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Coral Browne: 'This Effing Lady'



Synopsis

A larger-than-life character that towered over the London stage for half a century, Coral Browne was remarkable for her mesmerizing character performances, her glamour, her liberated attitude to sex, and the quickness of her often-savage wit. This Effing Lady is the hilarious and humane life of a remarkable and truly original star.

Book Information

Hardcover: 288 pages

Publisher: Oberon Books; 1st edition (April 1, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1840027649

ISBN-13: 978-1840027648

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 1.4 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.7 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.1 out of 5 stars 3 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

'The fruitiest Browne anecdotes are contained within this poisonously enjoyable book. As a biographer, Rose Collis ... ensures that her work does not degenerate into the literary equivalent of a night of after-show anecdote-tennis over the tablecloths of Joe Allen's.' *Independent on Sunday*, October 28, 2007
'Rose Collis' biography is hugely entertaining and awesomely well researched...Rose Collis' witty book goes beyond fag-hagiography to show Coral's fault as well as the generous spirit which made her "Darling Coral" to so many.' *Daily Mail*, October 12, 2007
'Miss Collis...recognises and recounts, with cutting clarity, the less savoury side of the aging, fading star.' *The Spectator*, October 3, 2007

Rose Collis is the author of a number of critically acclaimed books, including *Colonel Barker's Monstrous Regiment: A Tale of Female Husbandry* (Virago), *Portraits To The Wall* (Cassell), *A Trouser-wearing Character: Life and Times of Nancy Spain* (Continuum), and *Portraits to the Wall: Women on Women* (Continuum).

Coral Browne was a one of a kind, that rare bird that could be clever, insightful and devastating all at the same time without betraying her innate kindness and humanity. It would take someone with the same depth of understanding and wit to fully portray this multileveled creation and here Ms. Collis is game but sadly deficient. The book is carefully researched and written with great admiration for the gifts of its subject. It lacks the necessary "oomph" and a more ruthless perspective. The great Coral Browne deserves a far worthier opus. I appreciate the care that went into this book but that's about as far as it goes. An effing waste of time.

Not the most ingratiating writer, but I imagine fans of Coral Browne will appreciate the filmography as well as the theatre and television credits. Some of the stories are familiar, some more esoteric. What you end up admiring is not so much the wit, sophistication and brutally savage one-liners that Miss Browne could dish out, but the fact that she had the courage of her convictions and the sheer guts to forge a career from them. And we see the other side of the coin: the kindness and loyalty she showed to her friends. One gets the impression that she wanted to jump-start her acting when she moved to America, but, sadly, it never transpired. And when she failed to get an Oscar nomination for " Dreamchild ", it was patently clear that Hollywood was not her friend. Coral Browne was never everybody's cup of tea, but something beyond rare. She was Caviar to the General.

i loved the actress, i love the book, i love the writer.i saw coral browne in over ten plays and all of her movies and she was one of those actresses who never got their due, but always gave a performance that was unforgettable.this book captures her brilliantly.

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