Madame so. She informed us that she would have to notify the Vice Squad before we could leave. She wasn't able to
contact them, so Betty and I went to Waikiki anyway. We leased a house for six months, leaving our clothes and baggage at the house. That night, the Vice Squad came to pay us a visit. They demanded that we open the door before they broke it down. When we finally did, they came in, cursed us, and told us to get back to the brothel. We explained that we had been working a full ten months, and that we both wanted and needed a rest.

They finally left, but the next morning, the owner of the house, returning our money to us, told us to move. We moved to another beach place, but a week later the Vice Squad had located us again and had told the landlord to make us move. He did. From there, we moved to a home on Pacific Heights. This time it took Gabrielson's henchmen three weeks to find us. Then they called on residents in our immediate vicinity and informed them that Betty and I were prostitutes, as such should be and were unfit to live around respectable people.

WE LEAVE HONOLULU

Betty and I went to Kauai, where we worked in a house for two months. The conditions on the outside islands were the same in most respects as
those in Honolulu. From Kauai we went to Maui, where we stayed for a month. There were two houses of prostitution there, and I thought another would be in order. The people there thought so, too. At that time, Maui did not have a Chief of Police. But Maui had a Sheriff—at the time, Chief Crewell. I was told that before I could open a house on Maui I should first get Chief Gabrielson's approval.

Betty and I returned to Honolulu and studied the situation carefully. I finally did call on Chief Gabrielson in his office, and I asked him if I could have his permission to open up on Maui.

He looked at me intently, with those cold, steady eyes of his, and he said: "No girl in Honolulu can have my permission to open a house anywhere when she has violated my rules like you and Betty have. Who do you think you are, anyway?"

Thom: "If you don't watch out, you'll find yourself back in San Francisco!"

Well, I have a temper—the Irish in me boiled. I told him that I'd do as I darned well pleased, that I was a citizen and a taxpayer, and that I had violated no laws. I had, I said, only violated his dictates.
TAXES FROM A KNOWN ILLEGAL RACKET

All of us girls have a Territorial tax book and a Territorial license which costs us $1 per year. We are licensed as "entertainers", not prostitutes, and what a farce the title is! As you read on, its gross misrepresentation of the truth makes the law look silly.

We girls are required to pay Federal income taxes as well as gross income taxes. It has been said that we girls and Madames are the heaviest tax payers in Honolulu. That is true, if there is no holding out or cheating. Each girl in Honolulu can average from $4,000 per month to $5,000 per month, under the present day conditions, if she wants to. I have made that much and only worked 20 days a month. Many girls make more than that. So you see, if a Madame has ten girls in her house (which is the average now) and each girl averages $5,000 a month, the Madame is doing pretty well by herself.

Well, even though Chief Gabrielson wouldn't give me his O.K. for opening on Maui, I nevertheless returned there and bought three acres at Kihei, Maui. No sooner had I opened the doors than I was arrested. I was fined $100. Two weeks later, I was again arrested and that fine cost me $300. Finally, a very good friend of
m in a federal agent, told me it was useless for me to try to operate when the police had it in for me. Well, I had an investment of more than $2,000, and I didn't intend to give up without a fight as long as they continued to let the other houses operate. Several girls came over from Honolulu and wanted to work in my place. Most of them had disobeyed Chief Gabrielson in one way or another, and he wouldn't let them work any longer in Honolulu.

Things eased up a bit. Every now and then we would have to take "pinches", but we didn't have to go to court. Every now and then I got a phone call from Sheriff Crowell to bring in $300 to the police department. He would call about every six weeks. The first time he gave me a receipt. This continued for the next two times. Then he sent for the receipts. He was taking no chances. That was the way I paid off the police there. That went on for a period of months, and then another house was built, in front of mine, by a harlot I used to know in Honolulu. She operated for two days and was "pinched". That was her first and last time, and apparently it was just to make it look good.

By this time, Sheriff Crowell was gravely ill. He finally passed away. Soon afterward, Chief Larson became the boss of Maui. He formerly worked for Chief Gabrielson.
Right here and now I want to say that Chief Larsen is one of the finest men I have ever met. He is fair and square. At least he was to me. However, at one time when I had decided to sell my place to a certain girl, Chief Larsen told me that I couldn't sell it for the price I wanted to ask.

"It isn't worth it," he said.

