

valley of the dolls jacqueline susann

Valley of the Dolls Jacqueline Susann: The Story Behind a Cultural Phenomenon

valley of the dolls jacqueline susann is a phrase that instantly transports readers and pop culture enthusiasts back to the glitzy, glamorous, and often tragic world of mid-20th century show business. This bestselling novel, penned by Jacqueline Susann, captured the imagination of millions and became a defining voice in the landscape of women's fiction during the 1960s. But beyond just a popular book, Valley of the Dolls represented a cultural moment—one that explored fame, addiction, and the complexities of female ambition with unflinching candor. Let's dive into the fascinating story behind Jacqueline Susann's iconic work and why it continues to resonate today.

The Origins of Valley of the Dolls Jacqueline Susann

Jacqueline Susann was not your typical author. Before she took the literary world by storm, she was an actress and a savvy showbiz insider who understood the highs and lows of fame. Her experiences navigating the entertainment industry gave her unique insight into the lives of women striving for success in a world that often demanded sacrifices both professional and personal.

When Susann wrote Valley of the Dolls, she drew heavily on these observations, crafting a narrative that follows three women—Anne, Neely, and Jennifer—as they chase their dreams in Hollywood and New York. The “dolls” in the title refer to the pills, particularly barbiturates and amphetamines, that these women rely on to cope with the pressures of their careers and personal lives.

Jacqueline Susann's Writing Style and Approach

Unlike many literary novels of her time, Valley of the Dolls embraced a more accessible, sensational style. Susann's prose was direct, emotionally charged, and unapologetically dramatic—a style that made the book a page-turner. This approach helped the novel reach a broad audience, especially women who saw reflections of their own struggles in the characters' experiences.

Susann's narrative also broke taboos by openly discussing topics like drug addiction, abortion, and the darker side of show business. This boldness was one of the reasons Valley of the Dolls became a bestseller, despite critical disdain from some literary reviewers who dismissed it as trashy or melodramatic.

The Impact and Legacy of Valley of the Dolls Jacqueline Susann

When Valley of the Dolls was published in 1966, it quickly became a publishing sensation. The book soared to the top of bestseller lists and remained there for weeks. Its success was not just about sales; it marked a shift in how women's stories were told and consumed.

A Mirror to Society's Changing Views

Valley of the Dolls Jacqueline Susann tapped into a cultural zeitgeist. The 1960s were a time of social upheaval, with women increasingly entering the workforce and challenging traditional roles. The novel's portrayal of ambitious women dealing with fame, heartbreak, and addiction mirrored the complicated realities many faced.

Moreover, the book's frank discussion about prescription drug abuse was ahead of its time, bringing awareness to a growing problem in Hollywood and beyond. This candidness helped Valley of the Dolls gain a reputation as more than just a glamorous tale—it was a cautionary story about the costs of success.

The Film Adaptation and Popular Culture

The novel's popularity led to a 1967 film adaptation, which, while not critically acclaimed, became a cult classic. The movie brought Jacqueline Susann's characters to life and expanded the book's influence. Iconic performances and memorable costumes helped cement Valley of the Dolls in pop culture history.

The story's themes have been revisited in various forms, including stage musicals, television adaptations, and even parodies. This enduring presence speaks to Jacqueline Susann's ability to capture universal themes of ambition, vulnerability, and resilience.

Understanding Jacqueline Susann's Influence on Women's Literature

Before Jacqueline Susann, women's fiction often fell into limited categories—romance or domestic dramas that rarely tackled controversial issues head-on. Valley of the Dolls shattered those boundaries, paving the way for future writers to explore complex female characters with flaws, desires, and agency.

Breaking Taboo Themes

Susann's willingness to address issues like drug addiction, mental health struggles, and sexuality opened doors for more honest storytelling. Readers found solace and representation in her characters, who were flawed but relatable. This authenticity was refreshing and helped create a new market for novels that spoke directly to women's experiences.

Commercial Success Meets Cultural Critique

While critics initially dismissed Valley of the Dolls Jacqueline Susann as "camp" or "guilty pleasure," its commercial success proved that readers craved narratives that reflected the messy realities of

life. The novel's popularity challenged literary gatekeepers and contributed to ongoing debates about what constitutes "serious" literature, especially when written by or for women.

