

A  
**GUIDE TO THE STRANGER,**  
OR  
POCKET COMPANION  
FOR  
**THE FANCY,**  
CONTAINING  
**A LIST OF THE GAY HOUSES**  
AND  
**LADIES OF PLEASURE**  
IN THE CITY OF BROTHERLY LOVE AND  
SISTERLY AFFECTION.

PHILADELPHIA: 1849

## TO THE WORLD.

In publishing this book the author most respectfully informs the public that he has, as near as possible, given a correct list and description of the greater portion of the *Houses of Ill-Fame* in Philadelphia. Some people may think that this is the most virtuous place under the sun, but let them look over these pages, and perhaps they may open their eyes in amazement at the amount of crime committed nightly in this City of Brotherly Love. Lately the authorities of the City of New York caused a census to be taken of the Gay Houses of that far-famed place, and found that over *twenty thousand* prostitutes existed in that city alone; and I have not the least doubt that as many more do things behind the curtain when they get a good chance; and I am positive there are ten thousand and upwards of those frail beings in this our moral town.

What an awful amount of crime and suffering does this fact exhibit, and how many hundred men, yes, I may say thousands, are weekly led into the snares employed by the wily courtezans. Various are the stratagems used by those unfortunate and frail creatures to effect their designs, and nightly are hundreds of

strangers, yes, and our gay city larks, who, in their estimation, know as much as will last them forever, deluded into houses of bad repute without being aware of the impending danger.

In order to warn the stranger and gay city bucks against the possibility of being involuntarily induced to visit a low pest house, the following list of such places is made out and laid before the public.

With this book in his hand a man will be enabled to shun those low dens of infamy and disease with which this city abounds, as a true and authentic description of the grade of each house is here briefly given.

To every man the author of this statistical warning says, avoid each and every place that is marked with a woeful X, as a single visit might be the cause of utter ruin and disgrace.

## STRANCERS' GUIDE.

Miss SARAH TURNER,

No. 2 WOOD STREET, ABOVE ELEVENTH.

This house is situated in one of the most respectable parts of the city; the landlady is a perfect Queen. At this house you will hear no disgusting language to annoy your ear; everything connected with this establishment is calculated to make a man happy. The young ladies are beautiful and accomplished; they will at any time amuse you with a fine tune on the piano, or use their melodious voices to drive dull care away. Stranger, do not neglect to pay a visit at this house before you leave our quiet city of sisterly affection. The ladies are Misses Josephine Philips, Isabella Stuart, Mary Jane Greer and Mary Stevens. These young, beautiful and enchanting creatures are all that man can desire. There is one thing certain—none but gentlemen visit this Paradise of Love.

Miss JOSEPHINE SOMERS,

No. 4 WOOD STREET, NEAR ELEVENTH STREET.

This is indeed a Temple of Venus, and we do most sincerely assure our readers that Miss Josephine is an accomplished lady. You can spend an evening here with great pleasure; the young ladies are all beautiful, accomplished and bewitching—they are Elizabeth Moore, Louisa Garrett, &c. Go one, go all, and you will be pleased.

## Miss MARY BLESSINGTON,

No. 3 WOOD STREET, ABOVE ELEVENTH.

This young and beautiful creature is as snug a lump of flesh and blood as ever man pressed to his bosom. She keeps a bed house of the first class.

## Miss EMMA JACOBS,

BRYAN'S COURT, CHERRY STREET, BET. 6TH AND 7TH.

This lady is the Queen of Trumps, tall and majestic, and noble in appearance. She is a lady in manners and conversation. She lives well, and her house is comfortable and safe. One glance will satisfy a person of that fact.

## Miss MARY FISHER,

No. 341 LOMBARD STREET, ABOVE TENTH.

This is a house of the very first class, many years established, and well known to be perfectly safe. Miss Mary is a lady in manners, and conducts herself with propriety. The ladies at this house—with one exception—are perfectly irresistible; a man will never rue a visit to this beautiful abode of pleasure.

## X—MADAM VINCENT,

No. — LOMBARD STREET, ABOVE TWELFTH.

This is a low house; be cautious when you visit this place, or you may rue it all your lifetime.

## Miss MARY SHAW,

CORNER OF OSBORNE'S COURT AND BLACKBERRY ALLEY.

A bed house, well furnished and neat. The landlady is one of the cleverest sort; she looks to the comfort of

her patrons. She is remarkable for her amiable disposition and kindness of heart.

