

(Download) I Love the Illusion

I Love the Illusion

Charles Tranberg

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Charles Tranberg : I Love the Illusion before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised I Love the Illusion:

15 of 16 people found the following review helpful. A Good Biography of an Elusive SubjectBy M. SchwinnWhat makes this book a standout are the extensive quotes included from people who knew Miss Moorehead well and for a lengthy period. Mr. Tranberg even managed to find a friend of her mother, who contributed some charming memories about Miss Moorehead's parents. Photographs are plentiful, and most I had never seen before. The number of sources is impressive, and the book is well organized, seamlessly interweaving biographical details with an assessment of her

work. The editorial errors were jarring but not a major detraction. Here and elsewhere I've read that Agnes Moorehead tried hard to keep her private life private. Previous treatments of Miss Moorehead have either dealt with her career almost exclusively ("Good Dames" and Lynn Kear's excellent chronicle of her work) or else have focused on select aspects of her personal life ("Agnes Moorehead: A Very Private Person" and "Hollywood Lesbians"). If the portrait still seems incomplete, it's not owing to Mr. Tranberg's thorough research but rather the difficulty of his subject: Most of Miss Moorehead's contemporaries are no longer available for interviews, contemporary interviews with Miss Moorehead are scarce, she seemed aloof to many of her colleagues, and in all likelihood Miss Moorehead left behind no diaries or personal letters. That considered, it's surprising that Mr. Tranberg was able to flesh out her personal life to the extent that he did. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. More than Endora By Loves to Read Agnes Moorehead may not have been the biggest star in Hollywood in terms of popularity but she certainly was one of the most talented. A private person to be sure but Mr. Tranberg has managed to bring Ms. Moorehead to life and I was enthralled with this book and became an even bigger fan of both the actress and the author. 7 of 8 people found the following review helpful. The Magic of her Illusion Continues By Melanie's Reviews This book is the definitive biography of one of the greatest character actresses of all time. Tranberg details Moorehead's life from her PK (preacher's kid) upbringing, to her launch into radio, and ultimately to her iconic status on the TV show Bewitched, as well as her many movie and TV appearances. The information is presented logically and clearly, and the layout of this 400+ page book makes it easy to read. It's loaded with pictures that I'd never seen before, and despite having a great deal of knowledge about Moorehead's career beforehand, I found out so many interesting facts about her life and times. The author's research and interviews are neatly detailed in a Source section, and there is also an Index, as well as an extensive list of all Moorehead's appearances. Despite the great detail that the author provides regarding Moorehead's life and career, we do see two or more sides to many of the stories. This leaves the reader to truly appreciate the lengths that Moorehead went to to create "the illusion." She was a master at her craft, and even in times of great distress, the show went on due to her staunch work ethic. I have a greater appreciation for her as an actress, and more importantly as a person, having read this book. Well done!

This book is based on more than three years of research and include more than 30 interviews conducted by the author with such friends and co-workers as Debbie Reynolds, Jane Wyman and Karl Malden. The author had access to more than 150 boxes of Agnes Moorehead papers which are stored at the Wisconsin State Historical Society in Madison. He also had access to the Orson Welles papers held at the Lily Library in Bloomington, Indiana and the Paul Gregory (who produced Moorehead's acclaimed stage productions) Papers held at the University of Wyoming in Laramie, Wyoming. The author also quotes from private letters between Agnes Moorehead and her secretary over the course of two decades--letters which give Moorehead's biting critiques of the social morals of the 60's; her television series "Bewitched"; and other aspects of her private and professional lives. In addition the author provides the reader with a comprehensive listing of the many sources he used as well as a comprehensive listing of Moorehead stage, screen, radio and television appearances. This is the first comprehensive biography of one of the most acclaimed actresses of her time with never before revealed tidbits which will delight her many fans.

"...First-time writer Charles Tranberg succeeds greatly...I liked this book tremendously." -- Laura Wagner, Classic Images Magazine, January, 2006 "...One of THE most comprehensive and intelligently-written biographies out there, Bewitched-related or otherwise..." -- Herbie J. Pilato, Author of From the Author Volume Two of I LOVE THE ILLUSION: THE LIFE AND CAREER OF AGNES MOOREHEAD IS OUT! It can be ordered here on --check it out in BOOKS listed as I LOVE THE ILLUSION: THE LIFE AND CAREER OF AGNES MOOREHEAD VOL 2. There is new material not in the first volume. The price is \$24.95. The book listed on this page is out of print but due to popular demand a second volume has been printed by the publisher. About the Author Charles Tranberg lives in Madison, WI and is currently busy doing research on his next two books--biographies of Fred MacMurray and My Friend Irma's Marie Wilson.