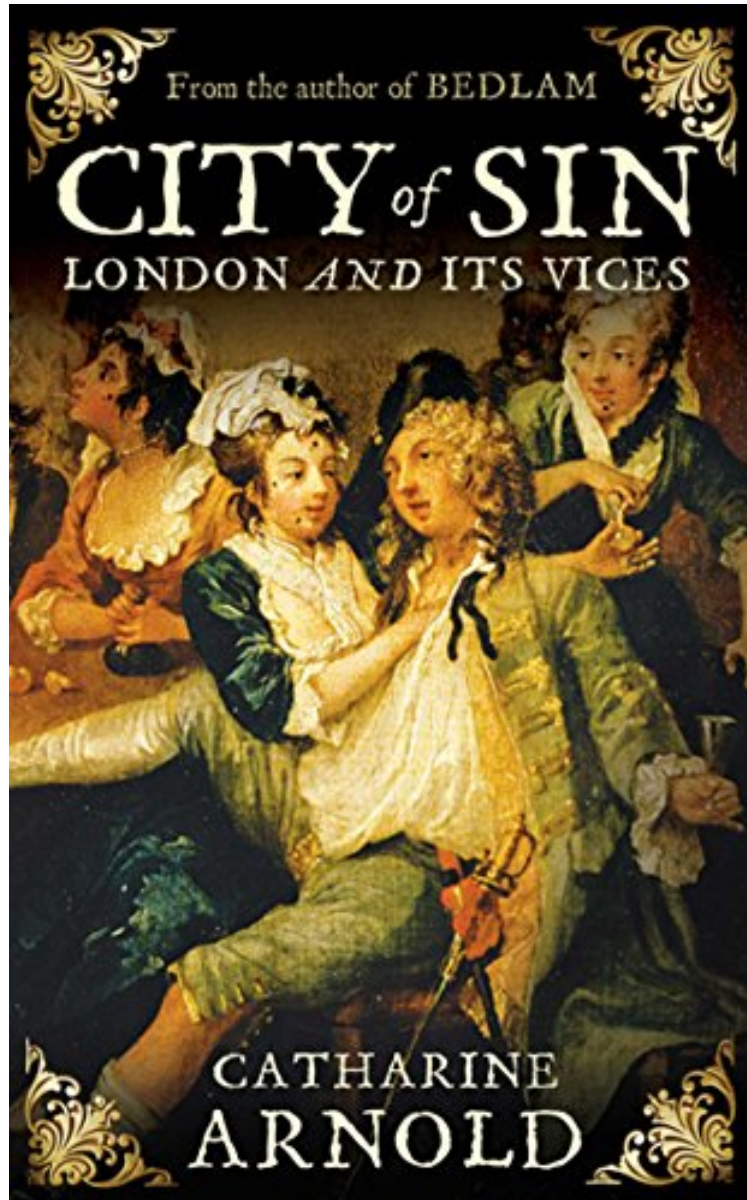


(Read free) City of Sin: London and its Vices (English Edition)

## City of Sin: London and its Vices (English Edition)

Von Catharine Arnold  
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**Von Catharine Arnold : City of Sin: London and its Vices (English Edition)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised City of Sin: London and its Vices (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A Ramble through Two Millennia of Sex in LondonVon Monika SimonCatherine Arnold set herself a daunting task when she set out to write the history of two thousand years of London and its vices. It is therefore no surprise that her

book is a happy ramble through the history of sex in all its variations in London from Roman times to the present day. It is an entertaining narration and includes reports, diaries, poetry and comments by participants as well as observers. Which is fair enough. However, I have to say that I think the author has an unfortunate habit to exaggerate and sensationalise her tale. Historical accuracy is, at least in parts, also not exactly her forte. The first two chapters, about antiquity and the middle ages, for which sources are rare, were particularly annoying as the author takes one example of misbehaviour and draws extravagant conclusions from it. (Let's take a case of illicit goings-on in a nunnery and extrapolate from that that all nunneries were in fact brothels). I almost gave up the book altogether when I came across a particularly spectacular screw-up of historical facts (Edward IV being turned into the son of Henry VI of all things) but I persevered and the book did improve in the later chapters. Probably due to the fact that much more material exists from this time. The author also seems to be more at home with the history of this. Nonetheless, after the first two chapters I could not take the book seriously any more. After due considerations, taking into account that it is an entertaining book and the fact that most readers are less demanding when it comes to historical accuracy than me, I decided to give *City of Sin* three stars.

