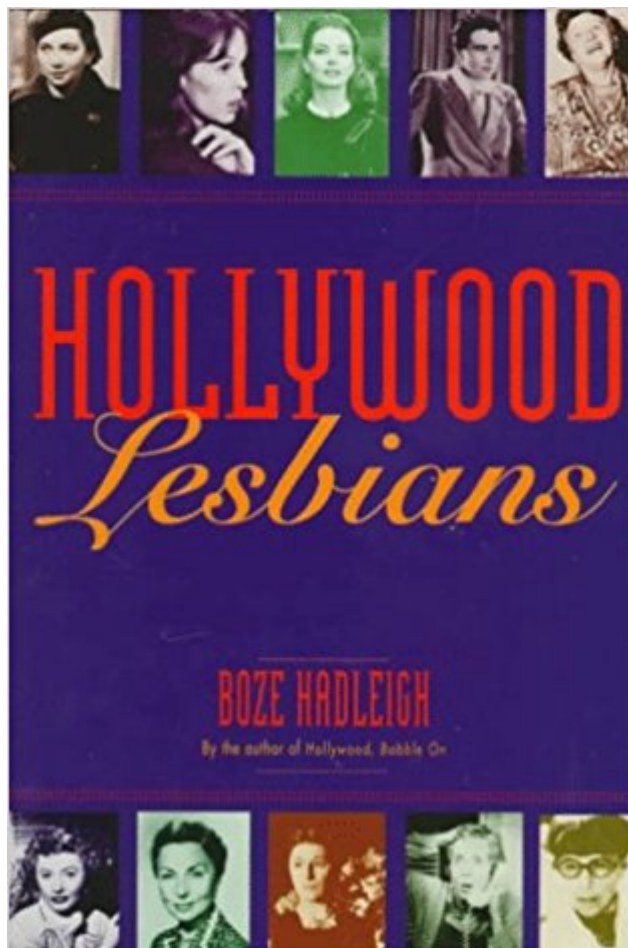


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# Hollywood Lesbians



## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Fans of Hollywood's golden age will find this collection of interviews conducted over many years revealing though hampered. The principal problem is not so much that all of the subjects-including actresses Judith Anderson, Marjorie Main, Barbara Stanwyck, Agnes Moorehead and Sandy Dennis and designer Edith Head-are now deceased, but that almost all were raised in a generation terrified of voicing support for fellow homosexuals, let alone daring to come out of the closet. The sole exception is comedienne Patsy Kelly, who made no secret of her sexual orientation-and whose career suffered for it. Even with carefully couched questions from Hadleigh (*Conversations With My Elders*), the respondents dance around the subjects of sex and sexuality. Still, an enlightening picture emerges of Tinseltown, different from that presented in the fanzines. Photos not seen by PW. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Positioned as a sequel of sorts to Hadleigh's earlier collection of interviews with gay men in Hollywood, *Conversations with My Elders* (1987), this volume is both less and more than it seems. It's less because the subjects of Hadleigh's interviews--Marjorie Main, Nancy Kulp, Barbara Stanwyck, and Capucine, among them--were almost uniformly reluctant to discuss their sexuality. Only comedienne Patsy Kelly speaks openly of her life as a lesbian. It's not surprising, in fact, that Hadleigh waited until all his subjects were dead to publish this collection; almost certainly, many of them would have objected to being included. On the other hand, the book is more than it seems

because these women are great talkers--about subjects other than sex. Marjorie ("Ma Kettle") Main, for example, though never admitting to being Spring Byington's lover, does tell some great stories about her life as a contract player in Hollywood's heyday. Similarly, costume designer Edith Head isn't saying a thing about whom Dietrich slept with, but she says plenty about the horrors of miniskirts. A fun book, but not in that dishy way we expect from the title. Ilene Cooper --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Hollywood Lesbians by Boze Hadleigh was released in 1994. Lots of actresses were interviewed, favorites are Agnes Moorehead and Barbara Stanwyck. Agnes was most famous as Endora on Bewitched. Barbara was most famous as Victoria Barkley on The Big Valley. Fans Of Hollywood stars will like this the most.

I bought this book primarily to read the Agnes Moorehead interview. Each star has her own chapter, so if you are interested in the personal words of a particular person, I recommend this book. I did find that the author/interviewer asked a lot of probing and leading questions to try to get each star to admit her sexual preference, and also asks them to talk about other people, which would come up as gossip. Some of them were visibly annoyed! Stars such as Agnes and also Edith Head have no trouble re-directing the conversation, being clear what they will and won't discuss. Overall an interesting book since the stars are personally interviewed, but the probing and gossip nature hardly qualify it as a book of literary quality.

Good read

Very interesting book and accounts by famous actresses of the time.

What fascinating revelations! I read this book from cover to cover and repeatedly said to myself, "Well, I'll be..." I grew up watching most of the people portrayed and never dreamed at the time what was going on behind the scenes. I would have loved the movies and shows even more had I known the whole story. I rank the contents in reverse order of interest as follows: 3: interviews; 2: author's narrative; 1: index. Reading it all in context was fun. After that, I spent a couple of hours looking at the names in the index and flipping to the page references to zero in on what those people had to say. This book entertained me for hours and I consider it well worth the cost.

Not current enough.

I owned this book once before and it met up with a cup of coffee. The result, well, I suppose you can imagine because I bought another. It is a very good book and I really enjoy the interview style of writing. The women in the book are some powerhouses from Hollywood.

Not thought what it would be.

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