Nevertheless, the house was mine, and I finally sold it for the price I wanted for it. I returned to Honolulu. I checked into the Rex Rooms. I had been there about a week, when I received a phone call from my husband who told me to get out of the house, and get out of the racket. About eleven o'clock that night, I told the Madame that I wanted to check out, and return to my husband, and quit the racket for good. She told me that she would first have to notify the Vice Squad.

Robert Kennedy, now Captain of Detectives, was then in command. When Kennedy arrived with his Vice Squad, I was sitting at a kitchen table wearing a pair of red satin pajamas.

ASSAULT AND BATTERY

Kennedy wanted to know "what the hell" it was all about. I told him. He said that I couldn't leave until the next morning. I got up from the table and told him that I was leaving just the same. This was before the war time curfew.
Capt. Kennedy struck me in the mouth with his fist, and the force of his blow knocked me against the wall. I reeled, stunned with pain, and he hit me several more times. How many times, I don't remember. I fell to the floor, and he kicked me in the ribs. He gave me a brutal, through beating.

Two cab drivers whom I had called to move my baggage were standing in the hall. They saw everything. So did Lillian Martin, who owned and operated the Rex Rooms.

I can never forget something that happened while Kennedy hit and kicked me as I lay on the floor. That she-hellion, Lillian Martin, spoke up and said: "I hope that this will be a lesson to the rest of the girls not to break Chief Gabrielson's orders! Don't try to check out after 10 o'clock at night!"

In the meantime, someone had called the patrol wagon, and Capt. Kennedy dragged me by my hair out of the hotel. He dragged me across the sidewalk and threw me bodily into the patrol wagon. I was held in a cell at police headquarters for three days before I finally convinced the matron that I was in a bad condition and needed medical attention. They took me to the Emergency Hospital in the patrol wagon.

The doctor was an acquaintance of mine. He treated me for multiple bruises and found my body covered with black and blue marks.
There were two broken ribs on my left side, and my bridge work was also broken by the blow to the jaw. I was still wearing the red satin pajamas. I was finally allowed to contact my attorney who is O. P. Scared. He got my release from jail and we began preparing suit against Chief Gabrielson and Capt. Kennedy.

Before I forgot, let me add that Capt. Kennedy came to my cell before I was released, and he told me that if I dared to enter any charges against him or Chief Gabrielson, I might someday find myself falling over the Pali. If I rightly understood him then, he actually threatened to kill me. He also called me all sorts of names... names that would make even a harlot like me blush with shame.

I was booked on three charges: (1) Resisting a police officer; (2) Assault and battery on a police officer; and (3) profanity.

Upon the advice of Mr. Scared, I had photographs taken of both my eyes and they were very black. My right hip and arms were covered with black and blue marks.

Chief Gabrielson was in Hilo at the time, but he hurried back here. Now as to the absurdity of resisting arrest—Capt Kennedy is over six feet tall and weighs about 200 pounds or more. I am five feet four and weighed 120 pounds.
We wanted an immediate hearing but each of the three police court Judges said their calendars were full. It was the old runaround. Mr. Soares got mad and told them that he knew they wanted to hold the hearing off until my black eyes healed. He said that it wouldn't do any good as photographs had already been taken.

Finally I was taken before a certain Judge who is noted for his square-shooting. Capt. Kennedy was represented by Attorney Fred Patterson, who told the Judge that the Police Department wanted to drop the charges against me. The Judge wanted to know why. There was no answer to that pose, but Mr. Soares and I agreed to the charges being dropped. When we left the court room, we immediately filed suit against Chief Gabrielson and Capt. Kennedy for $100,000.

Chief Gabrielson badly upset and agitated, sent countless persons to see me and my husband. Those persons urged me to drop the suit. Gabrielson called me into his office several times, and that Judas was sweeter than honey. He just oozed good will, and offered me almost anything that I wanted even to operating a house of mine own, if I so desired.

I was tired of the racket and told him so.
At that time, my husband, a local boy, was employed by the Inter-Island Steam Navigation Co. Capt. Kennedy at the time he beat me up, did not know I was married. Upon discovering that I had a husband, Kennedy visited my husband on his boat. He urged him to get me to drop all charges. My husband and Capt. Kennedy, prior to that time, had been friends for many years. My husband told Kennedy to get off the boat, or that he would personally chuck him off. Capt. Kennedy, was told in no uncertain terms that he had no right to keep me in a brothel when I wanted to leave the racket.