Exploring the Themes of Valley of the Dolls Jacqueline Susann

The enduring appeal of Valley of the Dolls lies largely in its rich thematic content. Jacqueline Susann didn't just tell a story about showbiz; she explored universal human experiences that resonate across generations.

The Price of Ambition

One of the central themes is the cost of ambition, especially for women. Anne, Neely, and Jennifer each pursue success but face personal sacrifices along the way. Their journeys highlight the tension between public image and private pain, a dynamic that remains relevant in today's celebrity-driven society.

Addiction and Escapism

The "dolls," or pills, symbolize the characters' attempts to escape the pressures and disappointments of their lives. This theme touches on broader issues of mental health and substance abuse, reminding readers that behind glamour often lies struggle.

Friendship and Rivalry

Susann also delved into the complex relationships among women—how friendship can be a source of support but also competition. The interplay between the three protagonists reveals the multifaceted nature of female bonds.

Tips for Readers Diving into Valley of the Dolls Jacqueline Susann

If you're new to Valley of the Dolls or revisiting it after years, here are some tips to enhance your reading experience:

- **Context Matters:** Keep in mind the cultural and historical backdrop of the 1960s to better understand the characters' motivations and societal pressures.

- **Focus on the Characters:** Pay attention to how Susann develops her three main characters differently, showcasing diverse paths and outcomes.
- **Reflect on the Themes:** Use the novel as a lens to consider ongoing issues like fame, addiction, and the complexities of female friendships in modern life.
- **Appreciate the Style:** Enjoy the melodrama and candid dialogue that make the book entertaining and emotionally engaging.

Why Valley of the Dolls Jacqueline Susann Still Matters Today

More than five decades after its release, Valley of the Dolls remains a touchstone in popular literature and culture. Jacqueline Susann's work resonates because it combines entertainment with an unvarnished look at the struggles women face in pursuit of their dreams.

In an era where conversations about mental health, addiction, and the pressures of public life are more open, revisiting Valley of the Dolls offers valuable insights. It reminds us that behind the glimmer and fame, there are real human stories—stories that deserve to be told honestly and compassionately.

Whether you're a fan of classic novels, a student of pop culture history, or someone interested in the evolution of women's literature, Jacqueline Susann's Valley of the Dolls offers a compelling glimpse into a world that continues to fascinate and inspire.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is Jacqueline Susann, the author of 'Valley of the Dolls'?

Jacqueline Susann was an American novelist known for her best-selling books, with 'Valley of the Dolls' being her most famous work, published in 1966.

What is the main theme of 'Valley of the Dolls' by Jacqueline Susann?

The main theme of 'Valley of the Dolls' revolves around the dark side of fame and success, exploring the lives of three women struggling with addiction, ambition, and personal relationships.

Why is 'Valley of the Dolls' considered a cult classic?

'Valley of the Dolls' is considered a cult classic because of its candid portrayal of Hollywood, its melodramatic style, and the way it captures the zeitgeist of the 1960s, resonating with readers over generations.

Was 'Valley of the Dolls' by Jacqueline Susann adapted into other media?

Yes, 'Valley of the Dolls' was adapted into a successful film in 1967, and it has also inspired stage adaptations and a television miniseries.

How was 'Valley of the Dolls' received when it was first published?

When first published, 'Valley of the Dolls' received mixed critical reviews but became a massive commercial success, eventually becoming one of the best-selling novels of all time.

What impact did Jacqueline Susann's 'Valley of the Dolls' have on popular culture?

'Valley of the Dolls' influenced popular culture by highlighting the struggles behind the glamorous facade of show business, contributing to conversations about addiction and women's roles, and inspiring numerous parodies and references in media.

Additional Resources

Valley of the Dolls Jacqueline Susann: A Cultural Phenomenon and Literary Case Study

valley of the dolls jacqueline susann remains one of the most iconic and enduring titles in American popular literature. Published in 1966, this novel catapulted Jacqueline Susann to literary fame, becoming a bestseller almost overnight and securing a permanent place in the cultural lexicon. The book's provocative portrayal of fame, addiction, and the darker side of show business resonated with a post-war generation grappling with shifting social mores. Today, Valley of the Dolls stands not only as a significant cultural artifact but also as a subject of critical analysis in understanding mid-20th-century American society and its evolving attitudes toward women, celebrity, and consumerism.

