

Louise Brooks: A Biography

Barry Paris

*ebooks | Download PDF | *ePub | DOC | audiobook*



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#322098 in Books Univ Of Minnesota Press 2000-07-10Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.00 x 1.40 x 7.50l, 1.87 #File Name: 0816637814624 pages | File size: 72.Mb

Barry Paris : Louise Brooks: A Biography before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Louise Brooks: A Biography:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. There is only Louise Brooks!By RoadTripDogVery complete in depth bio of a fascinating woman. She lived life on her own terms and in the end she paid the price for it. Louise is much more complex than just a flapper era actress, she had an intellect that she used with great effect for humor or like a sharp knife. More than just an actress, she was also an accomplished and gifted dancer. I wish that she

had made more movies, she had such a natural talent as an actress. Her movements and expressions made it seem like she was the actual character she was portraying. Watching Louise act you never see any hesitation on her part to think about what she's doing as she moves from scene to scene, she just does it. This is not a dull documentary, Barry Paris gives us a complete picture of the good and the not-so-good sides of Louise in an active and readable style. Highly recommend this book for Louise Brooks fans and those who are curious about the life of one of the most unique women Hollywood ever tried to tame. 9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Meet Ms. Brooks

By A. Heine
What a brick of a book! Isn't it curious that a silent movie star who only made a couple of films of which only a couple are worth the mention gets a 500+ page biography when many more prolific actors don't get one at all? But Ms. Brooks was not just an actress or dancing performer, she was that oh-so-rare thing in entertainment, she was a personality (and also a "character"). Her trademark bob became a cultural icon and at least one film made history as one of the best - if not THE best - silent of all times: *Pandora's Box* - to the importance of which Louise Brooks was a vital ingredient. Still, success ultimately eluded her, mostly due to her own vitriolic temperament and unpredictability. Neither in the US nor in Europe, where she made her best films, could she reap the fruits of her efforts. Nor could she, after leaving the movie biz behind for good, come back as a dancer, declaring in a very somber mood to a close relative shortly before her death in 1985: "How I have existed fills me with horror. For I have failed in everything (...). And I do not excuse myself with the usual escape of "not trying". I tried with all my heart." Barry Paris' assessment of this glorious and dark lady is a model example of biographing. Never lurid or slanderous, as is so common in celebrity biographies these days, he verifies almost every one of his quotes with the original source. However, despite his obvious adoration for the subject of his research, he doesn't stumble into the trap of unduly polishing Ms. Brooks life either and relates her rather deft and frequent sexual episodes with historical precision. Sex, in fact, was one of the major forces - positively and negatively - in her life according to herself. Coming from Kansas, deeply bible-belted, she was like many Americans caught in the dichotomy of puritan restraint and the contrecoup of extreme license in matters bodily (and alcoholically!). After reading "A Biography" one has the impression of having met Ms. Brooks in person - experiencing her erotic attraction as well as her volatile personality, but also her erudition. A woman who fit neither social nor male expectations of a striking beauty, a fact which might ultimately have been the stumbling block of her life. Paris has exhausted all available sources, turned every stone and read every letter surviving from Louise Brooks (and there apparently were a lot as she was an expansive epistolarian, especially late in life when sickness and wariness of the world prevented her from leaving her small and spartan apartment in Rochester) presenting all of it in a light language that pulls the reader along even through barrages of names, places and events (and possibly a slight tendency to digress here and there, though always caught in time) giving not only an intimate portrait of the greatest of the "lost" silent stars, but also a thorough picture of her times. What Ms. Brooks saw in some of her contemporaries (C. Chaplin and G. W. Pabst among them) she failed to see in herself: "To be a great person is the final work of art" And she did, indeed, succeed in that. 50 of 51 people found the following review helpful. The Best Star Biography

Written By David Wend
This is arguably the best biography of a film star. Barry Paris has investigated the tempestuous life of Louise Brooks so thoroughly that any other volume on her life would pale by comparison. The book is well written and goes into great detail about Louise Brooks' life and why she seemed to make her suicidal career choices. Mr. Paris also provides his readers with a good background to the world of Louise Brooks. We learn about modern dance when discussing Brooks' invitation to join Denishawn dancers, about George White and the Scandals and Ziegfeld and his Follies when Brooks danced for them and about the silent film world and the struggles of the industry to cope with the advent of sound. Mr. Paris delves deeply into Louise Brooks' relationship with her family and lovers, and devotes a wonderful chapter on G. W. Pabst and the making of *Pandora's Box*. While reading the book, I was drawn to see her films and enjoyed them much more with the insight provided by Mr. Paris. The working relationship between the actors involved in *Pandora's Box* was particularly illuminating and I had a greater appreciation of Louise Brooks' performance. The most tantalizing aspect of Louise Brooks is her career suicide. One wonders how she could have so casually ended her career in films when she was an up-and-coming star. She was equally difficult with her dancing partners when she briefly returned to professional dancing, and even her the vain attempts to work as a store clerk. Louise Brooks had an astonishing intellect, so much so that many of the men in her life felt threatened by her but despite her intelligence she was never able to find a satisfying life for herself. Eventually, she found a kind of niche in her writing. Mr. Paris examines all of her contradictions thoughtfully but does not present a definitive conclusion. I liked the way the biography stuck to presenting the life of Louise Brooks without any attempt to moralize or judge; the facts and background are left for the reader to contemplate. I found the book very thought provoking. The book is nicely illustrated, including a short gallery of Louise Brooks' best portraits. This is a fascinating biography of a natural actress who had a loathing for the profession; a woman who could be a good friend and equally suddenly turn against them. This is a book that should not be missed even if someone does not have an interest in silent films.

Film The long-awaited republication of this captivating account of the star's life. Louise Brooks left Wichita, Kansas, for New York City at age fifteen and lived the kind of life of which legends are made. From her beginnings as a dancer to her years in Hollywood, Berlin, and beyond, she was hailed and reviled as a new type of woman: independent,

intellectually daring, and sexually free. In this widely acclaimed, first and only comprehensive biography, Barry Paris traces Brooks's trajectory from her childhood through her fall into obscurity and subsequent "resurrection" as a brilliant writer and enduring film icon. "Star biographies don't get any better than Barry Paris's Louise Brooks." USA Today "This account has the aphrodisiac gloss of Brooks herself: you meet the stare of a modern icon, a picture that taunts your inability to touch the real thing. A necessary and stimulating book, it is itself an important part of Brooks's life after death." The New Republic "Absorbing, wonderfully well researched and, all in all, an exemplar of its kind." London Spectator "Louise Brooks is not simply a summary of her movie plots and love affairs but a serious work of film and social history." New York Magazine Barry Paris is an award-winning biographer, film and music critic, and contributor to the New Yorker, Vanity Fair, and other publications. He lives in Pittsburgh. Translation Inquiries: Alfred A. Knopf

A sensational work it's a wow! -- Liz Smith, New York Daily News Great, provocative reading. -- Leonard Maltin, ABC-TV Entertainment Tonight The much-talked-about Louise Brooks is a synthesis of exhaustive research, written with imaginative sympathy. -- Premiere magazine From The Washington Post Fascinating not only for what it says about Brooks, but also for its generous sidelights on the whole jazz-and-flapper age.