For weeks after, it was all I could do was to keep my husband from taking his gun and shooting both Chief Gabrielson and Capt. Kennedy. Chief Gabrielson tried in every way to persuade me to drop the charges. Newspapers carried the story for several weeks. Chief Gabrielson told me that it looked terribly bad for his name to be dragged through the newspapers like that. Tough!

The Federals took notice of my case. They sent for me and wanted to know the whole story. I gave it to them. I understand they also questioned Capt. Kennedy, and asked who gave him the orders to hold me in a house of ill-fame against my will.
I understand that Capt. Kennedy told them that the Vice Squad acts only under the orders of Chief Gabrielson, and what ever they might do is under his orders.

The Federals told me they were willing to help me all they could, and to come and see them any time I cared to do so. Later, a special investigator from Washington, D. C. came to see me. We had several long talks. Now, don't get the idea that I am a stool-pigeon. I am not. I am sick and disgusted with the whole racket and its set-up.

COERCION

In the meantime, Chief Gabrielson was still sending people to see me, and he finally sent a man, in whom I had a lot of confidence. This man pointed out that if I didn't drop the charges I would always be in hot water with the police department. Chief Gabrielson would have me picked up on the smallest infractions, he said life, living here, would be very difficult. I know he was right, so I decided to drop the charges.

In the meantime, My Lincoln Zephyr sedan was stolen and I reported it to the police. Chief Gabrielson contacted me a few hours later and said that he would see to it that I get back my car, if I would drop the charges. I agreed.
A few minutes later, a policeman came to my home. He said that Chief Gabrielson had sent him to get a note from me stating that I would drop all charges. I wrote the note, signing my name, "Betty O'Hara." The policeman left, but returned a short time later, stating that Chief wanted the note signed "Betty Jean O'Hara." So I wrote the note signing it the way he wanted. My car was returned that night. I wonder who did steal my car?

I talked with Chief Gabrielson on the phone after I signed the note, and told him I thought the least Capt. Kennedy could do was to apologize to me.

Chief Gabrielson said he would instruct Capt. Kennedy, but as yet, and that was several years back, no apologies have been forthcoming. Capt. Kennedy was never suspended. On the contrary, he was later promoted to the job he now holds.

I know that once I dropped the charges, Chief Gabrielson and his echarts would have the upper hand, and would make life tough for me. I was right. I have several friends in the police department, and they tipped me off. Chief Gabrielson had issued orders that I was to be watched closely, and arrested on the slightest provocation.
I had caused him to get too much unfavorable publicity and he was going to make it hot for me. He was either going to run me off of the Island, or get me a jail sentence.

Now, let me point out something right here. There are a lot of fine men in the police department—honest men and efficient men—and if they could be sure that their jobs would be protected, they would and could do plenty of talking about the horrible conditions that exist here in Honolulu.

My first trouble came a few weeks later. I was charged with speeding. I had not been speeding; nevertheless, I was fined $20. When I was living in Waikiki, and there was not a sound coming from my apartment, not even radio music, the Vice Squad would break into my residence and say they had reports of a noisy party. Their manner was always abusive and their language always foul. I paid several fines for such charges, charges of which I was entirely innocent.

The police department was cut to frame me. I knew it. They wanted to get rid of me because they knew that I knew too much of the set-up here, and that I again might turn on the heat.
Well this is it:

After the "Blitz of December 7, 1941, Chief Gabrielson started after me in a big way. He threw every shot he possibly could, always trying to make it appear that they weren't coming from him. I knew better though, for friends of mine in the department would again tip me off although it was hardly necessary.

He finally got his chance one night, while I was staying at the Mccan Hotel. Two women in the room adjoining mine—the door between the rooms was open—were entertaining a couple of friends, and were drinking and feeling chatty. They were jitterbugging. The house detective came up to see what was causing all of the noise. The women beat it to their room, closed and locked the door. I was lying on the bed reading. The house detective asked to see my identification card. He took one look at it and called the police. I was "Scarlet" Jean O'Hara— the one who had dared file suit against Chief Gabrielson. I was taken for a ride in the "Black Mirich" and the next morning I heard the Judge say "Six months".

