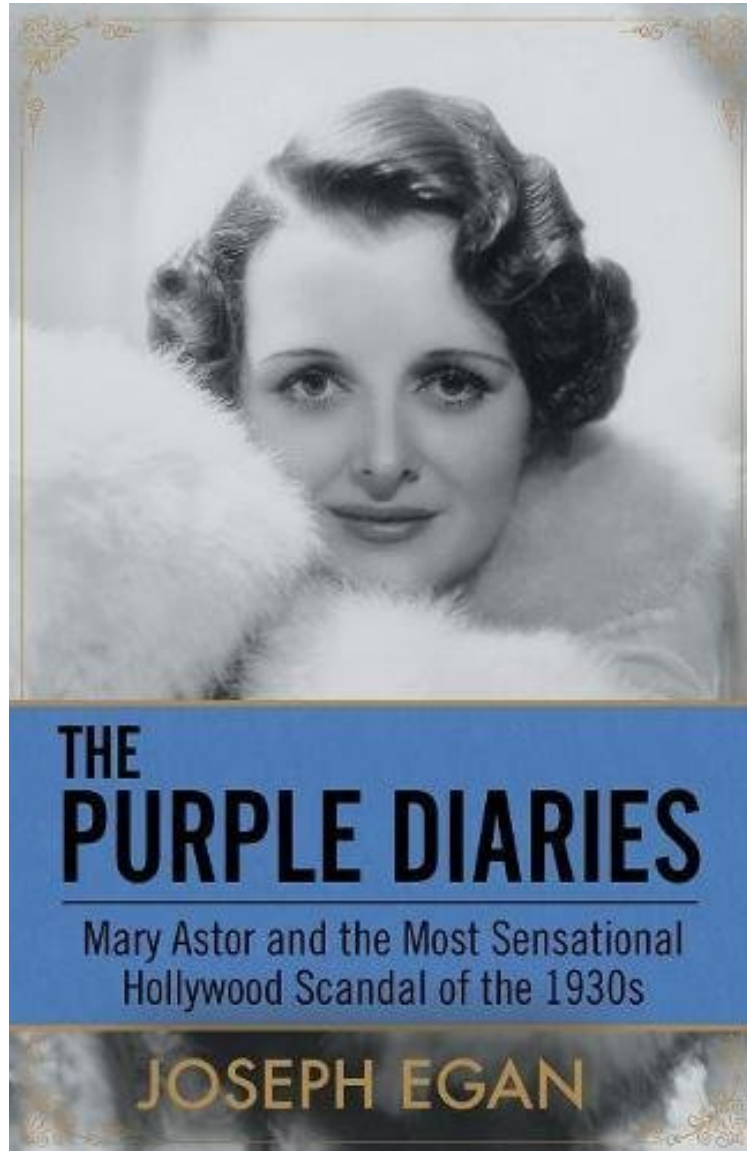


## The Purple Diaries: Mary Astor and the Most Sensational Hollywood Scandal of the 1930s

*Joseph Egan*

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**Joseph Egan : The Purple Diaries: Mary Astor and the Most Sensational Hollywood Scandal of the 1930s** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Purple Diaries: Mary Astor and the Most Sensational Hollywood Scandal of the 1930s:

52 of 54 people found the following review helpful. A much better picture of Miss Astor emerges (she comes across as

...By PattyH This is a luscious juicy peach of a book that covers one of the most notorious incidents in Hollywood history. It was covered briefly in other books but I was always hoping for a more thorough coverage because this was such a bombshell in its day and is one hell of a story. My wish was granted with this book. You get acquainted with every character ( had no idea Franklyn Thorpe was such a womanizer, he'd always been portrayed as the injured party) and get taken through the story as though it was unfolding right before your eyes. A much better picture of Miss Astor emerges (she comes across as wounded emotionally but very strong willed) and we get to know little Marylyn and find out what happened to her in later years. Many photos are included, most of which I'd never seen before, which was fantastic. Well-researched and written, this will be the last word on this scandal for some time. Highly recommended. 34 of 35 people found the following review helpful. Absolutely fabulous read - one of my favorites of 2016 By Cindy B. (ThoughtsFromAPage) The Purple Diaries is absolutely fantastic. From the moment I started it, I truly could not put it down. Admittedly, I am fascinated by this time period in Hollywood and have recently read a number of books about this era so the subject matter appeals to me very much. Before I read The Purple Diaries, I knew very little about Mary Astor and her long, varied life and careers. Joseph Egan conducted an incredible amount of research to write this book, and his attention to detail really adds a lot. There is so much drama that the story reads like a well-written soap opera that involves various famous actors, actresses and other Hollywood players from that era. Throughout the story, Egan includes a number of photos and newspaper articles which significantly contribute to the storyline. Without these additions, I would not have enjoyed the story quite as much it truly makes the story come alive, and I loved pouring over the old photos. The focus of The Purple Diaries is the custody dispute between Mary Astor and her second husband Franklin Thorpe over their young daughter Marylyn. The story is not a particularly happy one, but the independence and strength Mary Astor showed to pursue such an issue as a female in the 1930s was nothing short of amazing. The fact that she was able to endure such controversy during that time period and continue with her career as an actress (she even goes on to win an Academy Award) is quite impressive. Egan interviewed and communicated with Marylyn Thorpe while writing the book and includes a chapter at the end that conveys Marylyn's thoughts on her childhood and relationship with both her mother and her father. In addition to summarizing the rest of Mary Astor's life, Egan also takes the time to quickly follow the timeline of several other of the major characters in the drama including Franklin Thorpe and his parents, George Kaufman, and Ruth Chatterton. I really appreciated knowing how their lives played out too. I highly recommend The Purple Diaries; Joseph Egan spent a substantial amount of time and effort researching Mary Astor with a particular focus on the custody dispute, and it really paid off. Thanks to Diversion Books and NetGalley for the chance to read this ARC in exchange for an honest review. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Bad book and a long bit of notes about the Alt Right By Elisabeth Young I apologize if there are any hardcore Mary Astor fans on here but this book was a disaster. Yes, there was a contentious divorce but that is the way it is in the early decades of our nation. Anyway, this is no spoiler because there is nothing to spoil. Very sad situation played out in the papers but those news papers had NO idea what was coming down the pike. But now with TMZ and Ben Shapiro they are showing us the other side of Hollywood and calling a man who drugged a 13 year old girl and getting away with it through flight. He will face his hell later. And for Whoopie Goldberg saying it wasn't (rape rape) we have lost our minds and our morals. I only mention I have about this book was it was boring and repetitive. That led me into divorce which many A listers are getting divorced. Just watch over your kids, Hollywood. What happens when its you how gets targeted.

