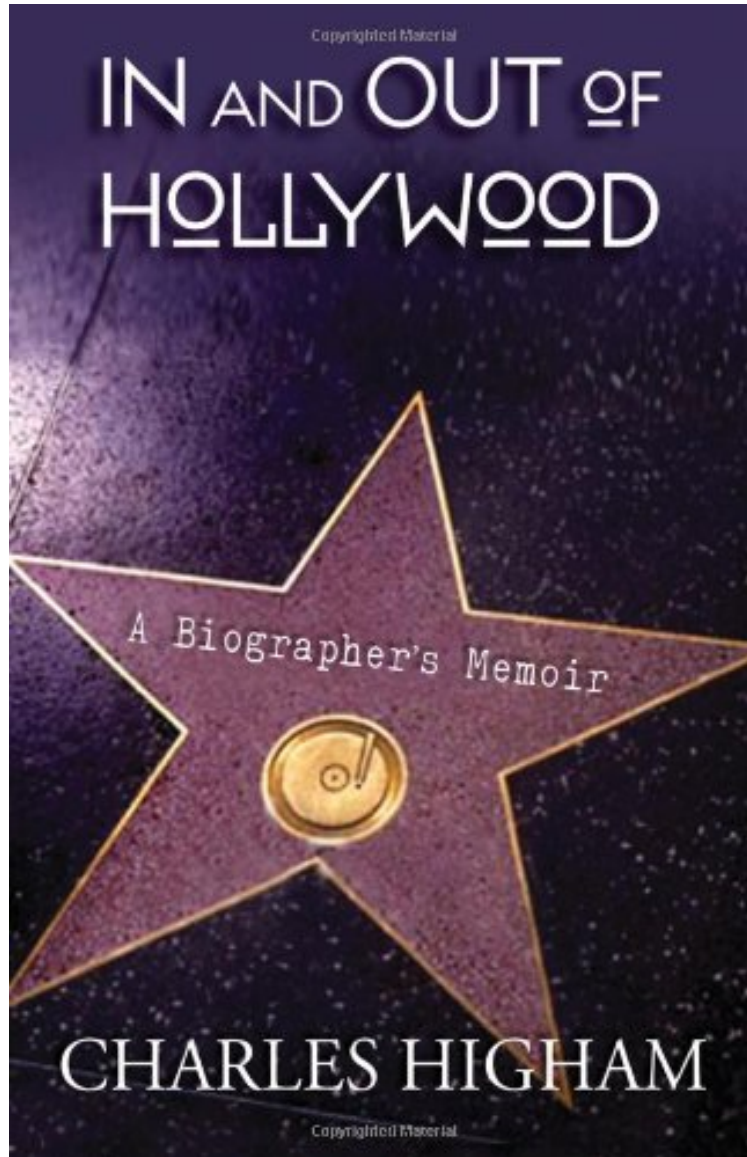


[Mobile pdf] In and Out of Hollywood: A Biographers Memoir

In and Out of Hollywood: A Biographers Memoir

Charles Higham

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Charles Higham : In and Out of Hollywood: A Biographers Memoir before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised In and Out of Hollywood: A Biographers Memoir:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Good Old CharlieBy Scott CoblinoAs the person who typeset this book for Mr Higham, who wrote everything on an old-fashioned typewriter, I got to know him quite well, meeting at his home once a week every week until this project (originally titled "Nobody"s Child" and then "Myself Among

