

# THE PETTICOAT PARADE

by LEIGH STRAW

## ABOUT THE BOOK

Josie de Bray, aka Madam Monnier, aka Marie Louise Monnier, was a brothel madam who owned most of Roe Street, Perth from WWI up to the 1940s. A returned soldier tried to shoot her dead in her brothel in 1917 and her 'bungalow' was at the centre of underworld violence in the 1920s. She returned to France before WWII to visit family and was bombed repeatedly out of homes there and captured by the Germans. She was a prisoner of war and one story has her in a concentration camp. She survived, returned to Perth in 1947 and took up business again in Roe Street, having made a fortune from the rent collected from her brothels while she was a prisoner of war.

Josie is just one of the many women featured in the latest book from award-winning author Leigh Straw. This immensely readable social history uses the life of Josie de Bray as conduit into the lives of her friends and competitors – the many of the women who paraded in their petticoats on the verandas of Roe Street, who were kept from the public view, and who were secret keepers by trade and inclination

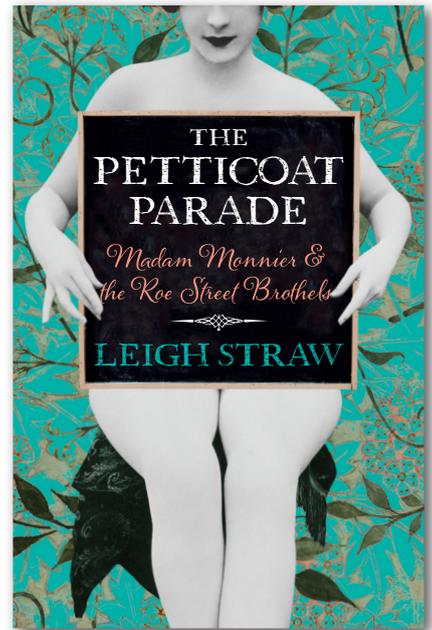
## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Leigh Straw is an academic, historian and writer. She is the author of true crime biographies of Australian crime figures Kate Leigh and Dulcie Markham, and Australia's first female detective, Lillian Armfield. Leigh was the joint winner of the 2018 Margaret Medcalf Award for her book *After the War: The Mental and Physical Scars of World War 1*. Leigh is Senior Lecturer in History at The University of Notre Dame Australia.



## NOTES

- This lively account looks at the relationship between law enforcement, whose policy it was to tolerate brothel running, and the brothel-keepers, prostitutes and madams, as well as visits the courtroom on multiple occasions when the law was stretched a bit too far, or an unruly client caused trouble.



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**CONTACT: Claire Miller**  
MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS  
MANAGER

**M** +61 (0)419 837 841  
**T** +61 (0)8 9430 6331  
**F** +61 (0)8 9430 5242  
**E** [cmiller@fremantlepress.com.au](mailto:cmiller@fremantlepress.com.au)  
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