Jacqueline Susann and the Birth of a Sensation

Jacqueline Susann was not an overnight success in the literary world. Prior to Valley of the Dolls, she had experienced several setbacks and lesser-known works that failed to capture the public's imagination. However, with the publication of Valley of the Dolls, Susann tapped into a mix of scandalous storytelling and relatable emotional struggles that struck a chord with readers. The novel's title itself refers to "dolls" — a slang term for prescription pills such as barbiturates and amphetamines — and the book explores the destructive impact of these substances on three women navigating the treacherous waters of the entertainment industry.

Susann's writing style, often criticized for its melodramatic tone and straightforward prose, was nevertheless accessible and compelling. The book's commercial success was unparalleled at the time, outselling contemporaries and becoming the best-selling novel of 1966. It also marked a shift

in publishing, where commercial viability often trumped literary acclaim, signaling the rise of mass-market paperbacks and the celebrity author phenomenon.

Thematic Exploration in Valley of the Dolls

At its core, *Valley of the Dolls* is a story about ambition, fame, and the cost of success. The three protagonists—Anne Welles, Neely O'Hara, and Jennifer North—embody different facets of the female experience in a predominantly male-driven industry. Their struggles with identity, love, and addiction reveal the corrosive influence of societal expectations and the entertainment machine.

The novel's treatment of addiction was groundbreaking for its time, providing a candid look at prescription drug abuse long before it became a mainstream topic of discussion. Furthermore, Susann's candid portrayal of sexuality and mental health issues was provocative and often controversial, challenging the conservative norms of the 1960s.

Impact and Legacy of Valley of the Dolls

The cultural impact of *Valley of the Dolls* extends far beyond its initial publication. The novel was adapted into a 1967 film, which itself became a cult classic, appreciated for its camp value and dramatic flair. Despite mixed critical reception, the film reinforced the story's place in popular culture.

Susann's work paved the way for future writers who sought to blend commercial appeal with socially relevant themes. It also helped shape the archetype of the tragic female celebrity—a trope that continues to inform media narratives today. The novel's exploration of the pitfalls of fame and addiction remains relevant, particularly in an era obsessed with celebrity culture and the pressures of public life.

Comparisons With Contemporary Works

When examining *Valley of the Dolls* in the context of 1960s literature, it is often compared with works like Truman Capote's *In Cold Blood* or Harold Robbins' novels. While Capote's work leaned toward literary journalism and Robbins' toward gritty escapism, Susann's novel struck a unique balance by blending soap-opera melodrama with a candid exploration of taboo topics.

Unlike more literary contemporaries, Susann's focus was on plot-driven storytelling and character archetypes, which made her work accessible to a broad audience. This accessibility was both a strength and a point of criticism, as literary purists often dismissed the novel as sensationalist. However, from a commercial and cultural standpoint, *Valley of the Dolls*' success underscored the public's appetite for stories that addressed real-world issues through the lens of entertainment.

Valley of the Dolls Jacqueline Susann: Strengths and Criticisms

Jacqueline Susann's *Valley of the Dolls* has been both celebrated and critiqued extensively. Understanding the novel's strengths and limitations provides deeper insight into why it remains a subject of study and discussion.

- **Strengths:** The novel's honest portrayal of addiction, ambition, and female friendship was groundbreaking. Susann's ability to capture the zeitgeist of the 1960s entertainment world gave her work authenticity and appeal.
- **Commercial Appeal:** Its fast-paced narrative and emotionally charged characters made it a compelling read that resonated with a wide demographic, especially women.
- **Cultural Relevance:** The themes of the book continue to be explored in modern media, illustrating its lasting influence.
- **Criticisms:** The writing style has been described as overly melodramatic and simplistic. Literary critics often dismissed the book as "junk food" literature.
- **Stereotypical Characters:** Some argue that the female characters rely on stereotypes, lacking depth beyond their struggles with addiction and relationships.
- **Moral Ambiguity:** The novel's sometimes glamorized depiction of drug use and fame was controversial and raised questions about its social responsibility.

