



Audrey and Bill: A Romantic Biography of Audrey Hepburn and William Holden

Edward Z. Epstein

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Here for the first time is the complete, captivating story of an on-set romance that turned into a lifelong love story between silver screen legends Audrey Hepburn and William Holden. In 1954, Hepburn and Holden were America's sweethearts. Both won Oscars that year and together they filmed *Sabrina*, a now-iconic film that continues to inspire the worlds of film and fashion.

Audrey & Bill tells the stories of both stars, from before they met to their electrifying first encounter when they began making *Sabrina*. The love affair that sparked on-set was relatively short-lived, but was a turning point in the lives of both stars. *Audrey & Bill* follows both Hepburn and Holden as their lives crisscrossed through to the end, providing an inside look at the Hollywood of the 1950s, '60s, and beyond. Through in-depth research and interviews with former friends, co-stars, and studio workers, *Audrey & Bill* author Edward Z. Epstein sheds new light on the stars and the fascinating times in which they lived.

Audrey and Bill: A Romantic Biography of Audrey Hepburn and William Holden Details

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From Reader Review Audrey and Bill: A Romantic Biography of Audrey Hepburn and William Holden for online ebook

Annie says

Humphrey Bogart strongly disliked Audrey Hepburn?!? He threw a party on the set of Sabrina and DIDN'T INVITE HER??? This is quite possibly the most depressing nugget of information I've ever received.

Magdalena aka A Bookaholic Swede says

Roman Holiday is one of my favorite movies of all time. It's a wonderful feel-good movie and Audrey Hepburn together with Gregory Peck make the movie truly marvelous. Sabrina is also a good movie, but I have always preferred Bogart to Holden so I've never really cared that much about his role in the movie, but someone that cared very much was Audrey Hepburn, she fell in love with him. But their romance was doomed from the start...

This book has been lying and waiting to be read since I requested it from Edelweiss and today did I pick it to read by chance. It's a fast read, started to read it this morning when I was out walking my cat, read 10% of it during the "walk", well Caesar was mostly lying on the grass. Thank God for the kindle app on my iPhone!

I never thought I would give the book 4 stars. I thought 3-3.5 would perhaps be sufficiently when I started to read it, but it was such an enjoyable book. Sure most information about Audrey Hepburn and William Holden can you find on the internet, there are no big exposes in this book. But it's a great book about a doomed romance between two iconic movie stars.

I recommend this book to fans of the old Tinseltown. To people like me that love the old movies, the old movie stars.

William Holden and Audrey Hepburn may never have gotten a happily ever after life, but they got for a while during the filming of Sabrina a great time together.

I received this copy from the publisher through Edelweiss in return for an honest review! Thank you!

Review also posted on A Bookaholic Swede and It's a Mad Mad World

Lynx says

If you're going into this book expecting a comprehensive look into Hepburn and Holden's love affair then you must not know much about them. Their affair was brief and at the beginning of Hepburn's career, not nearly enough material for a whole book. What you get with this book is two biographies in one, following their separate careers and personal lives throughout the decades. What ties it together apart from the obvious Hollywood and mutual friends connection is the authors claims that Bill saw Audrey as the love of his life

and while having many affairs and long lasting relationships after her was never able to get over her completely. Both were part of the Old Hollywood system that made sure to keep their actors personal bad habits and affairs as far away from the media as possible, making sure to maintain the idealistic images they had onscreen so it's always an interesting experience to read how these larger than life, images of perfection were in fact human, complete with all the flaws that come with being such. For some that can be a blow (What! You mean Audrey Hepburn wasn't perfect?!) but I've always found this reassuring.

Epstein tends to put the focus more on Audrey and at times I felt as though I was reading her biography alone until a random paragraph or two would mention what Bill was up to which left me wanting more on his end. He also focuses more on the personal aspect of things, even when it came to facts about filming. Epstein does a good job of covering Audrey's major films but leaves out a lot of Holden's work, glossing over it with a single sentence or not even mentioning it at all, that is unless he was having a sexual relationship with a costar. He also leaves out so many talented people both Audrey & Bill worked with in film that I had been looking forward to reading about.

