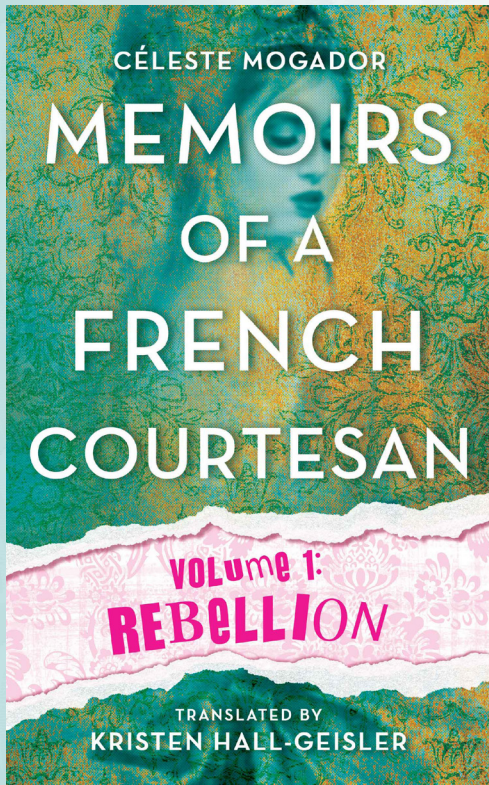




MEMOIRS OF A FRENCH COURTESAN

— Volume 1: **REBELLION** —



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Céleste Mogador

Translated by Kristen Hall-Geisler

"When I wrote these memoirs in 1852, I was ignorant of the future awaiting me; who could have known? It was not my willful brazenness that dictated I write these memoirs; it was not for provocation or moral outrage, as some of those who were quick to take offense said. Before you sentence the guilty, at least listen through to the end of the story."

So begins the memoirs of Céleste Mogador. The four volumes of the infamous courtesan and Hippodrome performer, *Mémoires de Célèste Mogador*, were published to scandalous acclaim in Paris in 1858. At the urging of her lawyer, Mogador wrote about her troubled childhood, her ascent to the heights of the glamorous Parisian courtesan society, her transition to respectable life, and falling in love with a nobleman.

In this new English translation, *Memoirs of a French Courtesan Volume 1: Rebellion* introduces the young Céleste. In her first sixteen years, she has plenty to rebel against: an abusive stepfather, her mother's groping new boyfriend, her jailers, her first madame, and her first client. Not to mention the actual rebellion that engulfed the streets of Lyon in flames when she was a child.

Mogador lays out her childhood and her choices—or lack of them—in this first volume of her memoirs, setting the stage for the glittering life to come.

TRANSLATOR BIO:

Kristen Hall-Geisler is author of the novel *Skull and Sidecar* and translator of *Voyage Around My Room* by Xavier de Maistre. Her work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *US News & World Report*, and others. She's currently pursuing a masters in English at Harvard University. *Memoir of a French Courtesan Volume 1: Rebellion* is her fifth book.

