

[PDF] Katharine Hepburn: The Untold Story (Advocate Life Stories)

James Robert Parish - pdf download free book

Books Details:

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Author: James Robert Parish

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Description:

From Publishers Weekly One of the most singular performers of the 20th century, Hepburn was known as a no-nonsense woman who flouted the rules of stardom. Yet Parish, author of several celebrity bios (of Whoopi Goldberg, Rosie O'Donnell, Gus Van Sant and others), believes Hepburn's "mannish attitudes, attire, and manners were far more indicative of her sexual nature than a reflection of her role as a pioneering feminist." According to the author, Hepburn's offstage image as a frank, plainspeaking woman was a sham, a role she adopted to deflect accusations of being a lesbian. The case, which Parish builds on gossip and hearsay, suggests her love affairs with men were business maneuvers or publicity stunts. Her relationships with Howard Hughes, John Ford and Spencer Tracey were more platonic than physical, Parish insists, since these men were ambivalent

about their own sexual preferences. Despite claims of a great love affair with Tracey, "Kate never remembered Spencer ever saying specifically he loved her." Conversely, Parish speculates Hepburn had romantic liaisons with Broadway producer Irene Selznick and socialite Laura Harding. Though some readers may find Parish's use of terms like "maiden women" and "spinsters" problematic, his probing biography will pique the interest of Hepburn addicts. 30 b&w photos.

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From A. Scott Berg's best-selling memoir *Kate Remembered*, published in 2003, contained veiled hints about Hepburn's bisexuality. This book goes a lot further. In fact, it's really a psychosexual biography, which examines Hepburn's life from the perspective of her love affairs. Naturally, this is all very spicy and almost compulsively readable, but Parish never quite proves his premise: Hepburn's relationship with alcoholic Spencer Tracy was never what it was portrayed as being. (Tracy, too, is labeled as bisexual without much proof.) Almost everyone in the book is introduced by his or her presumed sexual orientation--usually gay or bi--and, throughout, Parish has an unfortunate habit of making pronouncements unbacked by facts and in disregard of what Hepburn herself writes or says. For instance, he avers that losing the part of Scarlett O'Hara was "a deep disappointment," even though Hepburn continually told people (as late as 1991) that she didn't think she was right for the part. Parish also theorizes that "Hepburn's often juvenile servitude to Tracy satisfied displaced aspects of her abiding love for her emotionally remote, demanding father." Well, maybe. But Hepburn was smart enough not to leave any proof behind. *Ilene Cooper*
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