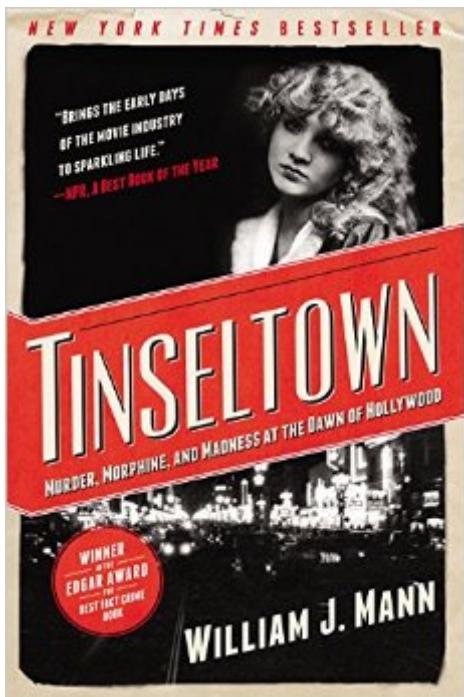


The book was found

Tinseltown: Murder, Morphine, And Madness At The Dawn Of Hollywood



Synopsis

New York Times BestsellerEdgar Award winner for Best Fact CrimeThe Day of the Locust meets The Devil in the White City and Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil in this juicy, untold Hollywood story: an addictive true tale of ambition, scandal, intrigue, murder, and the creation of the modern film industry. By 1920, the movies had suddenly become Americaâ™s new favorite pastime, and one of the nationâ™s largest industries. Never before had a medium possessed such power to influence. Yet Hollywoodâ™s glittering ascendency was threatened by a string of headline-grabbing tragediesâ™ including the murder of William Desmond Taylor, the popular president of the Motion Picture Directors Association, a legendary crime that has remained unsolved until now. In a fiendishly involving narrative, bestselling Hollywood chronicler William J. Mann draws on a rich host of sources, including recently released FBI files, to unpack the story of the enigmatic Taylor and the diverse cast that surrounded himâ™ including three beautiful, ambitious actresses; a grasping stage mother; a devoted valet; and a gang of two-bit thugs, any of whom might have fired the fatal bullet. And overseeing this entire landscape of intrigue was Adolph Zukor, the brilliant and ruthless founder of Paramount, locked in a struggle for control of the industry and desperate to conceal the truth about the crime. Along the way, Mann brings to life Los Angeles in the Roaring Twenties: a sparkling yet schizophrenic town filled with party girls, drug dealers, religious zealots, newly-minted legends and starlets already past their primeâ™ a dangerous place where the powerful could still run afoul of the desperate. A true story recreated with the suspense of a novel, Tinseltown is the work of a storyteller at the peak of his powersâ™ and the solution to a crime that has stumped detectives and historians for nearly a century.

Book Information

Paperback: 528 pages

Publisher: Harper Paperbacks; Reprint edition (October 6, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0062242199

ISBN-13: 978-0062242198

Product Dimensions: 5.3 x 0.8 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (414 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #84,922 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #27 inÂ Books > Humor & Entertainment > Movies > Industry #66 inÂ Books > Business & Money > Industries > Sports &

Customer Reviews

"The Day of the Locust meets The Devil in the White City and Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil in this juicy, untold Hollywood story: an addictive true tale of ambition, scandal, intrigue, murder, and the creation of the modern film industry." The preceding blurb for this book is fairly accurate except for "untold Hollywood story". The murder of silent film director William Desmond Taylor (née William Deane Tanner) has been told before, but I doubt if many people have heard it unless they are into true crime and early Hollywood. Sidney Kirkpatrick's book *A Cast of Characters* in many ways presents the same story, but this book is in my opinion is better. Better how, you might ask? This book, while based on fact, takes a true story and blends it with a story of early Hollywood and other sensationalistic sad stories and comes off as factual with overtones of a really compelling work of fiction. The victim in short order, does a disappearing act on wife and child and assumes a new identity in sunny LA where nothing is dark or distasteful except its residents. He becomes a prominent director in the burgeoning film industry, gains a certain level of respectability and prominence until he turns up with a bullet hole in his cold corpse in his LA home. The cast of characters include a virginal movie heroine on the ascendancy of what seemed to be a promising career, a drug addled screen comedienne of note, a stage mother, a shady butler, and many more disreputable types hiding in shadows or behind big desks at the studios. The author William Mann is an excellent writer and researcher. I can personally attest to this because I've read his other books and that's precisely why I grabbed *Tinseltown* up when offered by Vine.

