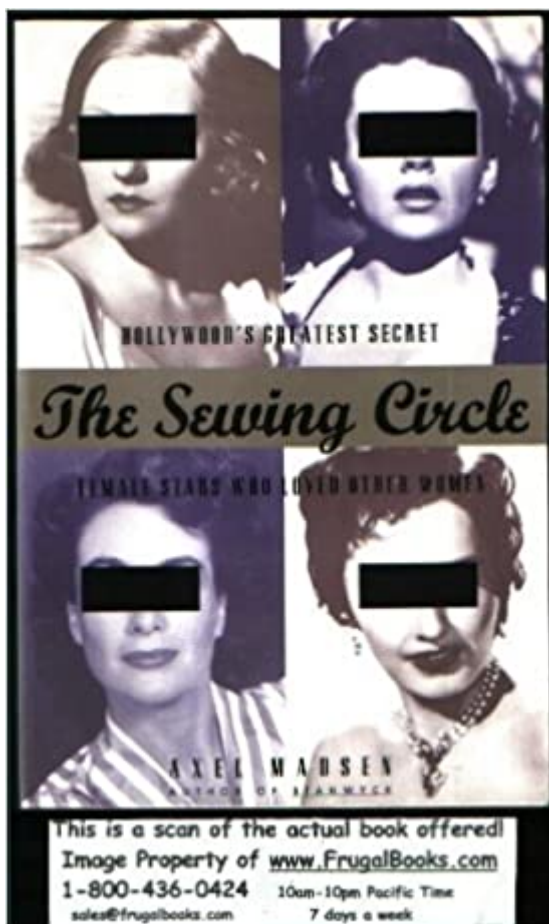


The book was found

# The Sewing Circle: Hollywood's Greatest Secret: Female Stars Who Loved Other Women



## Synopsis

Documents the double life of "The Sewing Circle," a group of lesbians and bisexuals that included such famous figures as Marlene Dietrich, Greta Garbo, Tallulah Bankhead, Joan Crawford, Myrna Loy and Agnes Moorehead. By the author of Stanwyck.

## Book Information

Paperback: 256 pages

Publisher: Birch Lane Press (December 27, 1994)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1559722754

ISBN-13: 978-1559722759

Package Dimensions: 9.1 x 5.9 x 1.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.6 out of 5 stars 33 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #761,410 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #15 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Specific Groups > LGBT > Lesbian #939 in Books > Arts & Photography > Performing Arts > Theater > Acting & Auditioning #1889 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Arts & Literature > Television Performers

## Customer Reviews

This is a highly readable book, and the author has way with words when she describes feminists of 1920s Hollywood who were redefining sexuality and relationships. This work is based on earlier publications about Hollywood lesbians, and many paragraphs and sentences look awfully similar to "The Girls: Sappho Goes to Hollywood" by Diana McLellan, which was published in 2013. It appears that this book may have been a source for many stories described by Ms. McLellan. For a quick read, I would recommend this book over McLellan's, because the latter runs to about 506 pages! Some of the most interesting stories is probably about the ravishing ladies of golden era; Greta Garbo, Marlene Dietrich and Tallulah Bankhead. They were all bisexuals but had strong leanings towards women. The greatest "conqueror" of sewing circle was probably poet and playwright Mercedes De Acosta who had numerous gorgeous ladies in her count, from Europe to California. Her affairs with some of the well-known ladies like; Greta Garbo, Marlene Dietrich, Alla Nazimova, Eva Le Gallienne, Ona Munson, Natacha Rambova, Lilyan Tashman and many more "good-time Charlene(s)." Sexuality was another role for many women, and for vanity and fear of discovery some of them had lavender marriages with gay men so that they could form secret

