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Without Lying Down: Frances Marion And The Powerful Women Of Early Hollywood



Synopsis

Draws on personal letters, journals, and interviews with family members and colleagues to capture the life and times of Frances Marion, one of the most powerful, acclaimed, and neglected screenwriters of Hollywood's Golden Age. 15,000 first printing.

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Customer Reviews

Screenwriter Frances Marion (1888-1973) is the central subject of this excellent book, but mega-star Mary Pickford, journalist Adela Rogers St. Johns, bit-player-turned-gossip-columnist Hedda Hopper, and other high-powered female friends get nearly equal time. The author's skillful mix of biography with Hollywood history results in a densely textured portrait of an industry in formation and the intelligent, ambitious women who seized the opportunities it offered them for creative expression and financial independence. The text also instills new appreciation for the artistry of silent movies.

Film journalist Beauchamp's book is aptly subtitled, for this is not only about the pioneering screenwriter Frances Marion, whose credits range from silent classics to Garbo's first "talkie" to sophisticated comedy. This is also the story of the women with whom Marion worked, who creatively and symbiotically sustained one another. Chronicled here are her intimate working relationships with Mary Pickford, Marie Dressler, and Irving Thalberg; her qualified disdain of Louis B. Mayer and Joseph P. Kennedy; and her marriages, especially to cowboy film star Fred Thomson. Occupying the margins?but rarely marginalized?Marion cultivated power that often translated into casting

decisions and salary negotiations on her own terms. She made the transition from silents to sound motion pictures and likewise survived the industry's swing from early respect for the director's vision to a later reverence for bottomline returns. To dub Beauchamp's work "revisionist" is inadequate: this is a welcomed rediscovery. For all film collections and larger public libraries. Jayne Kate Plymale-Jackson, Univ. of Georgia Lib., Athens Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc.

This is an invaluable resource for those wanting to learn the true story of how Hollywood grew to be the industry it is today. Frances Marion and her female contemporaries should be known, and yet, the important work they did as "scenarists" aka, screenplay writers, is marginalized in most film education. That's a true shame. This extensively researched book gives amazing insight into so many of these "forgotten" women. All lovers of film should read it.

Superbly written Hollywood history of the early days . One sees what it like when something new is being born; anything goes, talent is the only criteria, women get a chance and a make a mark . As a medium matures and gains in status all that is cut back if not stamped out. Many would find this hidden history shocking and how important women were to early Hollywood. The mind set later and even now is so different from what it was then Must reading for anyone interested in the movies . It often reads like a suspense novel ; the early day were so wide open creatively speaking. Cari Beauchamp makes one feel they are on the dusty, sunlit California streets filming and ,among the orange groves of early Hollywood .

If you're passionate about the early movie industry, this is the excellent book to read. Before Hollywood was Hollywood, it was orange groves and dirt roads, and a fistful of pioneers, many of whom were women. Frances Marion, Anita Loos, Marion Davies, Mary Pickford (not the shy, petite ingenue we see on the screen, but the powerhouse producer/studio executive she was truly). In the early days of the moving picture business, Frances Marion was the highest paid screenwriter in the world, pulling in \$20,000 a treatment. Women were the directors, the writers, the producers, the people who got the actors to show up, and got the films to the screens. Cari Beauchamp is a spot-on researcher, and an accomplished storyteller. Who could ask for more? I can. I'd like a new book about women in film after WWII. How did all of them get booted out of town? Where are the powerhouse filmmaker women now?

Excellent book. Well written & researched.

I love this book -- it's all about the era when women actually were allowed to write and direct as well as be beautiful in front of the camera. This lady was an Oscar winner and far ahead of her time. She lived in a most interesting era. Love the quote that gave the book its title. She had said, "I would love to look up to a man, without lying down." You go, girl --

Fabulous book!

I had read this book at a friend's house, and really enjoyed the stories of the movie stars from years ago. I wanted to get it on Kindle if possible so I could read it again and use it as a reference.

Francis Marion was the movie industry's leading screenwriter for 40 years. Her story is the growth of the movie industry. From the early 1900s until the 1940's. Mary Pickford, for years, would not make a movie, unless it was written by Francis Marion. Here it is, the whole story of the movie industry, Fascinating and interesting.

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