I served four months before I was released. That was the first time I ever did time in my life. I knew that Chief Gabrielson was the instigator. His own men told me so.
Trouble tapped me on the shoulder again a few months ago. This time, five Army fliers, friends of my husband, visited us for a few days at our Pacific Heights home. They got a rush call to report to Hickman Field. I started driving them out to Hickman. I won't say that I wasn't speeding. I really admit that I was going faster than I should have been. A cop stopped for speeding, and started making out a ticket. I explained the reason for the hurry and offered to drop by the police station and pick up the ticket. He wouldn't agree to that, so we waited until the ticket was made out. We drove off, we were stopped again by another policeman.

He yelled "Pull over there, Jean O'Hara."

I did, and tried to explain that I had been stopped once before. He turned to the fliers and asked them what they were doing with a woman like me, a prostitute, and the famed Jean O'Hara. That got my Irish up and I drove away, letting all of the men off but one. This was, fortunately, near the Hickman Field gate. I started back to town when the same policeman pulled up in front of my car with his motorcycle.

"I dare you to hit me," he yelled.

I drove around him and kept going.
ROUGH TREATMENT

Several nor policemen drove up and started firing at my car. My passenger, when I will call "George", ducked down. The police thought they had shot him. They stopped shooting. They thought they had killed him and they were badly scared, then I pulled over.

One of them, relieved said to George, "We thought we killed you, and were we scared!"

It wouldn't have made much difference if we had killed her...she would have been just another whore cut of the way and less trouble for the police department."

I was arrested on three different charges.

That arrest cost me a $200 fine, the loss of my drivers license for a year, and $400 in attorney fees. Quite a nice chunk of dough for being a Good Samaritan.

I guess I was lucky at that, though, for they really were seeking to send me over the road for a good, long stretch.

"The thing that saved me was the Army Officer, George, was in the car and was going to be my witness. The police called upon him at his hotel. They tried to scare him off. They told him that if he did testify for me, the police department would see to it that he was busted to a Buck Private. But George did not scare and told them so.

He was always on hand when my case was called.

You see, according to law, the only time a policeman can use
firearms is on a felony charge, and speeding is certainly not a felony.

Let us suppose that the police really hit George, and either killed or wounded him. I wonder how they would get out of that predicament! It certainly would have been a sizzling fireball in the hands of these men, who are supposed to uphold the law.

I GO TO THE MIDWAY

I checked into the Midway Hotel. Peggy Miller, now in San Francisco used to own the place, but sold it for sixty grand to a Jewish woman, who called herself "Tony". There were eighteen girls there. It was a good spot and sometimes I made as $300 or more a day.

Tony was a drinker, and if it had not been for "Hannah", her housekeeper, the place would have gone on the rocks. Hannah was getting $300 a month, and she was worth it. Later, when she got disgusted with Tony's drinking and started to quit, she was offered another $200 off record if she would stay.

She was first offered a 25 per cent cut in the place, but Tony later backed out on that offer.
Head of the Vice Squad then was Capt. Larsen—not the same Larsen now in Hilo. The girls were informed that they could live in either the Maikiki or Kainuki districts, and in no other place. However, this came as a great relief for the girls, as conditions and restrictions made the surroundings we worked in more than scridid.

At that time, I was living on Pacific Heights, Capt. Larsen came to my home and told me that I would have to move out by the following morning or quit working in the houses. I told him that as long as I was a citizen and a taxpayer, I could live where I wanted.

A few mornings later, Tony told me to check out, as Chief Gabrielson had told her that I couldn't live on Pacific Heights and still continue at the Midway. With the aid of some pull from high places, I won that round and continued to live on Pacific Heights and work at the Midway.

Tony was hitting the bottle more and more, and things became unbearable. Hannah did quit this time, and all of the girls walked out with her.
Tony was unreasonably mercenary. She even tried to get the laundryman to mark her bills lower than they should have been so she could save on taxes. He refused, saying he might get into trouble. He never, she had put the idea into his head.

You could pad the bills, as well as lower them, couldn't you? He padded them, and nicked Tony for more than a grand.

Tony and a man by the name of "Jimmy", used to fix up the taxes for the girls. We never knew how many taxes we were paying or what they were for. Tony would say we owed this much or that much, and we would hand over the money.

I do know, though, that she booked all of us a lot lower on our taxes than we should have been booked.

And incidentally, our taxes ran in the upper brackets of three digits plus.