Modern Reassessment and Continued Popularity

In recent years, *Valley of the Dolls* has undergone a cultural reassessment. Scholars and critics interested in feminist literature, pop culture, and media studies have revisited Susann's work to explore its nuanced portrayal of women's struggles in a patriarchal society. The novel's candidness about mental health and addiction has also gained appreciation in light of modern conversations around these issues.

Furthermore, *Valley of the Dolls* remains popular in book clubs and among readers who appreciate its campy, melodramatic style and historical significance. The story's adaptation into various formats, including stage productions and a 1990s television series, attests to its enduring appeal.

In the landscape of popular fiction, *Valley of the Dolls* Jacqueline Susann stands as a testament to the power of storytelling that captures the complexities of human ambition and vulnerability, even if wrapped in the glitter and tragedy of show business. Its legacy is a blend of commercial success, cultural impact, and critical debate—elements that continue to make it a compelling subject for readers and analysts alike.

Valley Of The Dolls Jacqueline Susann

valley of the dolls jacqueline susann: Valley of the Dolls: 50th Anniversary Edition

Jacqueline Susann, 2016-06-22 The 50th Anniversary Edition of Jacqueline Susann's All-Time Pop-Culture Classic! At a time when women were destined to become housewives, Jacqueline Susann let us dream. Anne, Neely, and Jennifer become best friends as struggling young women in New York City trying to make their mark. Eventually, they climb their way to the top of the entertainment industry only to find that there's no place left to go but down, into the Valley of the Dolls.

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Jacqueline Susann, 2016-07-04 The 50th Anniversary Edition of Jacqueline Susann's All-Time Pop-Culture Classic At a time when women were destined to become housewives, Jacqueline Susann let us dream. Anne, Neely, and Jennifer become best friends as struggling young women in New York City trying to make their mark. Eventually, they climb their way to the top of the entertainment industry only to find that there s no place left to go but down, into the Valley of the Dolls.

valley of the dolls jacqueline susann: Valley of the Dolls Jacqueline Susann, 1966 Three beautiful women compete in the New York entertainment world, where sex is a weapon and nearly everyone depends on dolls (pills).

valley of the dolls jacqueline susann: *Jacqueline Susann's Shadow of the Dolls* Rae Lawrence, 2012-02-08 Valley of the Dolls was sexy, shocking, and unrelenting in its revelations of the dangers facing women who dare to chase their most glamorous dreams. It shot to the top of the bestseller lists in 1966 and made Jacqueline Susann a superstar. It remains the quintessential big, blockbuster, must-read, can't-put-down bestseller. Before her death in 1974, Susann spent many months working on a draft for a sequel that continued the stories of Anne Welles, Neely O'Hara, and Lyon Burke. Now, after nearly thirty years, the perfect writer has been found to turn Susann's deliciously ambitious ideas into a novel that matches the original shock for shock and thrill for thrill. In Jacqueline Susann's *Shadow of the Dolls*, Rae Lawrence — herself a bestselling author — picks up the story in the late '80s and brings it right into the new century. Long a devoted “Valley” girl herself, Rae has re-imagined the original characters in a contemporary reality (and adjusted their ages just a bit), exactly as Jackie would have wanted her to. And if you've never read *Valley of the Dolls*, no matter. Sometimes the present is even more surprising and fun when you don't remember the past. And what a story! Neely's golden voice has brought her fame and success, but now she craves acceptance in social circles where her kind of celebrity means nothing at all. Anne, born and bred in those very circles, must choose between returning home or pursuing a fabulous television career — and the kind of passion she once knew with Lyon. And Lyon, who loses everything including Anne, looks for happiness in the most unexpected of places. Taking us behind the closed doors of New York, East Hampton, and Los Angeles, whetting our appetites for more with a new generation of young women and men who grow up far too fast, and spicing the whole story with a generous sprinkling of sex, drugs, and cosmetic surgery, Jacqueline Susann's *Shadow of the Dolls* is the ultimate beach read for our time. But feel free to devour it any time of the year, wherever you are. It's been a long time since readers had this much fun between the covers. It's time to jump back in. Anne Welles . . . She finds the courage to leave the only man who ever made her feel like a woman . . . She fights her way to the top of a television career that is even more cutthroat than she's been warned . . . She finds security and contentment with the kind of man she was destined to marry . . . Now she must choose between destiny and her dreams. Neely O'Hara . . . Her talents take her to the top, while her troubles drag her through rehab after rehab . . . She grasps at the things Anne has turned her back on (her class, her man) . . . She always knows exactly what she wants, and will do whatever it takes to make her dreams come true. Lyon Burke . . . He takes lovers over love . . . He hustles other people's talent while neglecting his own . . . He always knows how to look, which restaurants offer the perfect drink and the most cachet, who to pursue, and where to find the best