One of Hollywood's first scandals was nearly its last. 1936 looked like it would be a great year for the movie industry. With the economy picking up after the Great Depression, Americans everywhere were sitting in the dark watching the stars and a few stars shined as brightly as one of America's most enduring screen favorites, Mary Astor. But Astor's story wasn't a happy one. She was born poor, and at the first sign that she could earn money, her parents grabbed the reins and the checks. Widowed at twenty-four, Mary Astor was looking for stability when she met and wed Dr. Franklyn Thorpe. But the marriage was rocky from the start; both were unfaithful, but they did not divorce until after Mary Astor gave birth to little Marylyn Thorpe. What followed was a custody battle that pushed The Spanish Civil War and Hitler's 1936 Olympic Games off of the front pages all over America. Astor and Thorpe were both ruthless in their fight to gain custody of their daughter, but Thorpe held a trump card: the diaries that Mary Astor had been keeping for years. In these diaries, Astor detailed her own affairs as well as the myriad dalliances of some of Hollywood's biggest names. The studio heads, longtime controllers of public perception, were desperate to keep such juicy details from leaking. With the complete support of the Astor family, including unlimited access to the photographs and memorabilia of Mary Astor's estate, The Purple Diaries is a look at Hollywood's Golden Age as it has never been seen before, as Egan spins a wildly absorbing yarn about a scandal that threatened to bring down the dream factory known as Hollywood.

"Egan tells Astor's story with smooth efficiency. He captures important nuances, facts and emotions, but he doesn't weigh his narrative down with unnecessary details. The players in this drama are fleshed out like characters in a play..." -- A Classic Movie Blog" Joseph Egan gives a detailed account of the custody battle that, for a time, pushed the

Spanish Civil War and Hitlers Olympic Games off the front pages of America." The New York Post "Newspaper clippings and family photos pepper The Purple Diaries, providing a glimpse into the lost world of Old Hollywood and the pandemonium the court case caused. Its this wider scope that makes The Purple Diaries endlessly fascinating. Now if the present-day Hollywood could just adapt it to the screen." -- Entertainment Weekly"Joseph Egan gives a detailed account of the custody battle that, for a time, pushed the Spanish Civil War and Hitlers Olympic Games off the front pages of America." -- The Huffington Post, Best Film Books of 2016 "As much as Astors fans liked reading about her romantic exploits, they loved seeing her in the role of martyred mother even more: the woman who was willing to gamble her reputation in order to save her relationship with her child." The New York Post "The Purple Diaries is a Red Hot Read!" -- Medium"The Purple Diaries is a fascinating piece of Hollywood detective work, a character study of a forward-thinking and sexually liberated woman and an examination of the tabloid press." -- Shelf Awareness"Cinema and celebrity buffs,..will revel in Joseph Egan's account of Mary Astor's life" -- Broadway World"This candid account of the case, drawn from materials in Astors estate and written with the support of her family, will fascinate fans of the golden age of films." BooklistAbout the AuthorJoseph Egan is something of a renaissance figure. Soon after earning a degree in film and theatre, he wrote for and edited a weekly entertainment newspaper. In addition, he is the editor of a privately printed anthology, has edited several college literary magazines, worked as a freelance editor, and is a professional researcher. Mr. Egan has also worked in motion picture promotion, has had several film scripts optioned, and served as a judge at an international independent film festival. As a conceptual artist, he has presented installations in New York City as well as in the Midwest.Joseph Egan is also a close personal friend of Marylyn Thorpe Roh, the child at the center of this famous custody case. He is an expert on a wide range of subjects, including the motion picture Heavens Gate, producer David O. Selznick, inventor Nikola Tesla, and of course, Mary Astor. Mr. Egan and his wife live on the side of a mountain in Dutchess County, New York, where their daily visitors are restricted to white-tailed deer, wild turkeys, chipmunks, rabbits, raccoons, and a rather reclusive family of possums.