

Fallen Angels: The Lives and Untimely Deaths of Fourteen Hollywood Beauties

Kirk Crivello

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#1455234 in Books Citadel Pr 1988-11 Ingredients: Example Ingredients Original language: English PDF # 1
9.50 x 6.50 x 1.251, #File Name: 080651096X282 pages | File size: 29.Mb

Kirk Crivello : Fallen Angels: The Lives and Untimely Deaths of Fourteen Hollywood Beauties before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Fallen Angels: The Lives and Untimely Deaths of Fourteen Hollywood Beauties*:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Engulfed by the Hollywood Myth By Diane Byrnes Many years ago I read a very interesting article on Peggy Shannon by Kirk Crivello and I must admit when I saw he had written this book and the name of Peggy Shannon appeared in the "blurbs", I bought it - wanting to know more about "that red headed girl". I was disappointed - she was restricted to a paragraph in the last chapter entitled "Shattered Dreams". Saying that, I thought it was a well written and well researched homage to some beautiful actresses who were all over come by the pressures of fame. A few observations - I would have preferred a chapter on Peggy Shannon, Thelma Todd or even Bella Darvi than Inger Stevens, who was troubled but certainly her only memorable career highlight was the TV show - "The Farmer's Daughter". Natalie Wood's death also was just a tragic accident and didn't seem to be the result of not being able to handle fame. The actresses I felt were the most tragic and sad were Gail Russell and Susan Peters. Russell should never have become an actress, she was working toward a career as a commercial artist when a Paramount executive saw a photo of her (she was still at high school) and she was whisked into a movie career. She got rave reviews from the start but her shy and demure nature got in the way and she found she could only face the cameras or an audience with the help of a drink or two or three. Susan Peters - I was actually crying when reading her chapter, she

was so beautiful inside and out. A real out doorsy girl who, you just knew would have been a big star, she had already been nominated for a Best Supporting Actress Oscar for "Random Harvest". She was involved in a hunting accident and at the end she just gave up on life. I usually don't like books which dwell on the downside and sadness of tinsel town but this book was a beautiful tribute to some actresses who were engulfed by the Hollywood myth. 21 of 22 people found the following review helpful. Very sad aura around the book. By Donna Di Giacomo. Considering the topic, it's no wonder you'll come away from this book feeling sad and a bit depressed at the amount of young lives that were cut short, either by their own hand or someone else's (and this isn't even touching the surface! Goodness knows how many lives come apart or end in Hollywood every single day because of broken dreams or the fact that some people are cut out to be the movie equivalent of one hit wonders and they just can't deal with it). Much has been said about Hollywood over the years, and many pop singers and groups have made references to such in their songs, but it really doesn't hit home until you've read at least one account of just how sad, confused, and chaotic Hollywood life can be. Crivello wrote much on Marilyn Monroe (who already had a library written about her when this book was published in 1988) but he also focused a lot of attention on other well-known actresses whose end came much too soon. He focused on Barbara Payton, who, in my opinion, had to have had the saddest life of all the women in this book. Here was a woman who made a strong impression in 1950 opposite James Cagney in "Kiss Tomorrow Goodbye" and, instead of being given bigger and/or better roles, she was given a secondary role in "Dallas" later that year. In time, her personal life, not her acting, became the focus of attention and that eventually led to studio executives shunning her because of who she dated and her own personal downfall because her professional life suffered because of it. My personal favorite of this book is, of course, Sharon Tate. I'm always hungry to know more about her (since the focus has been on the wrong "people" all these years) and this was probably one of the only in-depth articles about her up until 1988. It wouldn't be until 12 years later when Greg King's book, "Sharon Tate and The Manson Murders," would hit bookshelves that a true book would be written about her life. It has been heartbreaking over the years to hear about how not only her professional life was cut short but, more importantly, how her dream of motherhood was stolen from her. But one can't grasp the depth of that loss until you read what Crivello dug up in the mid-to-late 1980's (this before the advent of the Internet and ubiquitous use of computers). Sharon was so beautiful that agents didn't know what to do with her until she met Marty Ransohoff, who decided not to groom her for TV but for motion pictures. In the short years of her movie career, she was given either minor parts or parts in movies that tanked (she even told her roommate Sheila Wells to not bother to see her movies). I've always been struck by Sharon's sweetness in the few mentions I've read about her and it was refreshing to see that Hollywood, as well as her beauty, didn't go to her head. I really wish she had a little bit more time to see what she would have done with her acting career. Another case that tugged at me was Inger Stevens, star of the 1960's comedy, "The Farmer's Daughter." A touch of irony here is that because she was so embarrassed to be a foreigner when she came to the US at 13 years old, and the fact that her college professor father didn't want their native tongue spoken in the house, she lost her Swedish accent (which she would need for her future role). She misconstrued casual encounters as the great loves of her life. Those affairs affected her so deeply that she tried to commit suicide on January 1, 1960. She was found three days later by a building janitor who was asked to break into her apartment at the request of an executive from NBC who was concerned that he hadn't from her in a few days. Miraculously, she survived (she suffered lifelong physical damage, such as blurred vision in one eye). Because of her success on "The Farmer's Daughter," she was able to save and invest her money (which she did wisely). She gave generously of her time to charity but it just wasn't enough to beat the feelings of depression and loneliness she suffered throughout her life. The end of the book is composed of one paragraph summations of starlets whose lives ended, for the most part, by swallowing whole bottles of sleeping pills or swallowing barbiturates (these two methods of suicide seem to be wide-used by former actors and actresses). Crivello drives home the point that the "Hollywood machine" is very successful in magnifying a person's insecurities. Even when someone had a successful role, their acting career looked bright, and they were able to live comfortably because of their hard work, it still couldn't beat out depression and other negative feelings. Money and fame just cannot buy happiness and emotional security, no matter how long or hard you try. This is definitely worth the read but, be forewarned, you'll come away from this book with a heavy feeling at the amount of young lives that were cut short by the Hollywood machine. Now if we can only see the male side of the story. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great book, smooth transaction, a fantastic experience. By DEZI bought this book as a Christmas gift and it was a great experience. I did the local pick-up and it worked out very well. The book was in very good shape, and my sister loved it. I would definitely buy from this buyer again. I would highly recommend this buyer. Thanks!

Book by Crivello, Kirk