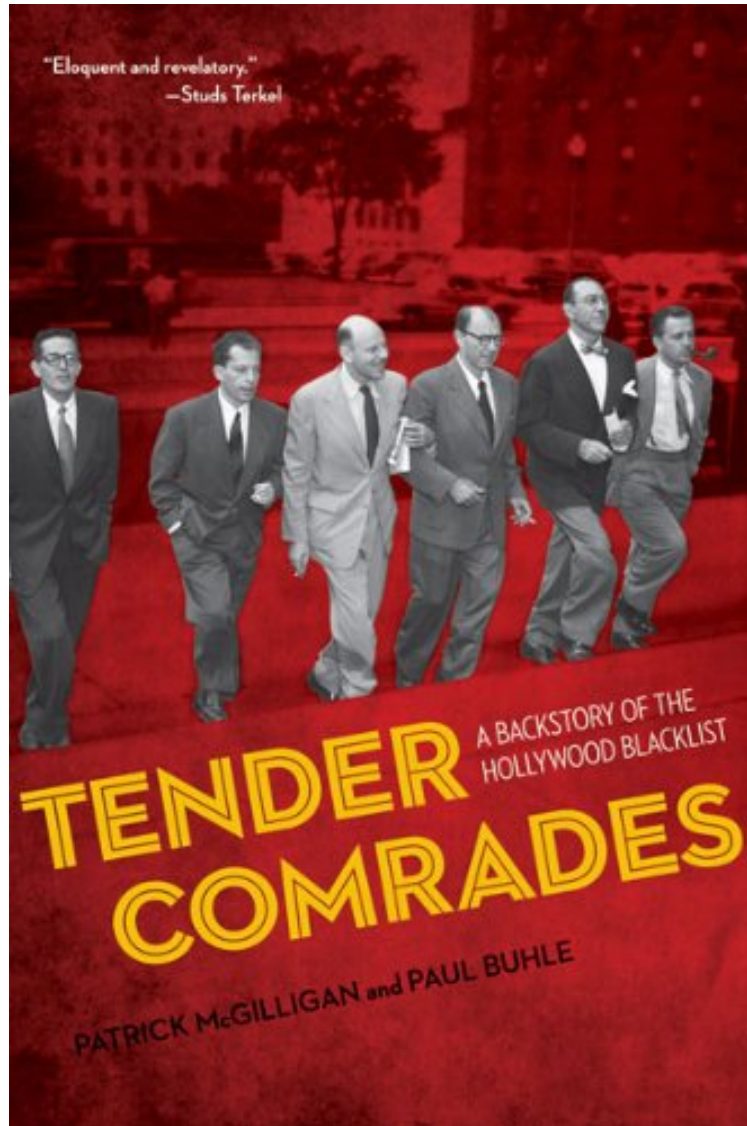


[Ebook free] Tender Comrades: A Backstory of the Hollywood Blacklist

Tender Comrades: A Backstory of the Hollywood Blacklist

Patrick McGilligan, Paul Buhle

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Patrick McGilligan, Paul Buhle : Tender Comrades: A Backstory of the Hollywood Blacklist before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Tender Comrades: A Backstory of the Hollywood Blacklist:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An Important Book About A Scoundrel TimeBy C. C. Black "Tender Comrades" is a project of oral history, of the sort that Studs Terkel is best known: a hefty collection of interviews with writers, directors, and actors who suffered the awful years of the McCarthy witch-hunts. (Those who remember the 1950s through a gauzy filter of Eisenhower mundanity after WW II would do well to read books like this.) Most of the

interviewees are not household names, and a big reason for that is the blacklist itself. These are the words of artists who were hounded away from Hollywood, traveled professionally under assumed names, or stayed active behind friends' fronts of their work. For a book whose subject is the hysteria generated by a fifth-rate Congressional mediocrity, which destroyed lives (sometimes literally) and whose legacy lives to this day, many of the interviews are surprisingly well-tempered, even humorous. Perhaps that's no surprise: these men and women were survivors, who scrounged to stay sane and afloat, who could look back on an ugly era with wisdom and compassion. While many had not, others had been associated with American Communism, and their comments take us back to the 1930s and help us better understand why some chose that path. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Lively Personal Histories of an Ungodly Era By watchit In another richly detailed exploration of people and politics, Patrick McGilligan and his colleagues have restored the voices of people whose speech was silenced by the real un-Americans. But this is no crying game. The blacklistees profiled in "Tender Comrades" have gone beyond victimization to assert themselves on the front lines of social change, from goodwill ambassadors and local politics to historians and oracles. The questions are as well-informed as the answers, and the editing is crisp and knowledgeable. Not only a solid research tome, this makes for great reading, like a dinner party you wish you could have been invited to without your name being named. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Death to Joe McCarthy By Dennis Roberts This is such a revealing story of the bravery and cowardice of those Hollywood victims of McCarthy. Very compelling read and beautifully written.