percentage . . . He waits so long to realize his dreams that in the end it may be too late. Jacqueline Susann's *Valley of the Dolls* was one of the sexiest, most shocking, and most sensational novels ever to fly off the shelves. Now, thanks to bestselling novelist Rae Lawrence — working from Susann's own draft for a sequel — the fun has just begun.

valley of the dolls jacqueline susann: *Jacqueline Susann's Shadow of the Dolls* Rae Lawrence, Jacqueline Susann, 2001 Sequel to *Valley of the Dolls*.

valley of the dolls jacqueline susann: *Jacqueline Susann's Shadow of the Dolls* Rae Lawrence, 2002 Continues the later lives of the characters from the *Valley of the Dolls*.

valley of the dolls jacqueline susann: *LIFE* , 1966-08-19 *LIFE Magazine* is the treasured photographic magazine that chronicled the 20th Century. It now lives on at LIFE.com, the largest, most amazing collection of professional photography on the internet. Users can browse, search and view photos of today's people and events. They have free access to share, print and post images for personal use.

valley of the dolls jacqueline susann: *Russ Meyer--The Life and Films* David K. Frasier, 2010-06-28 Credited with having opened the floodgates of screen permissiveness in 1959 with the landmark nudie *The Immoral Mr. Teas*, legendary independent softcore filmmaker Russ Meyer has continued throughout his 30-year career and 23+ films to expand the limits of screen freedom with such genre classics as *Lorna* (1964), *Faster, Pussycat! Kill! Kill!* (1966), and *Vixen* (1969). Long recognized as an American auteur and honored by numerous international retrospectives of his work, Meyer's story provides valuable insights into independent filmmaking, the history of the modern sexploitation genre, and cinema censorship. Researched from underground, popular and film literature, this book also incorporates much of the material contained in Meyer's own vast archive, to give an in-depth study of the director dubbed King Leer.

valley of the dolls jacqueline susann: *New York Magazine* , 1997-09-29 *New York magazine* was born in 1968 after a run as an insert of the *New York Herald Tribune* and quickly made a place for itself as the trusted resource for readers across the country. With award-winning writing and photography covering everything from politics and food to theater and fashion, the magazine's consistent mission has been to reflect back to its audience the energy and excitement of the city itself, while celebrating New York as both a place and an idea.

valley of the dolls jacqueline susann: *Fearless Vulgarity* Ken Feil, 2022-11-29 The enduring queer feminist engagement with *Valley of the Dolls* author Jacqueline Susann's camp comedy legacy. Catalyzed by her notoriously dirty, fabulously successful bestseller *Valley of the Dolls*, the Jackie Susann Sixties brimmed with camp comedy that now permeates contemporary celebrations of the author, from Pee-wee's Playhouse to RuPaul's *Drag Race* and Lee Daniels's *Star*. First christened camp by Gloria Steinem in an excoriating review of *Valley of the Dolls* and compounded by the publishing juggernauts *The Love Machine* (1969), *Once Is Not Enough* (1973), and *Dolores* (1976), the comedy of Jackie Susann illuminated conflicting positions about gender, sexuality, and aesthetic value. Through a writing formula that Ken Feil calls sleazy realism, Susann veers from gossip to confession and devises comedies of bad manners spun from real celebrities whose occasionally queer and always outré antics clashed with their official personas, the popular genres they were famous for, and the narrow, normative constructions of identity and reality shaped by the culture industry. Susann's promotional appearances led to another comedy of bad manners, this one populated with critics alternately horrified and delighted by an upstart woman vulgarian barging into the male literary firmament, and which continues to inspire fascination for the author, her novels, and their legendarily bad film adaptations.