Such authors as Sidney D. Kirkpatrick (via the research of King Vidor), Robert Giroux, Charles Higham, and other writers through crime compendia and, at least, one graphic novel have all professed to "solving" this unsolved murder. One of the few settled truths of this celebrated case is that it is as cold a case as one could ever imagine. Contrary to "investigative" journalism braggadocio, no yellowing document implicating any one as the killer has been discovered in a dusty file cabinet situated in a forgotten, walled-off room. Moreover, no person will be found who had any connection to the case, because they're all cold in their graves. You could, of course, visit a few, such as William Deane-Tanner, aka William Desmond Taylor, at Hollywood Forever Cemetery, a wonderful place, but they are in no condition to speak with you. Nearly everything connected to this case has to be labelled with modifiers, such as "supposedly," "allegedly," and "reportedly," but seldom "actually." The police investigation was desultory and bordering on incompetent. Studio

personnel were allowed to walk freely through Mr. Taylor's bungalow, a crime scene, and supposedly tampered with anything that could prove embarrassing to the company. But, again, one can't really distinguish between fact and myth (in its colloquial usage) in this case. One "fact" tossed facilely about is that Mr. Taylor was a homosexual, who employed his cook/butler/houseboy, Peavey, to scout Westlake (now MacArthur) Park for young boys for his sexual pleasures. There is absolutely no proof Mr. Taylor was a homosexual anymore than Mabel Normand was a cocaine "addict.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Tinseltown: Murder, Morphine, and Madness at the Dawn of Hollywood HOLLYWOOD SCANDALS: Hollywood Dirt, Hollywood Romance, Hollywood Reporter, Hollywood Stories. The Top Celebrity News Of The Decade 2000-2010 Murder Most Vile Volume 10: 18 Shocking True Crime Murder Cases (True Crime Murder Books) The Devil and Sherlock Holmes: Tales of Murder, Madness, and Obsession The Devil in the White City: Murder, Magic and Madness at the Fair That Changed America Destiny of the Republic: A Tale of Madness, Medicine and the Murder of a President The Notorious Elizabeth Tuttle: Marriage, Murder, and Madness in the Family of Jonathan Edwards (North American Religions) The Good Nurse: A True Story of Medicine, Madness, and Murder Love and Madness: The Murder of Martha Ray, Mistress of the Fourth Earl of Sandwich The Moth and the Flame: A Wrath & the Dawn Short Story (The Wrath and the Dawn) The Golden Dawn: The Original Account of the Teachings, Rites & Ceremonies of the Hermetic Order (Llewellyn's Golden Dawn Series) Hollywood Babylon: The Legendary Underground Classic of Hollywood's Darkest and Best Kept Secrets Hollywood Femmes Fatales. Volume 2 (Hollywood Femmes Fatales and Divas) Perfect Murder, Perfect Town: The Uncensored Story of the JonBenet Murder and the Grand Jury's Search for the Truth Perfect Murder, Perfect Town : The Uncensored Story of the JonBenet Murder and the Grand Jury's Search for the Final Truth Murder Rap: The Untold Story of the Biggie Smalls & Tupac Shakur Murder Investigations by the Detective Who Solved Both Cases Murder Most Vile Volume 1: 18 Shocking True Crime Murder Cases The Disappearing Spoon: And Other True Tales of Madness, Love, and the History of the World from the Periodic Table of the Elements Extraordinary Popular Delusions and the Madness of Crowds and Confusion And on That Bombshell: Inside the Madness and Genius of TOP GEAR

[Dmca](#)