

[PDF] Ava Gardner: The Secret Conversations

Peter Evans, Ava Gardner - pdf download free book



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Description:

From **Starred Review** In 1988, only two years before her death, legendary actress Ava Gardner, then living in semiseclusion in London and running low on money, asked the late Evans to ghostwrite her autobiography: "I either write the book or sell the jewels, and I'm kinda sentimental about the jewels." Gardner didn't want to do a sugarcoated memoir, preferring to tell it straight, the real story of the marriages to Mickey Rooney, Artie Shaw, and Frank Sinatra, the multiple affairs (with Howard Hughes, among many others), the hardscrabble childhood in North Carolina tobacco country. But as the two met and Gardner began speaking of her life, it became clear to Evans that the actress was more reticent about telling it straight than she pretended to be. The conversations

were uninhibited, to be sure, but Gardner balked at the finished chapters (“I sound too fucking vulgar”), leading ultimately to the project being abandoned. Shortly before his own death in 2012, Evans wrote this memoir of a memoir-in-progress, transcribing Gardner’s recollections and providing connective passages setting the scenes. What emerges doesn’t cover the sweep of the movie icon’s remarkable life as fully as Lee Server’s *Ava Gardner* (2006), but it does capture Gardner’s indelible voice—vulgar, yes, but humanly so as well as unfailingly witty and movingly melancholic. Finally, 25 years after the fact, we have at least a facsimile of the unbuttoned version Gardner claimed she wanted to tell. Movie buffs will be as transfixed by the actress’ own words as they have always been by her drop-dead beauty on the screen. --Bill Ott

Review “[Makes] you feel as if you're eavesdropping. . . . Watching this Venus ply her mind games, sensuality and stubborn will on [her coauthor, Peter] Evans, it's easy to imagine what it was like to be a love object jerked on her marionette strings in her prime. You wouldn't have a chance.”
(Maureen Dowd *The New York Times Book Review*)

“I read *Ava Gardner: The Secret Conversations* in a delirious gulp. It is absolutely terrific. I couldn’t put it down. Gardner comes across as a flamboyant but tragic figure who always spoke the truth no matter how painful. And the way writer Peter Evans has shaped their conversations is truly remarkable.”

(Patricia Bosworth, author of *Jane Fonda: The Private Life of a Public Woman*)

“Jaw-dropping anecdotes about film legends and the studio system in its heyday make this an irresistible read. . . . Even seasoned fans will learn fresh tidbits about ex-husbands Mickey Rooney, Artie Shaw, and Frank Sinatra, as well as her tumultuous relationships with Howard Hughes and George C. Scott. . . . Gardner is funny and frank, and Evans's diligence makes the book not only one of the more revealing celebrity autobiographies published recently, but a candid glimpse into the world of a ghostwriter, star handler, and late-night confidante.”

(*Publishers Weekly* (starred review))

“An unvarnished account of [Gardner’s] marriages and affairs in golden-age Hollywood. . . . Give[s] a vivid sense of Gardner’s salty, no-BS personality. . . . Juicy.”

(*Kirkus Reviews*)

“A complete delight. . . . [Gardner's] quotes exude the musk of a woman supremely indifferent to the social proprieties and expectations of her era. . . . Hers is the heartbreaking memoir of the ultimate heartbreaker.”

(Carrie Rickey *Philadelphia Inquirer*)

“As a siren, [Gardner] held her own with [Marilyn] Monroe. And to judge by *Ava Gardner: The Secret Conversations*, Gardner was a more interesting woman. . . . A little jewel of a book.”

(Harry Levins *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*)

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