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Angels & Demons : One Actor's Hollywood Journey



Synopsis

This is the story of one actor's rise, fall and ultimate triumph, an intimate look at a life in Hollywood and in the theater. Stricklyn pulls no punches as he portrays the angles, and demons he met along the way and those he discovered within himself.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

More than only about actor author, Ray Stricklyn, his autobiography is an incisive look at the entertainment business.

I ordered this book and, from the reviews on this site, thought I would enjoy a dishy Hollywood read. But this effort reads more like a diary of an actor's career -- and not a very successful one at that. Kissed by James Dean in Central Park, Stricklyn was unfortunately never kissed by the stardom he so diligently strove for. Although there are lots of remembrances of the bigger stars he worked with on stage and screen, Stricklyn's writing never "lifts" from the page and is ultimately unsatisfying, even as gossip, since there is little new or interesting to be found here, unless you are an actor yourself and looking for a remembrance of Hollywood in the 50's through the 90's. Ray seems to be sensitive to criticism and bad reviews, but his good ones are highlighted in capital letters in their entirety, leaving the reader feeling as though the author is trying to reassure himself that the profession he plugged away in for four decades was not a vain effort. Nevertheless, the author was successful enough to earn a living, and enjoy some success in every acting medium he tried,

though never attaining true star status. Stricklyn's reminiscences of some of the stars he worked with are either complimentary or disapproving, without much insight into these names he drops with a dull thud throughout this book. I wish Ray could have dug more into his ambivalence over his homosexuality, which he seems to be somewhat ashamed of, but he doesn't seem one to care much for self-analysis or even to investigate the motivations for the events of his life which he describes rather flatly. Unfortunately this extends even to the motivation that informed the characterizations he brought to the stage and screen so for readers who remember his work, there is little here to sink one's teeth into insofar as how he approached the roles he played throughout his life. Ultimately, it feels like a swim in the shallow end of the pool with the reader feeling, at last that the publicist he became overruled the writer he may have become.

A career of a gay actor in 50's and 60's Hollywood. One of the best autobiographies on this subject,

Ray Stricklyn was a fabulous person and a very good actor. He should have been a Hollywood A lister. This book is so interesting and easy to read. Could not put it down. Great inside look into the life of Hollywood. Pictures are wonderful.

I found this bio well written, informative (re 1950's - 2000) Hollywood personalities, and touching. As a former H'wood resident and actor, it "hit home" many times.

Ray Stricklyn was a master of stagecraft, and his one-man show on Williams was a work of great power and beauty. His book is a clear view of a life spent as an actor, offering his personal view of Hollywood long gone. It's a wonderful story, and simply told.

Stricklyn has written a fable of his years as a theatre/Hollywood actor with a brutal honesty which I'm sure was at times painful to replay. Never having reached a superstar status Stricklyn nonetheless was considered a talented actor earning the respect of legends like Bette Davis and Gary Cooper. Unfortunately with the highs came the lows and Stricklyn comes clean with it and even finds the role of a lifetime in the process. I think that anyone even remotely interested in acting should read this as this is a realistic picture of the Hollywood game as having a talent doesn't mean guaranteed success and bio lovers will love this smoothly well written book sparkled with many of the author's remembrances of the stars.

I love Ray. What else can I say? It's the truth. I feel as if I am the only one in the world who owns this book. Or at least I felt that way. You know what attracted me to this book? The words homosexual and gay. I am but a little girl so I can only be expected to snicker. But I could be mature if I wanted to. And I was. Very much. I felt like I was sitting in front of him the whole time and he was telling me his story. Parts were funny, parts were sad, but overall it was beautiful. Beautiful like the world. And like the world, you can touch it, you can feel it, you can love it. I was sad at the end. For it was then that I realized his time on earth was short. And I thought to myself, kill me now, for I am ready to die in the hands that wrote these beautiful words! If only I could tell him that.

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