valley of the dolls jacqueline susann: *Cinemascope 3* John Howard Reid, 2006-01-18 This third collection of widescreen wonders photographed in CinemaScope, focuses on such popular movies as *Love Is a Many-Splendored Thing*, *Cleopatra*, *Three Coins in the Fountain*, *Bus Stop*, *There's No Business Like Show Business*, *The Seven Year Itch*, *Let's Make Love*, *Peyton Place*, *North to Alaska*, *The Longest Day*, *The Eddy Duchin Story*, *Far from the Madding Crowd*, *The Man in the Gray Flannel Suit*, *The Helen Morgan Story*, *A Star Is Born* and *2001: A Space Odyssey*.

valley of the dolls jacqueline susann: *Sharon Tate and the Manson Murders* Greg King, 2016-10-25 The first comprehensive biography of Sharon Tate: Hollywood star, wife of Roman Polanski, victim of Charles Manson, and symbol of the death of the 1960s. It began as a home invasion by the Manson family in the early hours of August 9, 1969. It ended in a killing spree that left seven people dead: actress Sharon Tate, writer Voyteck Frykowski, coffee heiress Abigail Folger, hair stylist Jay Sebring, student Steven Parent, and supermarket owner Leno LaBianca and his wife, Rosemary. The shock waves of these crimes still reverberate today. They have also, over time, eclipsed the life of their most famous victim—a Dallas, Texas, beauty queen with Hollywood aspirations. After more than a dozen small film and television roles, Tate gained international fame with the screen adaptation of Jacqueline Susann's *Valley of the Dolls*, but *The Fearless Vampire Killers* marked a personal turning point, as she would marry its star and director, Roman Polanski. Tate now had a new dream: to raise a family—and she was only weeks away from giving birth the night Charles Manson's followers murdered her. Drawn from a wealth of rare material including detective reports, parole transcripts, Manson's correspondence, and revealing new interviews with Tate's friends and costars as well as surviving relatives of the murder victims, *Sharon Tate and the Manson Murders* gives readers a vital new perspective on one of the most notorious massacres of the twentieth century. The dark legacy of the cult phenomenon is still being explored in novels (Emma Cline's *The Girls*) and TV shows (NBC's *Aquarius*). In addition to providing the first full-fledged biography of Sharon Tate, author Greg King finally gives a voice to the families of the slain, notably Tate's mother, Doris. Her advocacy for victims' rights was recognized during President George H. W. Bush's 1992 A Thousand Points of Light ceremony. This is the true story of a star who is being rediscovered by a new generation of fans, a woman who achieved in death the fame she yearned for in life.

valley of the dolls jacqueline susann: *Dolls! Dolls! Dolls!* Stephen Rebello, 2020-06-02 A blissful treasure trove of gossipy insider details that *Dolls* fans will swiftly devour. --Kirkus Reviews The unbelievable-but-true, inside story of Jacqueline Susann's pop culture icon *Valley of the Dolls*--the landmark novel and publishing phenomenon, the infamous smash hit film (the best worst movie ever made), and *Dolls*'s thriving legacy today Since its publication in 1966, Jacqueline Susann's *Valley of the Dolls* has reigned as one of the most influential and beloved pieces of commercial fiction. Selling over thirty-one million copies worldwide, it revolutionized overnight the way books got sold, thanks to the tireless and canny self-promoting Susann. It also generated endless speculation about the author's real-life models for its larger-than-life characters. Turned in 1967 into an international box-office sensation and morphing into a much-beloved cult film, its influence endures today in everything from films and TV shows to fashion and cosmetics tributes and tie-ins. Susann's compulsive readable exposé of three female friends finding success in New York City and Hollywood was a scandalous eye-opener for its candid treatment of sex, naked ambition, ageism, and pill-popping, and the big screen version was one of the most-seen and talked-about movies of the time. *Dolls! Dolls! Dolls!* digs deep into the creation of that hugely successful film--a journey nearly as cut-throat, sexually-charged, tragic, and revelatory as Susann's novel itself--and uncovers how the movie has become a cherished, widely imitated camp classic, thanks to its over-the-top performances, endlessly quotable absurd dialogue, outré costumes and hairdos, despite the high aspirations, money, and talent lavished on it. Screenwriter-journalist-film historian Stephen Rebello has conducted archival research and new interviews to draw back the velvet curtain on the behind-the-scenes intrigue, feuds and machinations that marked the film's production. In doing so, he unveils a rich, detailed history of fast-changing, late 1960s Hollywood, on screen and off.