**Kurzbeschreibung** If Paris is the city of love, then London is the city of lust. For over a thousand years, England's capital has been associated with desire, avarice and the sins of the flesh. Richard of Devises, a monk writing in 1180, warned that 'every quarter [of the city] abounds in great obscenities'. As early as the second century AD, London was notorious for its raucous festivities and disorderly houses, and throughout the centuries the bawdy side of life has taken easy root and flourished. In the third book of her fascinating London trilogy, award-winning popular historian Catharine Arnold turns her gaze to the city's relationship with vice through the ages. From the bath houses and brothels of Roman Londinium, to the stews and Molly houses of the 17th and 18th centuries, London has always traded in the currency of sex. Whether pornographic publishers on Fleet Street, or fancy courtesans parading in Haymarket, its streets have long been witness to colourful sexual behaviour. In her usual accessible and entertaining style, Arnold takes us on a journey through the fleshpots of London from earliest times to present day. Here are buxom strumpets, louche aristocrats, popinjay politicians and Victorian flagellants - all vying for their place in London's league of licentiousness. From sexual exuberance to moral panic, the city has seen the pendulum swing from Puritanism to hedonism and back again. With latter chapters looking at Victorian London and the sexual underground of the 20th century and beyond, this is a fascinating and vibrant chronicle of London at its most raw and ribald.

**Pressestimmen** Book of the Week: 'What is clear from reading Arnold's hugely entertaining sex tour of London is that the capital now is not some latter-day Sodom and Gomorrah, as moralists would have us believe, but a far more wholesome place than it has ever been in its history. ... Arnold ... is a delightful travelling companion through the centuries of the city of sin' Jeanette Winterson, *Times* 14/8 '...fascinating and colourful' ... a lively affirmation of sexual desire in all its varieties' *Observer* 15/8 'Cambridge graduate and local councillor Catharine Arnold recalls her past as a high-class West End escort in the 'golden age' of the 1980s' Interview, *Sunday Times News* 25/7 **CITY OF SIN** by Catharine Arnold 'Welcome to the world of rakes, pimps and the debauched aristocracy. *City of Sin* provides a romp through London's history at a cracking pace, covering every disreputable person we know, with most of the English kings and queens thrown in for good measure...The book covers all the essentials -- the Southwark stews, Ranelagh and Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens, Covent Garden brothels, as well as a quick peek inside Mother Clap's molly-house with its cavorting homosexuals. For a general reader this is a fun read...a great pick-me-up' *Waterstone's Books Quarterly* July issue '...there's plenty to get stuck into here. Arnold arranges her formidable research lucidly, showing us how abused sex slaves of the Roman era were supplanted by medieval and Tudor whores, Victorian streetwalkers and 20th-century call girls. She is good on the way legislators have sought haplessly to regulate sex, from Henry VIII's statue against buggery to the current Policing and Crime Act. All the usual sexual suspects -- Pepys, Wilde, DH Lawrence, Christine Keeler -- are given their due. But she's also alive to eye-catching incidental characters such as the medieval prostitute Clarice la Claterballock or the Victorian pornographer with the prophetic name Hankey. Amid familiar material about flogging and buggery inculcated at public schools, she also records the first documented case of auto-erotic asphyxiation; from 1791...The book's brevity stops it getting boring. And I suppose none of us can keep it up forever' *Evening Standard* 5/8 'It is the third in a trilogy of lively London histories by Catharine Arnold, the others being on death and madness. In each, she leads us briskly through her theme -- "vice" here translating mainly as "sex". To pack 2000 years of the stuff into less than 400 pages is a challenge, but Arnold achieves it admirably...We meet characters such as Victorian collector Henry Spencer Ashbee, who left 15,299 items of pornography to the British Museum and obliged that august institution to take them as a condition of also getting his valuable Cervantes editions, and the inventor Chace Pine, who designed an ingenious machine that could whip forty people at once. Arnold ends upliftingly, with Andrew Marvell's "Ode to his Coy Mistress". Marvell urges his love to live for present pleasure, rather than clinging to virtues destined to wither and rot in the grave. "Now let us sport us while we may," he says. It is a fitting epigraph for a story in which simple human libido and exuberance keep London's streets alive'