It also felt at times as though I was reading more gossip than actual fact, especially when it came to love affairs, personal feelings, and insinuations that a large part of Bill's depression and alcoholism, even decades after their affair ended came from his longing for Audrey. Still, there is enough facts in here to make it a worthwhile read, especially for Audrey fans. Hopefully by putting their stories together it will make those reading for Audrey want to look up more on Holden or vice versa.

However there's nothing wrong with a little juicy gossip here and there as long as there's enough fact to make the book worthwhile which I believe it is. I'm not sure how much new information die hard Audrey fans will get from this, I've never read a book on her but I knew quite a lot already but there was still plenty of interesting tidbits to make this one an enjoyable read.

*Thank you Running Press & Netgalley for this review copy.

Lindsey says

(I received a copy of this book from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.)

I've always considered myself a huge fan of Audrey Hepburn, but I learned quite a bit about her that I didn't already know. This biography focuses more on Audrey than Bill, or at least it seemed that way to me, but there is still a good bit of information about Mr. Holden, as well.

I love reading biographies and autobiographies of actors from the Golden Age of Hollywood. They always seemed so poised and glamorous, yet they're human and face the same insecurities and problems as the rest of us. I was thrilled when I saw this bio was available on NetGalley.

I find it a little strange that a biography is dedicated to two different actors, especially when this affair happened so early in Audrey's career. It seemed like she eventually moved on - marrying a couple of times, and having two children. The author never mentioned that she continued to pine for Bill. While no one really knows for sure, it seems like Bill may have been the one who never got over Audrey. However, according to the book, it didn't seem to affect their lives permanently, so I suppose that's why it seems a bit odd for a double biography.

That being said, I did really enjoy reading about each of their lives and careers. I loved the behind-the-scenes glimpses of filming some of their classic and iconic films. I've seen several of Audrey's, but not many of Bill's, and reading this has inspired me to see as many as I can.

I suppose it says a lot about their respective acting abilities that while they both looked and seemed so put together and graceful on screen, they both hid dark and difficult parts of their lives - alcoholism for Bill, and depression and insecurity about her looks for Audrey.

While the author seemed a bit biased at times, this biography is still well-researched and informative. I would highly recommend it to fans of Audrey and Bill, or anyone who enjoys biographies of actors.

Mauoijenn ~ *Mouthy Jenn* ~ says

NetGalley book review

I **LOVE** Audrey Hepburn and was very interested in learning about her life. This was a great read and a peek into a glamorous world win love with her husband and fellow actor. I just ate this book up. Very good writing and loved every little detail. Perfect book for any fan of either or both actors.

Casey Wheeler says

This book is very light read with the focus on the romances of Audrey Hepburn and William Holden including a brief fling they had around the making of the movie Sabrina. The author spends a great deal more time on Hepburn than he does Holden, so a reader needs to keep that in mind. An early mistake in the book causes me to wonder about the rest of the research done on the book. The book states that Holden spent his teenage years in Pasadena. It was actually South Pasadena and it wasn't hard for me to find it.

I can only recommend this book for anyone who wants an overview of life of the two actors with the emphasis on Audrey Hepburn.

I received a free Kindle copy of Audrey and Bill by Ernest Epstein courtesy of Net Galley and Perseus Books, the publisher. It was with the understanding that I would post a review on Net Galley, Goodreads, Amazon and my fiction book review blog. I also posted it to my Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Google Plus pages.

I requested this book as I have seen many of the movies made by the two actors. This is the first book by the author that I have read.

Erin says

2.5 Stars

Audrey and Bill is suppose to be about the passionate and all consuming love affair between Audrey Hepburn and William Holden. A relationship I didn't even know existed before this book. Well it turns out

the reason I had never heard of this passionate and all consuming love affair was because it was a short term on-set fling. The "romance" this book is suppose to be about lasted less than a year and if I had to count the number of pages the relationship took up in this book it would be under 50 pages.