VICTIMS OF THEMERY

Now, here's a pertinent question for you, dear readers and taxpayers.

Are prostitutes entitled to police protection as much as you or anyone else?

Prostitutes are taxpayers—the heaviest.

I shall give you a few incidents to bring to light the severe discrimination against the prostitutes.

About one year ago, I had a $3,000 diamond watch stolen
from my home, along with $300 in cash. This was reported to the police. Nothing was ever done about it.

Again, my home was broken into, ransacked and several valuable pieces of jade were stolen. This also was a closed book. Nothing was ever done about it.

We are taxpayers, to repeat. It is a known fact that we pay some of the highest taxes in this town. Where, I ask you, are the beneficial results of our taxes?

Another example is the flood lights were stolen off my Lincoln Zephyr sedan. I reported that to the police, too, and they told me to forget about it. They said that I didn't need flood lights in Honolulu. I know of several other prostitutes whose homes were broken into, and there never was an investigation made. It shows that anything the prostitutes claimed stolen or missing, the police simply overlooked. They took the attitude that the girls always could get more, anyway. Two of the brothels also had their safes broken, and large sums of money stolen.

Honolulu has always proved a veritable gold mine for the prostitutes and the "Madames".
One Madame began operating her house of ill-fame a little over a year ago. Now she has over $100,000 in property at Waikiki and she also approximates about $100,000 in jewels. Not mentioning, of course, that she paid $60,000 for her house of ill-fame, she has done fairly well, hasn't she?

This paragraph may be a little off the record, but maybe it will be of help to someone in need of living quarters. War workers here are desperately in need of places to sleep. Has anyone ever thought of the hotel at 154 North Hotel St? There are at least 25 rooms there each well furnished.

The Madame who tried to open that place was very unfortunate. She opened while the Chief was on the mainland, without his approval to do so. When the Chief returned, he immediately closed her place. This place has now been vacant for the past two years. Why it hasn't been turned into a place for people to sleep, I do not know. Do you know why? The Vice Squad knows why. They can tell you the answer to that question—and to many others. But they will not.
Conclusion

In closing this story of my life, I waste no thoughts in regret for my misspent years. My thoughts are for the future. My ambitions are centered upon the future. My decision to write this article can be attributed to those public-spirited people whose persistence in uncovering the evils of prostitution have made me see my duty. Public officials, who are violating their sworn duties, and citizens who are getting rich off the flesh mines of this city, are weak and corrupt. They should be exposed.

The cold facts presented here are intended for the future welfare and interests of this city. This booklet should also prove a warning to the young girls of this community, should show them the folly of my experiences, as a result of which I am sadder and wiser today. I do not intend to preach. My only desire is to warn you that what happened to me could under similar circumstances happen to anyone.

Perhaps you think it odd for a former harlot to express such views, but I have quit the business. I am happier for it.

My only desire now is to live a useful family life, and help others to live, and let live, as one resurrected from the sordid flesh mines of humanity.
EPILOGUE

There is no use crying over spilt milk. As I have said on several occasions in this book, I do not lament for the years that have gone by. They are gone. I cannot bring them back. I have poured for myself a bitter petition, and indulged of it freely, and now the conventions of society are at work in an attempt to extract from me the last measure of the real stuff of life—self-pride.

You have broken others. You will not break me.

Indeed, there is something in my past years to rejoice over. In my younger years, when I dreamed of a doctor's career for myself, I studied spelling, words, writing, self-expression. I can now be grateful for that. That training of former years makes it possible this day for me to bare my tooth and strike back at the leatheseone beasts who preside over the gutters and sewers of Honolulu vice.

Throughout the United States, prostitution is illegal except in the state of Nevada, and all the pimps, grafters, lawyers, doctors, and politicians, who are picking the plums, know this. Every prostitute returning to respectable citizenship is a danger to the Honolulu vice racket, just as I am.

The time is now! I lead!
I hope that you liked this book, and that you approve its intent. I swear that every word of it is true.

I swear that before God.

But in the brief confines of this book, there has been room for only a part of the whole story. I have mentioned only a few of the names I wanted to mention. I have finished writing a sequel to this book. It will lay the rest of the criminal ring open like a crisp biscuit. Watch your newspapers and observe the frantic efforts that will be made to keep me from printing it.

But it will be on the streets as soon as the first suit is filed against me.