Others") was finished. We even became friends, after a fashion, and it was always entertaining to sit with him and hear anecdotes about Hollywood's golden days. At times he cracked himself up, I must add, laughing uproariously at his own stories (such as when Lucy was skiing and sailed into the living room of an elderly couple, who saw her reflection in the TV screen while they were watching "I Love Lucy" and thought their screen went double). His stories were not always believable, but his enthusiasm was contagious. I also typeset a second book for him called "Legion of the Lost", which was a series of short essays on films Mr. Higham thought were important, but which are largely forgotten today. I don't know if that book will ever see the light of day as we drifted out of contact shortly after I completed the typesetting, and I don't know if it was ever submitted to publishers. He died about a year and a half later. Mr Higham had also been planning a book on Lizzie Borden, for which I helped with online research. He aborted that project to do "Legion of the Lost", but would undoubtedly have returned to it had he lived longer. I recommend "In and Out of Hollywood" to anyone curious to know what it may have been like to work with, or around, stars from the old days of Hollywood, as well as what it was like to live back then in general. It's an interesting time-piece, even though the chapters could easily go into greater detail. The book is anecdotal and moves quickly from chapter to chapter, the through-line being Mr. Higham's private life as a homosexual, his relationships and attempts to find love and secure his status as a writer in an age when being gay was a risk to one's personal freedom and professional security. I do wish the cover and picture section were not both so "stock photo"-ish. But this book was put together near the end of his life when he undoubtedly had less energy and stamina to oversee such things. He was a funny, smart and vivid character, whose breed is regrettably disappearing. Goodbye, Charlie--we'll miss you!

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Like Eating Candy By Francie Nolan I was so surprised by this book. I'd heard of Higham, knew he wrote celebrity biographies, but hadn't heard his work was particularly exceptional. I was shocked to find his writing so gorgeous in the beginning of the book. And I had no idea he was such an intellectual and ran in the same circles as T.S. Eliot, et al, once upon a time. His childhood was fascinating, although I could have used a "trigger alert" before he wrote the graphic details of his sexual abuse, however brief. (Horrible, horrible parental figures.) For those who love inside scoops on celebrities, this is a great book. He really dishes. Reading this was like eating candy. He had quite a few psychic experiences, too, which I always find fascinating. But I have to say, towards the end of the book, he lost a little credibility with me. For instance, re: Watergate, he said Nixon had nothing to do with it. It was all Howard Hughes' idea. Uh...I don't think so. And he said, Oswald acted alone and The Mob had nothing to do with it. So Oswald shot from two locations simultaneously. Pul-eeze. Even Bobby admitted JFK was assassinated because he went after the mob. Anyway, I found the book thoroughly entertaining, although a few of the stories I take with a grain of salt.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A major disappointment By CJSI had thought this book would focus more on how the author went about writing biographies, including how to write one when your subject is dead or does not authorize it, but there really wasn't a lot about that. Nor was there much about the actual sitting down and writing a book and how much time it took to produce the books. I had purchased this book to find out about how a biographer works but this book did not provide it. The author's early life was interesting to read about as well as the relationship with his mother and stepmother. However, I could have done without reading about his promiscuous lifestyle. The photographs in the book were also disappointing with not many of the author at all.

As a best-selling biographer of numerous Hollywood greats Katharine Hepburn, Bette Davis, Errol Flynn, Howard Hughes, and Cary Grant among them Charles Higham has been privy to the public and private joys, tragedies, scandals, and desires of many of the darlings of Hollywood's red carpet. In and Out of Hollywood is Higham's own life story, replete with a vibrant cast that includes stars from Marlene Dietrich to Clint Eastwood to Leonardo DiCaprio. Born into a life of privilege in 1930s England, Higham endured a difficult childhood. To escape a tortured family situation, Higham married early despite his awakening homosexuality and fled to Australia with his wife to begin a new life as a poet, journalist, and editor. By the 1960s he had settled in Hollywood. It was here that he struck gold by finding and writing about the reels of Orson Welles' legendary unfinished Latin American epic film *It's All True*, long thought lost in a Paramount vault. This momentous find rocketed Higham to the A-list. He soon became a *New York Times* feature writer and sought-after biographer lauded for his pioneering style. In and Out of Hollywood contains Higham's personal reflections on the stars he has known over the past forty years. From his insider perch he reveals Hollywood's inner life: how Bette Davis influenced the death of her second husband; how Walt Disney's dark vision devolved into bright animated features he astonishingly despised; how leading actors clandestinely participated in gay activities. Higham's memoir also charts his work as a political commentator, historian, poet, and playwright; describes the dangers and excitements of gay life before AIDS; and recounts his eventual discovery of a lasting relationship. In and Out of Hollywood is a lively tour through several decades of changing times and personalities behind the scenes of the American film world.

Beginning when he was a journalist in Australia, Higham began meeting the greats Dietrich, Sinatra, Garland and his stories about them are . . . telling personality portraits. Todd McCarthy, chief film critic for *Variety*