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Hollywood Window To The Stars, Volume 1: A Critical Look At 50 Hollywood Legends



Synopsis

Hollywood Window to the Stars Vol 1 takes a critical, no holds barred look at 50 legends of the movies, from Garbo to Depp, and re-examines them in light of the veritable mountain of new information available today. These are not detailed biographies as such, but envelopes of trivia, scandal, viewpoints, accomplishments, failings, character flaws etc. each one liberally sprinkled with quotes by and about the individuals examined. You will find your idols (in most cases) were far from perfect.

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Customer Reviews

If you're looking for some light, trashy reading, National Inquirer-style, here it is. Sure, many of these short, salacious biographies are sprinkled with undeniable facts, but many of the biographies' accusations and pot-shots are mined from one-source materials or from wholly incredible sources. You want evidence???? I'll expose two items because the book isn't worthy of more time: In the chapter covering John Barrymore, the author recounts Errol Flynn's absurd and often repeated tale of Raoul Walsh, Bev Allen & Charles Miller positioning Barrymore's corpse inside Flynn's home

as a joke. The author neglects to mention that actor Paul Henreid claimed in his 1984 biography that it was Peter Lorre who engineered the rude joke. Both accounts in Flynn's and Henreid's memoirs are detailed, "first hand" accounts. One is a lie; it's likely both are. In the chapter concerning Greta Garbo, the author covers her childhood indoctrination into sex. The story he tells can only be found in Antoni Gronowicz's biography "Garbo--Her Story." Gronowicz has been virtually universally villified for the book's shoddy contents and his lack of journalistic skills and ethics. The book was released to capitalize on Garbo's recent death. I bought the book because the sample included an interesting portion of Julie Andrews biography. After I bought it, it was all downhill into sleezeville from there.

I love films and admire the artists who create them. I also respect the separation between an artist's work and personal life. Unfortunately, there exists an industry devoted to blurring the line between these two. I do not like that industry and I do not like this book. Those who like sifting through the dirt of celebrity life may like this book. Those who enjoy wading through the mud of the amorous details of these lives may love this book. And anyone with a craving for a personal acquaintance with the homosexual behavior of celebrities must read this book - as I suspect you share an obsession with author Alan Royle. Mr. Royle's repeated claims of indifference regarding these details are only exceeded by his numerous yarns chronicling them. To be fair, I could only read about one half of this book - leaving me in the middle of the alphabet. Yes, the book is organized alphabetically by celebrity last name. When Mr. Royle resolved to document these personal details one might have thought he would have considered a chronological format. At a minimum it would have allowed some of the multiple partner portrayals to be grouped in his account. However, I am grateful that he didn't decide to organize them by degrees of separation or ardent act.

It's as if the writer threw together a lot of information found in books or online. He claims pretty much everyone in Hollywood is either bisexual or gay. I thought it would be a more in-depth not just a list of sexual conquests.

I wasn't impressed. It seemed to just tell whom slept with whom and how many abortions this star or that star had during their lifetime. It wasn't something I wanted to read but I kept expecting it to get better, but it didn't.

Kind of a weird book. It skipped from decade to decade and was all over the place and I'm not sure

if there is any proof to back up the claims in the book. According to the author, practically every actress was a lesbian and every actor was gay and the ones who were not were jumping into bed with anybody and everybody!

If half of what this book says is true, then Hollywood is even stranger and more debased than we can imagine. The author really give us the lowdown on the biggest names in Hollywood. I can't imagine how anyone could know such details but it certainly doesn't paint. Pretty picture of our heroes. People like John Wayne and Jimmy Steward hold up but Charlie Chaplan? Geeze. If he weren't rich and talented he would have been arrested. And some of the women were so highly sexed that even the men couldn't compete. While a fun read, the author changed subjects so fast sometimes that I ended up not remembering who I was reading about. Not recommended for anyone under 18. Also, a cautionary tale for any parent wanting to get their child into the movies.

I would give five stars if this was a good piece of literature, but it's not. However, it was just as satisfying. At least to me. It was like one of those supermarket tabloids at the checkout, but I didn't need to suffer neck strain trying to read it without hands. It was good!

I knew the Hollywood of yesteryear was degenerated. But I never imagined that the celebrities I loved were completely void of decency. I never suspected that a male club of homosexuals existed with Errol Flynn at the helm. The author of this book really did his homework in finding out all debauchery that took place behind closed doors. I will never look at Loretta young, Grace Kelly, Joan Crawford and Nancy Reagan the same again. Amazing book....a must read for fans of classic movies.

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