Independent 13/8 'She has gathered a wealth of artistic and literary references, some of which are reproduced as illustrations, adding to the impression that the reader has opened a cabinet of curiosities: often titillating, sometimes shocking, frequently entertaining...the book is a lively affirmation of sexual desire in all its varieties' New , Observer 15/8 '...richly detailed book...the characters who enliven the pages of this engaging survey of sex and the city would no doubt all have met with disapproval of Richard of Devizes but they do make entertaining reading' The Sunday Times 15/8 '...hugely entertaining...city of sin is full of useful bawdy information...Arnold is never judgemental, and is a delightful travelling companion through the centuries of the city of sin, pointing out the sites, and leaving us to understand the despair and the hypocrisy, as well as the pleasure, that inevitably seems to surround sex' Jeanette Winterson, The Times 14/8 'From Roman slave girls who arrived chained and shivering at the dockyards at Queenhithe to the exploits of call-girl Belle de Jour in the 21st Century, Catharine Arnold takes her readers on a galloping ride through two millennia of sinful exploits in London...With a keen eye for detail and unfrilly prose, Arnold brings alive the whole spectrum of sin in London, from eccentric Victorian cross-dressers to frivolous girls and joyous sex' Mail on Sunday 21/11 'From Roman slave girls who arrived chained and shivering at the dockyards at Queenhithe to the exploits of call-girl Belle de Jour in the 21st Century, Catharine Arnold takes her readers on a galloping ride through two millennia of sinful exploits in London...With a keen eye for detail and unfrilly prose, Arnold brings alive the whole spectrum of sin in London, from eccentric Victorian cross-dressers to frivolous girls and joyous sex' Mail on Sunday 21/11 'Is London sexy? Catharine's Arnold's sexual history of the capital begins when Southwark was the "Las Vegas of Londinium", but very soon we have exchanged the slave girls of Roman London for the medieval prostitutes of Gropecunt Lane, and then around 1500 the pox arrives and everyone has painful syphilitic buboes...' The Guardian 14/5 Kurzbeschreibung If Paris is the city of love, then London is the city of lust. For over a thousand years, England's capital has been associated with desire, avarice and the sins of the flesh. Richard of Devizes, a monk writing in 1180, warned that 'every quarter [of the city] abounds in great obscenities'. As early as the second century AD, London was notorious for its raucous festivities and disorderly houses, and throughout the centuries the bawdy side of life has taken easy root and flourished. In the third book of her fascinating London trilogy, award-winning popular historian Catharine Arnold turns her gaze to the city's relationship with vice through the ages. From the bath houses and brothels of Roman Londinium, to the stews and Molly houses of the 17th and 18th centuries, London has always traded in the currency of sex. Whether pornographic publishers on Fleet Street, or fancy courtesans parading in Haymarket, its streets have long been witness to colourful sexual behaviour. In her usual accessible and entertaining style, Arnold takes us on a journey through the fleshpots of London from earliest times to present day. Here are buxom strumpets, louche aristocrats, popinjay politicians and Victorian flagellants - all vying for their place in London's league of licentiousness. From sexual exuberance to moral panic, the city has seen the pendulum swing from Puritanism to hedonism and back again. With latter chapters looking at Victorian London and the sexual underground of the 20th century and beyond, this is a fascinating and vibrant chronicle of London at its most raw and ribald.