More than sixty years ago, McCarthyism silenced Hollywood. In the pages of *Tender Comrades*, those who were suppressed, whose lives and careers were ruined, finally have their say. A unique collection of profiles in cinematic courage, this extraordinary oral history brings to light the voices of thirty-six blacklist survivors (including two members of the Hollywood Ten), seminal directors of film noir and other genres, starring actresses and memorable supporting players, top screenwriters, and many less known to the public, who are rescued from obscurity by the stories they offer here that, beyond politics, open a rich window into moviemaking during the Golden Age of Hollywood.

.com *Tender Comrades* contains a series of in-depth interviews with people who suffered during the hysteria of the red scare in Hollywood. The McCarthy era has been studied for years, and although we may know the basic stories of how careers were ruined by accusations and innuendo, hearing the stories from the participants themselves is very moving. Interviewees range from people whose careers eventually rebounded, such as Martin Ritt, Walter Bernstein, and Ring Lardner Jr., to people who never again worked as writers or actors. From Library Journal The 50th anniversary of the 1947 House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) hearings, which resulted in the infamous Hollywood blacklist, is the occasion for this landmark collection of interviews with more than 30 of the blacklisted filmmakers. While HUAC's activities are well known and documented, only recently have many victims of the blacklist stepped forward, most notably Walter Bernstein with his *Inside Out: A Memoir of the Blacklist* (LJ 9/15/96). The sheer bulk of this book gives a sense of the enormous damage to the lives and careers of those blacklisted and the impact on filmmaking caused by losing this magnitude of talent. The interviews, expertly conducted by McGilligan (biographer of Fritz Lang and George Cukor) and Buhle (historian of the political Left), vividly reveal those who for so long have lurked in the shadows, silenced by their adversaries or, more often, allowed to perform, write, and direct under an alias. Formerly unacknowledged film credits are listed for each filmmaker. Highly recommended for academic libraries. ?Richard W. Grefrath, Univ. of Nevada Lib., Reno Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Kirkus sA massive, slow-moving oral history of 30-plus Hollywood blacklistees. The Hollywood blacklist started few heroes and far too many villains. The latter range from the studios and networks that illegally abetted the blacklist to those who "named names" to many blacklistees themselves, staunch Stalinist ideologues who would have gladly extirpated any opposition if the tables had been turned. The real victims were those whose left-wing ties provided the thinnest pretext for informers to trap them in the mad gyre. This collection presents a wide range of blacklistees, from a few of the more well known, such as Martin Ritt, Jules Dassin, and Ring Lardner Jr., to a large number of the obscure and marginal, most of them writers. Because the subjects tell their own lives in their own words, this leads to both an idiosyncratic freshness as well as a lack of focus, with opinion and anecdote substituting for depth. Also, with many interviews, the blacklist is only a small component, and we are treated to biographical minutiae of extremely minor figures (some with only a handful or less of films to their name). Even die-hard film and blacklist buffs will find their patience tried. McGilligan (Fritz Lang, 1997, etc.) and veteran oral historian Buhle know their material well, but their questions tend to be facile and unrevealing. But though this book is almost impossible to read cover to cover, it is interesting to see just how varied the experiences of blacklistees were. Some fled to Europe or Mexico and built careers there; some used "fronts," or pseudonyms; some got out of the biz. Some have forgiven their tormentors, some bear deep grievances. But the careers of all of them were seriously damaged by the experience: Perhaps this explains why so many of these interviewees are not household names. Invaluable source material, but much more than the ordinary reader wants or needs to know. (32 bw photos, not seen) -- Copyright 1997, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights

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