This book is not about Audrey and Bill, its really just a shallow and boring Audrey Hepburn biography with an occasional cameo from Bill Holden. Its not even a great Audrey Hepburn biography. Audrey is painted as perfect, graceful, dignified and naïve till her dying day.

Really?

Bill is the strong silent type who never liked acting and never wanted to be famous.

Really?

The author even romanticizes Bill's lifelong battle with depression and alcohol. A battle that would eventually take his life in a sad horrible way. He was drunk fell and hit his head on glass coffee table and slowly bleed to death, his body wasn't found for 4 days.

I don't recommend this book. You can get all the same basic info from a simple Google search. There are way better biographies of Audrey Hepburn and William Holden read one of them instead.

Jeffrey says

Well written, but as much as I loved Aubrey in her early films, I didn't much care for the overarching Hollywood theme. What a train wreck.

Madelyn Flammia says

I recommend this book to Audrey Hepburn fans. It provides a different perspective on her life than the other biographies I have read.

Babs says

I really enjoyed this book as a big fan of Audrey Hepburn I wanted to see what else I could learn about her. Interesting read with William Holden and their early relationship. The behind the scenes and glimpse were nice to read about. It was a nice read.

Wendy'sThoughts says

4 For the Love of It Stars

* * * *

Oh, the Golden Age of Hollywood... There was a time when we, as viewers of movies, had very limited

access to the stars of the films... there was no TMZ, Internet or cell phones and their cameras...The images we were allowed of our movie stars were very limited and carefully monitored by movie studios and PR people. Scandal was not something which would be tolerated or like today used to make someone into a celebrity. Lives were closely monitored and life changing decisions were made with these things in mind.

Both, Audrey Hepburn and Bill Holden were part of this system. Both had upbringings and past histories which molded them into the budding stars they were....and all of this came together when they first met and worked together on the movie, Sabrina.

This book tells the tales of both Audrey Hepburn and William (Bill) Holden. It shares how they fell hard for each other; the love they had, why it happened, how the studios hid it and what was the cause for their break up. It also shows the impact this love affair had on Holden throughout his life.

What was the main reveal in this book as we follow these stars through their lives is how their images were not who these people were... we learn of their deepest, darkest fears, their weaknesses and strengths and what were their ultimate wishes...

This book gave "inside" information on happenings on sets, locations and parties. There were back stories and interview snippets. I don't know if they were directly given to the author or if they were from researching from all of the material listed in the book. Either way, if you are an Audrey Hepburn fan... this gives a very in depth look at the woman as well as her career. It does the same for Holden.

These were real people with real weaknesses... one was drink; the other was the need and desire to be loved and cared for...and to be the mother with a family life. Both had their insecurities...both underestimated their talents.

Their time was at first a Golden Age... protected and molded by giants... then these two survived the changes...we, through this book are able to see how they did it.

A gifted copy was provided by author/publisher via NetGalley for an honest review.

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Jennifer Thompson-Thalasinis says

This book was really two biographies in one...one on Audrey Hepburn & one on William Holden. Occasionally their paths crossed, but it would never be like it was when they filmed Sabrina. This book also focused on when stars were under long term contract by a studio which was very interesting. I've heard different things, especially about Judy Garland, but this book really focused on how those contracts worked and how the studios could cover up gossip. This book also have insight to various stars at that time, especially Grace Kelly. And interesting book about old Hollywood and two of its beloved stars.

Bessie says

I absolutely admire Audrey Hepburn. This was a lovely book of a short-term affair of two couples who could've been an iconic, powerhouse couple then and now.

Carol Storm says

Incredibly shallow book about two very complex and tragic people. Edward Epstein is the lowest type of celebrity journalist, ignoring all the human suffering and the obvious misery and focusing on "didn't they look fabulous together in all those romantic movies!"

Susan Bell says

Poorly researched. Poorly edited. Laughable sources. Don't bother.
