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Von Shawn Levy

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Von Shawn Levy : Rat Pack Confidential (Text Only): Frank, Dean, Sammy, Peter, Joey and the Last Great Showbiz Party before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Rat Pack Confidential (Text Only): Frank, Dean, Sammy, Peter, Joey and the Last Great Showbiz Party:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. An impulse buy - great read, great historyVon Andy OrrockI picked up 'Rat Pack Confidential' in the airport, looking for a way to kill time on a couple of upcoming flights. This book filled those needs and more. It's a very compelling read...a finely crafted and expertly researched work on the makings - and subsequent unmakings - of the Rat Pack. There are excellent portraits of the main protagonists - Sinatra, Davis Jr., Martin, Lawford and Bishop - and Shawn Levy draws a vivid portrait of Las Vegas at the beginning of the 60s. Levy's research brings up five distinct personalities...despite the perceptions of 'clanishness' that the public held about the Rat Pack, these were each very unique individuals. Levy weaves together a series of threads to make up the core of the book, and one month after finishing it, there are three that linger in my mind...1. Sinatra's 'using' of Peter Lawford as an inroad to JFK. [Sinatra derisively referred to Lawford as 'the brother-in-Lawford.'] Once Lawford was of no use to him anymore, Sinatra discarded him Lawford never really fully recovered.2. Sinatra's desperate attempts to curry favor with JFK, and the Kennedy Administration's efforts to keep him (and the Rat Pack) at arm's length.3. Marilyn Monroe - caught in a downward spiral, her eerie presence haunts the latter-half of the book as powerful men use (and abuse) her. I went into this book expecting a breezy show-biz-type read and was very pleasantly surprised about the serious matter of much of the material: the development of Las Vegas; Presidential politics; Mafia intrigue; and lives destroyed by excess. Great stuff.0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Much Ado about nothing muchVon T. J. CaldwellI enjoyed "King of Comedy", Shawn Levy's previous book. During the course of research for that book, Levy read Nick Tosches' "Dino: Living High in the Dirty Business of Dreams." For those who haven't read it, it is one of those books with an novelish overcooked style. Levy tries his own version here of that style here. Big mistake: he comes across as a self-conscious imitator. Stick to your own style, kid, it's better, and it feels more natural. This kind of thing also dates terribly, as anyone who has read "Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas" can attest. Levy seems a bit uncomfortable with the subject matter, too; he is sensitive enough to divine its profound triviality. So he tries hard to elevate it: we get a lot of nonsense about Marilyn Monroe, for instance. For anyone who wants a common sense estimation of her career, try Clive James' essay in "At the Pillars of Hercules". The important thing about Frank Sinatra was his music, not his protracted adolescence--so try some of the serious books on that, of which there are many. For Martin, if you feel inclined, the Tosches biography is still better. Davis wrote several books on his own life. Lawford is not worth anybody's attention unless you count the grassy knoll brigade. In other words, nothing here that need capture your attention or hasn't been done better elsewhere.0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A damn good general introduction to the subject, pallie!Von Derek LeifLevy really tackles a tough subject here, writing not a biography of a person so much as a chronicle of a certain time (the age of Camelot), and a certain place (Las Vegas). Consequently, people who are looking for a detailed biography of Sammy, Frank, Dino, or even the two lesser members of the Rat Pack (Peter Lawford and Joey Bishop) would probably do better elsewhere. Nonetheless, Levy does a great job of providing a sort of introductory guide to the story of one of the most celebrated gang of entertainers who ever lived. There are excellent nuggets on the friendship between John Kennedy and Sinatra, along with juicy stuff about Marilyn (how could there NOT be?), gangster Sam Giancana, and enough gossip to satisfy the most demanding fan of the Age of Hef. Sure it's a bit shallow--heck, Levy tries to cover so much territory, it's a miracle the book reads as cleanly as it does--but it's clear not only that Levy did an awful lot of research, but that he enjoyed writing the book as well. In other words, a fast intro to the world of ring-a-ding-ding. Enjoy!

