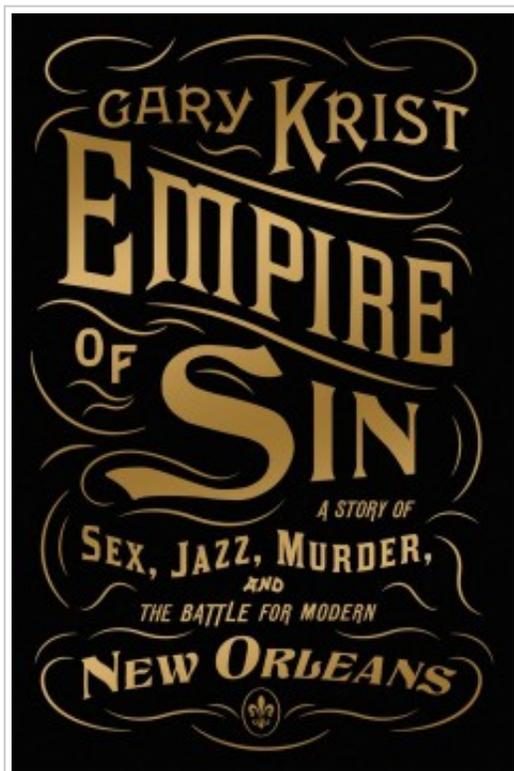


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## Empire of Sin

by Gary Krist

**Price: \$26.00**(Hardcover)

Published: October 28, 2014

Rating: 0.0/5 (0 votes cast)

**From the Publisher: From bestselling author Gary Krist, a vibrant and immersive account of New Orleans' other civil war, at a time when commercialized vice, jazz culture, and endemic crime defined the battlegrounds of the Crescent City**

Empire of Sin re-creates the remarkable story of New Orleans' thirty-years war against itself, pitting the city's elite "better half" against its powerful and long-entrenched underworld of vice, perversity, and crime. This early-20th-century battle centers on one man: Tom Anderson, the undisputed czar of the city's Storyville vice district, who fights desperately to keep his empire intact as it faces onslaughts from all sides. Surrounding him are the stories of flamboyant prostitutes, crusading moral reformers, dissolute jazzmen, ruthless Mafiosi, venal politicians, and one...

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## What We Say

This history of New Orleans -- or more specifically of Storyville, the sin-filled epicenter of that city -- begins like a crime novel. A horrific ax murder rekindles memories of a rampaging assassin many years ago. Author Gary Krist deftly jumps back in time and uses these bursts of violence to tell his real story. That tale is the battle of New Orleans over its soul. It began when the city was overrun with prostitution and gambling and sin of every nature. The prim and proper worked with the politicians who weren't in on the take to isolate this depravity into an area that was soon dubbed Storyville. And that's when the real fun began. For decades, the semi-legal status of vice in that neighborhood allowed it to flourish and the brothels and gambling dens of New Orleans became infamous the world over. And black Storyville helped launch jazz into the world, offering another panoply of characters of the musical kid, climaxing with Louis Armstrong. Krist covers it all in vivid form, from madams who vow to give it all up (after they make one last pile of cash) to the "mayor" of Storyville who held it all together in his strong but genial grip, Tom Anderson. Gang wars, petty jealousies, political machinations and lots of liquor and guns give this narrative a real kick. And Krist brings it all back to those terrible crimes with panache. Of course, New Orleans then stamped out vice for good (or as much as one can stamp out human nature), only to turn around and realize its unsavory reputation was good for tourism and embrace it all over again. This highly entertaining work shows where that good/bad name began. -- Michael Giltz

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## What Others Say

### Praise for Empire of Sin

**Washington Post's Top 10 Best Books of 2014**

**Seattle Times Best Books of 2014**

**Library Journal's Top 10 Best Books of 2014**

"[A] well-reported and colorful tale of jazz, sex, crime, and corruption. I can attest, as a native of New Orleans, that in Empire of Sin [Krist] has captured the flavors and class nuances of the town. And his interwoven storylines, intentional or not, evoke a piece of jazz."

—Walter Isaacson, New York Times Book Review

"[G]rand in scope and scale...an absorbing history with a body count...Politics, vice and culture are inextricable elements of the whole, and he covers them all with equal skill and devotion... Mr. Krist can turn a phrase with the best. He also allows his characters and sources plenty of opportunity to speak, with the result a delightful conversation. The remainder of Storyville's tale...provides ample fodder for Mr. Krist's talent as a storyteller and strength as a researcher. He has written the authoritative account of a raucous American experiment."

—Wall Street Journal

"Empire of Sin had me at the subtitle—who could resist..."

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