



Vamp: The Rise and Fall of Theda Bara

By Eve Golden

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Theda Bara's remarkable life as told by Eve Golden's heartfelt account is short of discovering a means of traveling through time and as close as we are ever likely to get to meeting the screen's great Vamp!

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Vamp: The Rise and Fall of Theda Bara By Eve Golden Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

Veteran biographer Golden (*Platinum Girl: The Life and Legends of Jean Harlow*, LJ 10/1/91) here chronicles the career of silent siren Theda Bara, the quintessential "vamp," who played Carmen, Salome, and Cleopatra, among other notorious female roles. Like many film biographies, it succumbs to familiar pitfalls: obligatory but cursory nods to film history and an uneven narrative, where the subject's "rise" inevitably is more compelling than her "fall." Laden with familiar apocrypha on Bara, *Vamp* isn't groundbreaking, but it is a much-needed full-length work that shows how Bara's precedent-setting career has contemporary resonance in mass-mediated images. With a critical eye for her primary sources, the fanzines, the author deconstructs Hollywood stardom without over-intellectualizing the star. Although Bara's films are dated, Golden gives due consideration to the icon Bara created-and to the life behind it. Recommended for general collections.

Jayne Kate Plymale-Jackson, Univ. of Georgia Libs., Athens

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From [Booklist](#)

This is the first book-length study of the early silent film actress perhaps now most memorable for the coiled-snake bra she wore as Cleopatra. Despite her status as the first media superstar, there is a dearth of good contemporary material on her. Theda Bara was the first product of the star system, and her real biography was intentionally obfuscated during her lifetime. Although she had a comfortable, middle-class upbringing in Cincinnati, Bara (whose real name was Theodosia Goodman) was promoted as the daughter of a French actress and an Italian sculptor, born under the stony gaze of the Sphinx. Her personal appearances were choreographed to enhance an exotic image, and her film roles played on the public perception of her as a temptress, a "vamp." Golden argues that her career was the prototype for those of Harlow, Monroe, and Madonna. As with those later sex symbols, controversy over Bara revolves around whether she was a creation of studio publicity or "a decent actress, trapped in scores of bad films." Although Bara's best movies survive only in fragments, Golden believes she was the latter. *Mike Tribby*

Review

This is the first biography of silent movie sex symbol Theda Bara to appear: it uses Bara's personal scrapbooks and other original materials to present a well-researched study of Bara's life and film achievements. Enjoy a readable and involving survey of her career which reveals details of her personal life.

-- *Midwest Book Review*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Eva Stanfield:

This *Vamp: The Rise and Fall of Theda Bara* is great book for you because the content which can be full of information for you who always deal with world and have to make decision every minute. This particular book reveal it data accurately using great coordinate word or we can declare no rambling sentences within it. So if you are read that hurriedly you can have whole facts in it. Doesn't mean it only provides straight forward sentences but hard core information with attractive delivering sentences. Having *Vamp: The Rise and Fall of Theda Bara* in your hand like getting the world in your arm, info in it is not ridiculous one particular. We can say that no e-book that offer you world throughout ten or fifteen small right but this book already do that. So , this is certainly good reading book. Hello Mr. and Mrs. stressful do you still doubt that?

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The book untitled Vamp: The Rise and Fall of Theda Bara contain a lot of information on that. The writer explains the girl idea with easy method. The language is very clear to see all the people, so do not worry, you can easy to read it. The book was published by famous author. The author brings you in the new time of literary works. You can read this book because you can continue reading your smart phone, or model, so you can read the book with anywhere and anytime. In a situation you wish to purchase the e-book, you can start their official web-site and order it. Have a nice learn.

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