KurzbeschreibungThe first biography of the Rat Pack Frank Sinatra, Sammy Davis Jr., Dean Martin, Peter Lawford, Joey Bishop et al the original Swingers. Brilliant and beautifully written story of their rise and fall, and their connections with the Kennedys and the Mafia. This edition does not include illustrations. They alit in Las Vegas for a month to make a movie and play a historic nightclub gig they called the Summit; they hit Miami, the Utah desert, Palm Springs, Chicago, Atlantic City, Beverly Hills, Hollywood back lots, illegal gambling dens, saloons, yachts, private jets, the White House itself. It was sauce and vinegar and eau de cologne and sour mash whiskey and gin and smoke and perfume and silk and neon and skinny lapels and tail fins and rockets to the sky. It was swinging and sighing and being a sharpie, it was cutting a figure and digging a scene. It was Frank and Sammy Davis Jr. and Dean Martin and Peter Lawford for a while and Joey Bishop when they asked him and Jack Kennedy and Sam Giancana and tables full of cronies and who knew how many broads. It was the ultimate spasm of traditional showbiz both the last and the most of its kind. It was the Rat Pack. It was beautiful. Rat Pack Confidential you're never far from a cocktail, a swingin affair and a fist-fight..deIf you're not inclined to read individual biographies of Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Sammy Davis Jr., Shawn Levy's Rat Pack Confidential is a perfect one-stop resource. Less a group biography than a series of impressionistic snapshots, the book is loaded with can't-miss material--the dirt on the making of Ocean's Eleven, information about Sinatra's wild stint as a casino owner, deep background on Peter Lawford's habit of introducing Jack Kennedy to glamorous starlets, wiretap transcripts of mobsters Sam Giancana and Johnny Formosa discussing Dean Martin's lack of respect. Levy, whose previous book, King of Comedy Is a serious consideration of

Jerry Lewis's life and career, offers similarly well-considered insights into the members of the Rat Pack. He covers Davis's lifelong struggle against racism and the complicated intertwinings of the Kennedy political machine and "the Clan," as the performers preferred to be called (they often denied anything like the Rat Pack even existed and resisted collective references). The book's debts to its predecessors are often apparent; much of the material on Sinatra's friendship with Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall, for example, appears to have been gleaned from recent Bogart biographies. The writing style, which tries to capture the ring-a-ding-ding feel of the era, also owes serious debts to Nick Toches by way of James Ellroy, while only intermittently reaching their level of mastery. But these are minor quibbles. As a synthesis of 30 years worth of journalism and celebrity biography, *Rat Pack Confidential* succeeds in portraying the supernova blowout of old-school showbiz in all its dazzling glory..co.uk If you're not inclined to read individual biographies of Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Sammy Davis Jr., Shawn Levy's *Rat Pack Confidential* is a perfect one-stop resource. Less a group biography than a series of impressionistic snapshots, the book is loaded with can't-miss material--the dirt on the making of *Ocean's Eleven*, information about Sinatra's wild stint as a casino owner, deep background on Peter Lawford's habit of introducing Jack Kennedy to glamorous starlets, wiretap transcripts of mobsters Sam Giancana and Johnny Formosa discussing Dean Martin's lack of respect. Levy, whose previous book, *King of Comedy* is a serious consideration of Jerry Lewis's life and career, offers similarly well-considered insights into the members of the Rat Pack. He covers Davis's lifelong struggle against racism and the complicated intertwinings of the Kennedy political machine and "the Clan," as the performers preferred to be called (they often denied anything like the Rat Pack even existed and resisted collective references). The book's debts to its predecessors are often apparent; much of the material on Sinatra's friendship with Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall, for example, appears to have been gleaned from recent Bogart biographies. The writing style, which tries to capture the ring-a-ding-ding feel of the era, also owes serious debts to Nick Toches by way of James Ellroy, while only intermittently reaching their level of mastery. But these are minor quibbles. As a synthesis of 30 years worth of journalism and celebrity biography, *Rat Pack Confidential* succeeds in portraying the supernova blowout of old-school showbiz in all its dazzling glory.