## Mrs. CATHARINE LAPSLEY,

LOMBARD STREET, A FEW DOORS ABOVE EIGHTH.

This lady keeps a bed house of the first class. It is well furnished, neat and tidy, and we have no hesitation in recommending it as decidedly the most cosy, quiet and retired place in the city.

## Mrs. NELSON,

IN A COURT LEADING FROM PINE ST., ABOVE SIXTH.

This house is well patronised on account of its central position. The landlady has everything very comfortable for the accommodation of married ladies, sly misses and their lovers.

## Mrs. RACHEL JACKSON,

No. 19 SCHRIVER'S COURT, EIGHTH ABOVE ARCH ST.

This bed house has the reputation of being A No. 1, in point of cleanliness, quietness and privacy. Great resort for married ladies.

## X—Mrs. HAMILTON.

No. 152 LOCUST ST., BETWEEN TENTH AND ELEVENTH.

This woman has been long enough at the accommodation of single gentlemen and their wives, that she has grown bald and toothless in the service. Beware of this house, stranger, as you would the sting of a viper.

## Mrs. RODGERS,

No. 122 TWELFTH STREET, NEAR PINE.

A very respectable house of assignation. This lady has a few boarders; it is a good house—perfectly safe.

**CATHARINE RUTH ALIAS INDIAN KATE.**

117 TWELFTH STREET, NEAR PINE.

This house may be tolerated, still you can find better; however, we do not think there is any danger. Be careful.

**MARY YEAGER,**

No. 307 PINE STREET.

This is a very fair house; Miss Mary is lady-like in her manners, and conducts her house well. Her boarders are all first rate, and understand their business perfectly. This will rank as a first class house.

**Mrs. DAVIS,**

No. 4 BLACKBERRY ALLEY, NOW DUPONCEAU STREET.

The lady who keeps this temple of pleasure is talented, accomplished, motherly, affectionate, and will do all in her power to add to the comfort of her friends and visitors. She has but few boarders, all young, beautiful, volatile and gay. This is a very private place, visited by none but gentlemen of rank, education and good conduct. It is one of the most respectable concerns in the city; every thing quiet about the establishment. You will find few houses like it. None better. This lady also keeps a house of assignation at No. 8 in this Street, conducted in a proper manner.

**MARY BAKER,**

No. 43 CURRANT ALLEY.

This is a very good house, and free from danger. The young ladies are all gay and beautiful.

Mrs. JONES, No. 1 Pearl Street, above 11th.

Mrs. THOMPSON, No. 2 Pearl St. above 11th.

Miss ———, No. 3 Pearl St., above 11th.

The above houses are all good and safe second class houses. The boarders are nice girls.

**X—MARY SPICER,**

No. 387 RACE STREET, ABOVE ELEVENTH.

This woman has been well known for years as a keeper of a house of ill-fame. The house is well furnished and the girls dress well, but the stranger and way-faring man must not be deceived by appearances. Remember the whitened sepulchre, and keep aloof.

**Mrs. GARDNER,**

No. 1 MAPLE ST., BETWEEN 8TH &amp; 9TH &amp; RACE &amp; VINE.

This is an assignation house of the first class and perfectly safe. The landlady is pretty and perfectly obliging.

**KATE HOWARD,**

No. 8 JUNIPER STREET.

Kate is a lady in manners and understands business well. This is a first class house; the young ladies are all fresh from the country and perfectly safe.

**AMANDA KING,**

No. 5 JUNIPER STREET.

Two sisters occupy this house; it will rank as number three.

**Miss COPE,**

No. 4 JUNIPER STREET.

A bed house, respectable and safe.

**MARTHA MILLS,**

No. 3 WILEY'S COURT.

An assignation house, very private and respectable.

**SAL BOYER, ALIAS DUTCH SAL.**

This is the lowest house in the city—a perfect loafer hole—no gentleman ever visits this Sodom; it is worse than hell itself. Avoid this den, as it is a panel house of the worst description. This woman, it is said, has had connection with the lowest negro, for the small remuneration of potatoes and flour to support her boarders! Is this not enough to deter men from visiting this awful pest house?

**Miss DAVIS,**

No. 2 DIAMOND STREET.

A bed house of the first class—visited by none but gentlemen.

**MARY SMITH,**

LOMBARD STREET, ABOVE TENTH.

This woman has the reputation of being the mistress of a very good house.

**Mrs. O'NIEL,**

PINE STREET, NEAR TWELFTH STREET.

