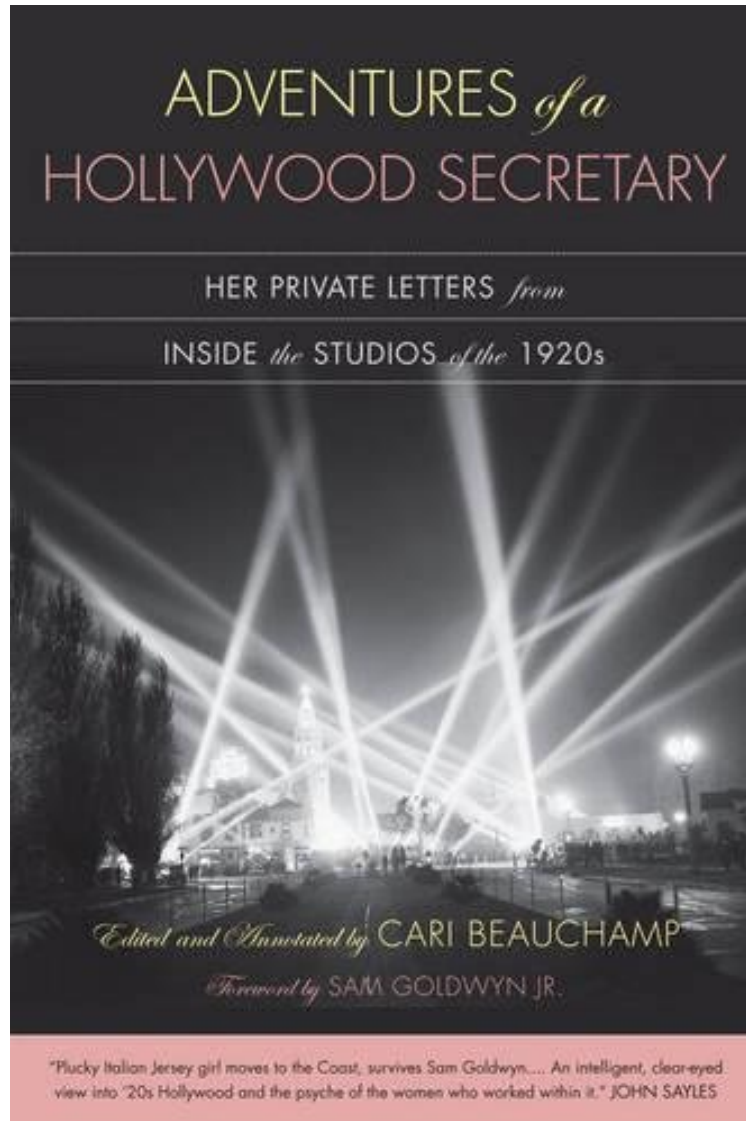


[FREE] Adventures of a Hollywood Secretary: Her Private Letters from Inside the Studios of the 1920s

Adventures of a Hollywood Secretary: Her Private Letters from Inside the Studios of the 1920s

Valeria Belletti

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Valeria Belletti : Adventures of a Hollywood Secretary: Her Private Letters from Inside the Studios of the 1920s before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Adventures of a Hollywood Secretary: Her Private Letters from Inside the Studios of the 1920s:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A MUST READ for Lovers of Old Hollywood! (If you love TCM, you will LOVE this book!)By CustomerFABULOUS book about Old Hollywood, California in the 1920s, and life in

the U.S. in the early decades of the 20th Century. Such a fun and interesting book. Valeria's letters helped me to visualize what life most have been like in the early days of the studio system. Plus, she gives such great accounts of the stars of the day -- Valentino, Marion Davies, and Ronald Coleman. It was also a pleasure to read about the clothes of the day, the dating protocol of the day, and what it must have been like to be a young woman on an amazing adventure. I hope more Valeria letters are unearthed! 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. What a great find! I enjoyed the unmediated look into another ...By Lily the Dragonrider What a great find! I enjoyed the unmediated look into another time and the world of early Hollywood. Fascinating. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A great read! By Voltaire A great, easy read. Hard to put down. If you are a fan of early Hollywood, this gets you into the door of what was going on in the Hollywood studios during the 20's. Valeria is an intelligent woman who is mature beyond her years. Always neat to peek into other peoples lives.

Adventures of a Hollywood Secretary is an insiders view of the film studios of the 1920s and the first from a secretary's perspective. Rich in gossip, it is also an eyewitness report of Hollywood in transition. In the summer of 1924, Valeria Belletti and her friend Irma visited California, but instead of returning home to New York, the twenty-six-year-old Valeria decided to stay in Los Angeles. She moved into the YWCA, landed a job as Samuel Goldwyn's personal and social secretary and proceeded to trip over history in the making. As she recounts in her dozens of letters to Irma, Valeria Belletti encountered every type of Hollywood player in the course of her working day: moguls, directors, stars, writers, and hopeful extras. She shares news about Valentino's affairs, Sam Goldwyn's bootlegger, the development of the talkies, her own role in helping to cast Gary Cooper in his first major part and much more often in hilarious detail. She writes of her living and working conditions, her active social life, and her hopes for the future all the everyday concerns of a young working woman during the jazz age. Alternating sophistication with naiveté, Valeria's letters intimately document a personal journey while giving us a unique portrait of a fascinating era.

From *Publishers Weekly* Those who, like Valeria Belletti, worked entry-level jobs in early Hollywood had ringside seats at one of the country's most happening scenes. Belletti, the daughter of Italian immigrants, worked as a secretary for Samuel Goldwyn and Cecil B. DeMille from 1925 to 1929 and this volume presents her naïve letters to a friend back home in New Jersey. Alas, her missives read like a young girl's diary (Belletti was in her late 20s), not a savvy view of Tinsel Town. Despite Belletti's proximity to the rich and powerful Rudolph Valentino and Gary Cooper, to name two her musings are remarkably chaste by 21st-century standards. All she can muster for Goldwyn is: "I don't particularly like him, but he's no worse than the others." Although she hints at tawdry interludes star affairs, scandalous deaths, studio shenanigans she refuses to reveal anything of substance. Editor Beauchamp, an Emmy-nominated documentary film writer, interjects commentary throughout, contextualizing the events Belletti relates. But dispatches on Belletti's outfits for movie screenings and details on her dates ("We had real champagne.... It was a case of love at first sight") don't make for scintillating or even enlightening reading. Only readers with an ardent interest in the period will find these letters of note. (May) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From *The New Yorker* In 1924, Valeria Beletti, a twenty-six-year-old from New Jersey, moved to Los Angeles and got a job as the personal secretary to the studio head Samuel Goldwyn. In spare moments, she wrote a series of chatty, heartfelt letters to a friend back home. She describes Goldwyn's mercurial temper; encounters with stars like Valentino and the young Ronald Colman; gossip about Charlie Chaplin and Marion Davies; the traumatic arrival of sound; and her own success in bringing a handsome young actor named Gary Cooper to the studio's attention. A mass of satisfying detail about early Hollywood suggests that essential features haven't changed much. "I know you would enjoy these people," Beletti tells her friend, "even though you have to more or less overlook their moral characters." Copyright 2006 *The New Yorker* "Valeria's letters are candid, lively, and inescapably charming... Historian Cari Beauchamp, puts Valeria's letters in a smart and illuminating context." -- Bookforum