valley of the dolls jacqueline susann: *Camp Sites* Michael Trask, 2013-06-19 Reading across the disciplines of the mid-century university, this book argues that the political shift in postwar America from consensus liberalism to New Left radicalism entailed as many continuities as ruptures. Both Cold War liberals and radicals understood the university as a privileged site for doing politics, and both exiled homosexuality from the political ideals each group favored. Liberals, who advanced a politics of style over substance, saw gay people as unable to separate the two, as incapable of

maintaining the opportunistic suspension of disbelief on which a tough-minded liberalism depended. Radicals, committed to a politics of authenticity, saw gay people as hopelessly beholden to the role-playing and duplicity that the radicals condemned in their liberal forebears. *Camp Sites* considers key themes of postwar culture, from the conflict between performance and authenticity to the rise of the meritocracy, through the lens of camp, the underground sensibility of pre-Stonewall gay life. In so doing, it argues that our basic assumptions about the social style of the postwar milieu are deeply informed by certain presuppositions about homosexual experience and identity, and that these presuppositions remain stubbornly entrenched despite our post-Stonewall consciousness-raising.

valley of the dolls jacqueline susann: Bette Midler Mark Bego, 2002-11-08 This biography of the Grammy-winning, Oscar-nominated redhead covers Bette's life and career from her childhood on Hawaii, her New York nightclub years, and her current career in Hollywood.

valley of the dolls jacqueline susann: The Complete Index to Literary Sources in Film Alan Goble, 2011-09-08 No detailed description available for The Complete Index to Literary Sources in Film.

valley of the dolls jacqueline susann: Ethel Merman Brian Kellow, 2007-11-01 "Kellow's chronology is dishy and seamless; he understands the dynamics of the theater world and makes you feel the exhilaration of an evolving hit and the frustrations inherent in working with a performer like Merman."—The New York Times Book Review "[Kellow] has painted a vivid portrait of a Broadway diva who shone brighter and sang louder than anyone else."—The Washington Post BookWorld More than twenty years after her death, Ethel Merman continues to set the standard for American musical theater. The stories about the supremely talented, famously strong-willed, fearsomely blunt, and terrifyingly exacting woman are stuff of legend. But who was Ethel Agnes Zimmermann, really? Brian Kellow's definitive biography of the great Merman is superb, and the first account to examine both the artist and the woman with as much critical rigor as empathy. Through dozens of interviews with her colleagues, friends, and family members, Kellow (author of *Can I Go Now?: The Life of Sue Mengers, Hollywood's First Superagent*) traces the arc of her life and her thirty-year singing career to reveal many surprising facts about Broadway's biggest star.

valley of the dolls jacqueline susann: Our Blessed Rebel Queen Linda Mizejewski, Tanya D. Zuk, 2021-10-05 Longtime fans of Carrie Fisher and her body of work will welcome this smart and thoughtful tribute to a multimedia legend.

valley of the dolls jacqueline susann: Motion Picture Series and Sequels Bernard A. Drew, 2013-12-04 In 1989 alone, for example, there were some forty-five major motion pictures which were sequels or part of a series. The film series phenomenon crosses all genres and has been around since the silent film era. This reference guide, in alphabetical order, lists some 906 English Language motion pictures, from 1899 to 1990, when the book was initially published. A brief plot description is given for each series entry, followed by the individual film titles with corresponding years, directors and performers. Animated pictures, documentaries and concert films are not included but movies released direct to video are.

valley of the dolls jacqueline susann: From Television to the Internet Wiley Lee Umphlett, 2006 This book complements and expands on the commentary and conclusions of the author's initial inquiry into the modern era of media-made culture in *The Visual Focus of American Media Culture in the Twentieth Century* (FDUP, 2004). From the 1890s on to the 1920s and the Depression and World War II years, society's pervasively communal focus demanded idealized images and romanticized interpretations of life. But the communal imperative, as it was impacted on by evolving social change, harbored the seeds of its own disintegration.

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