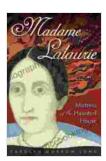
# Madame Lalaurie: Mistress of the Haunted House

Madame Marie Delphine Lalaurie was a wealthy New Orleans socialite who lived in a grand mansion on Royal Street. She was known for her beauty, her wealth, and her cruelty. Lalaurie owned hundreds of slaves, and she subjected them to unspeakable horrors. She whipped them, branded them, and even locked them in cages. Some of her slaves died from her abuse, and others were left with permanent injuries.



#### Madame Lalaurie, Mistress of the Haunted House

Screen Reader



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In 1834, Lalaurie's house was raided by the police. The officers found evidence of her crimes, and they arrested her. Lalaurie was charged with murder, but she was never convicted. She fled to France, where she lived out the rest of her life.

Lalaurie's mansion is still standing today, and it is said to be haunted by her ghost. Visitors to the house have reported seeing strange lights, hearing

disembodied voices, and feeling cold spots. Some people believe that Lalaurie's ghost is still seeking revenge for the crimes she committed.

### The Crimes of Madame Lalaurie

Lalaurie's crimes against her slaves were horrific. She whipped them with leather straps until their backs were bloody. She branded them with hot irons. She locked them in cages for days at a time. She starved them, beat them, and humiliated them.

One of Lalaurie's favorite punishments was to hang her slaves upside down from the rafters of her mansion. She would then beat them with a whip until they passed out. Some of her slaves died from this torture, and others were left with permanent injuries.

Lalaurie also enjoyed torturing her slaves with fire. She would hold candles to their skin until they burned. She would force them to walk on hot coals. She even set one of her slaves on fire.

Lalaurie's crimes were so heinous that even her own family members were disgusted by her. Her husband divorced her, and her children disowned her.

## The Raid on Lalaurie's Mansion

In 1834, a fire broke out in Lalaurie's mansion. The fire department was called to put out the fire, and when the firefighters entered the house, they found evidence of Lalaurie's crimes.

The firefighters found slaves who had been whipped, branded, and locked in cages. They also found the body of a slave who had been set on fire.

The police were called to the scene, and they arrested Lalaurie. She was charged with murder, but she was never convicted. She fled to France, where she lived out the rest of her life.

## The Haunting of Lalaurie's Mansion

Lalaurie's mansion is still standing today, and it is said to be haunted by her ghost. Visitors to the house have reported seeing strange lights, hearing disembodied voices, and feeling cold spots. Some people believe that Lalaurie's ghost is still seeking revenge for the crimes she committed.

One of the most common stories about the haunting of Lalaurie's mansion is that of a young girl who was found wandering the streets of New Orleans. The girl was dressed in rags, and she was covered in bruises and cuts. She told the police that she had been held captive in Lalaurie's mansion, and that Lalaurie had tortured her.

The police investigated the girl's claims, but they were never able to find any evidence to support her story. However, many people believe that the girl was telling the truth, and that she was one of many victims of Lalaurie's cruelty.

The haunting of Lalaurie's mansion is a reminder of the horrors that took place in New Orleans during the era of slavery. It is a reminder of the cruelty and inhumanity that can exist in the human heart.

#### Madame Lalaurie, Mistress of the Haunted House

by Carolyn Morrow Long

****	4.3 out of 5
Language	: English
File size	: 7371 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled



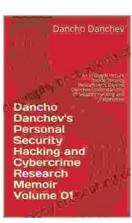
Enhanced typesetting	:	Enabled
Word Wise	;	Enabled
Print length	;	353 pages
Screen Reader	;	Supported





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