alliances. Women like Tallulah Bankhead and Patsy Kelly made no secrets of their Sapphic tendencies; in fact Bankhead was very vocal about her gender orientation. Isadora Duncan is another bisexual and a longtime lover of Mercedes de Acosta who openly expressed her joy in lesbian relationship. She wrote sensual lesbian poems about Mercedes before her untimely death in Paris in an auto accident at the age of 50. Once she waved a red scarf and bared her breast on stage in Boston, proclaiming, "This is red! So am I." Alla Nazimova was famous for organizing gay orgies at the famous "Garden of Allah," a high-priced apartment complex on Sunset strip in Los Angeles. She threw caution to the wind and spent her fortune lavishly to produce her movie, "Salome" that featured an all gay cast. Diana Wynyard, one of the first English ladies to become a member of the sewing circle, enjoyed the warmth of ladies hugs in sunny California. There were rumors that Barbara Stanwyck tried to seduce her future rival, Bette Davis when they were filming Edna Ferber's 1932 movie "So Big." Tallulah Bankhead's wild flossy beauty attracted some of the most interesting lesbians of 1920s that included Katharine Cornell, Laurette Taylor, Sybil Thorndike, Beatrice Lillie, and Harlem's Gladys Bentley, a three pound black Mae West, to put it mildly, donned in tuxedo and known to have married a woman in New Jersey in a civil ceremony in 1920s! Libby Holman is another lady who had passionate affairs with Du Pont heiress Louisa Carpenter and later married tobacco heir Zachary Smith Reynolds. Holman was charged with murder when her husband was found shot, but later the charges were dropped. She established a foundation for civil rights movement to the memory of her deceased son. Dr. Martin Luther King was the first to receive the grants to travel to India to study Mahatma Gandhi's path of non-violence and civil disobedience. Paramount's costume designer Edith Head and her gay husband Fox director Wiard "Bill" Ihnen pursued their homo sexuality for decades. Joan Crawford and Barbara Stanwyck had failed marriages and gave them time to seek comfort in the tender arms of gorgeous females. Sexless Linda and Cole Porter apparently helped his career and the couple's homosexuality. Jill Esmond struggled to accept her lesbian orientation, but remained married to actor Lawrence Olivier for years. Their marriage was never consummated. Katherine Hepburn, Janet Gaynor, Lili Damita, and Agnes Moorhead were daisy chains of deceit. Charles Laughton and Elsa Lanchester; Vincente Minnelli and Judy Garland were also lavender couples. Alla Nazimova's marriage with actor Charles Bryant; Mercedes De Acosta with Abram Poole; Lilyan Tashman with Edmond Lowe, and Rudolph Valentino with Jean Acker and later with Natacha Rambova are well-known examples of lavender marriages. The book is filled with lot of interesting stories, and I recommend to anyone interested in the history of Hollywood and the movies (and theater) of golden era.

Great book, featuring little-known facts about a variety of Hollywood actresses. Loved reading this so much, I bought a second copy when my first got left behind!

Great book on Hollywood's feminist history.

Thanks!

The information in this book is pretty accurate. I do a lot of autobiographical and biographical reading, and there is an exceptional amount of overlap from this book to my other books. Personally, I believe, EVERYONE should read this book. Knowledge is power! All children, especially LGBTQ youth, should read this book. It would have meant the world to me to have had this book to read as a teenager.

I was disappointed. I expected a better read. It was not that informative. Not worth the money. Big disappointed. Not good at all.

This was a good insight into a hidden Hollywood world!! I'm sure if you like Hollywood trivia this will add to a hidden world.

Wonderful book on the private life of the true movie stars. I mainly bought it for the private life of Barbara Stanwyck.

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

The Sewing Circle: Hollywood's Greatest Secret: Female Stars Who Loved Other Women Sewing: Sewing for Beginners - Master the Art of Sewing + 2 Bonus BOOKS (how to sew for beginners, how to sew, sew, sewing for beginners, sewing, sewing for dummies, sewing books) Sewing: Absolute Beginners Guide to Sewing with Speed, Creativity and Mastery (Sewing 101, Sewing Mastery) Sewing: An Amazing Hand Sewing Guide for Complete Beginners to Sew by Hand and Learn About Sewing Gertie's New Book for Better Sewing:: A Modern Guide to Couture-Style Sewing Using Basic Vintage Techniques (Gertie's Sewing) Hollywood Window to the Stars, Volume 2: More Revealing Facts About Hollywoods Biggest Stars Sewing Machine Magic: Make the Most of Your Machine--Demystify Presser Feet and Other Accessories \* Tips and Tricks for Smooth Sewing \* 10 Easy, Creative Projects Stars! Stars! Stars! Full Service: My Adventures in Hollywood and the Secret Sex Live of the Stars Full Service: My Adventures in Hollywood and the Secret Sex Lives of

the Stars Sewing (5th Edition): Sewing For Beginners - Quick & Easy Way To Learn How To Sew With 50 Patterns for Beginners! Sewing School: 21 Sewing Projects Kids Will Love to Make Sewing School 2: Lessons in Machine Sewing; 20 Projects Kids Will Love to Make Sewing Clothes Kids Love: Sewing Patterns and Instructions for Boys' and Girls' Outfits Sewing (5th Edition): Sewing for Beginners - Quick & Easy Way to Learn How to Sew Sewing, 2nd Edition: The Definitive Guide to Sewing for Beginners Sewing: The Ultimate Guide to Mastering Sewing for Beginners in 30 Minutes or Less! Sewing Secrets from the Fashion Industry: Proven Methods To Help You Sew Like the Pros (Rodale Sewing Book) Sewing Lingerie (Singer Sewing Reference Library) SEWING: ONE DAY SEWING MASTERY: The Complete Beginner's Guide to Learn to Sew in Under 1 Day! - 10 Step by Step Projects That Inspire You " Images Included

[Contact Us](#)

[DMCA](#)

[Privacy](#)

[FAQ & Help](#)