This lady is the mistress of an elegant house. There are none better. At one time she was a splendid woman, and in point of accomplishments and education she was indeed a Queen. Though somewhat advanced in years, she still manages to make her Palace of Love attractive, and the resort of the best men in the community.

**LIZ HEWETT,**

PINE STREET, NEAR TWELFTH.

This is a tolerable second rate house.

**My PRETTY JANE, CORNER OF PINE & QUINCE ST.**

The landlady of this house is a well disposed woman, but her ideas are not elevated enough, consequently her shanty is the resort of very common people.

**HAL WOODS, BLACKBERRY ALLEY.**

This house is tolerably fair.

**SUSAN WELLS, BLACKBERRY ALLEY.**

This is a house, quiet and comfortable.

**CRIS BROWN, No. 1 ACORN ALLEY.**

This house is good enough for those who don't desire any better.

**ANN CARSON, BLACKBERRY ALLEY, ABOVE SPRUCE.**

This is a genteel loafer crib, not frequented by those having pretensions to respectability.

**ISABELLA McDANIELS, No. 3 BLACKBERRY ALLEY.**

This is reckoned one of the best assignation houses in the city.

**THERESE OWENS,**

OSBORNE'S COURT, ABOVE BLACKBERRY ALLEY.

This is a clever sort of a woman, though it is not generally known. She keeps a second class house.

**ELIZABETH JONES, No. 11 ACORN ALLEY.**

This is a resort of a good many nobodies of a suspicious order.

LOUISA WATSON, No. 6 BLACKBERRY ALLEY.

This house is admirably conducted by a very amiable lady.

Miss JONES, No. 315 PINE STREET.

Those who have visited this house speak very highly of its internal arrangements.

Mrs. TRAVERS, PLEASANT AVENUE.

We have no information relative to this house. Let the stranger be cautious.

MARY CHARLTON, GREEN'S COURT, ABOVE PINE.

This is a well furnished assignation house, but the mistress of it is a fiend in human shape.

Mrs. HUBBARD, No. 23 DRINKER'S ALLEY.

This is a third rate house, and third rate people go there. Let the wayfaring man keep his top eye open when he enters this brothel.

MARY ASH, PINE ALLEY, NEAR FOURTH STREET.

This house is neatly furnished, and the girls conduct themselves properly.

Mrs. PARIS, QUEEN STREET, BELOW SIXTH.

This is a first class house; nicely furnished, and conducted well. The girls are all pretty and ladylike in manners.

X—SARAH ROSS,

PASSYUNK ROAD, BELOW GERMAN.

This is one of the worst conducted houses in the city. The girls, though few in number, are ugly, vulgar and drunken. We would not advise any body of common sense to stay there.

Miss —, DUGAN ST., BETWEEN SPRUCE AND PINE.

This house is one of the best conducted in the western part of the city.

Miss CARWILL, MORGAN ST., BETWEEN 9TH & 10TH.

The girls in this house are very pretty, and sell their favours very dearly.

In Maple Street, between Eighth and Ninth, there are a few assignation houses of doubtful reputation.

In Willow Street, near Front, and in alleys leading therefrom, houses of mean repute are numerous.

In Pleasant Street, Spring Garden, there are a few houses of the commonest kind.

In South Street, above Eighth, there is a brothel occupied by a swarm of yellow girls, who promenaded up and down Chesnut Street every evening, with their faces well powdered, and strange to say, they meet with more custom than their fairer skinned rivals in the trade of prostitution. There is no accounting for taste, however, and we have no objection to a white man hugging a negro wench to his bosom, providing his stomach is strong enough to relish the infliction.

Pine alley, below Fourth, there are numerous brothels of the lowest order, the names of the inmates we have in our possession, but as they would only occupy space for no good purpose, we shall not mention them. Shippen Street, below Fourth, and Plum Street above and below Fourth, and Ball alley, all contain houses of prostitution of the lowest grade, the resort of pickpockets and thieves of every description. The stranger is earnestly admonished not to go there.

We have brought our book to a close, and have done our duty to the public in giving a true and correct description of all the principal houses of pleasure in the city, with the exception of some places of abominable notoriety, which we neither examined or will attempt a description of. So long as gay houses are tolerated, (and that must be *ad finem temporis*), so long a Guide Book will be indispensable, and must be useful to point out to the stranger and the green one those places that may be visited with safety, and to avoid those horrible dens where he will surely be bled and burnt.