The Los Angeles Diaries A Memoir

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the novelist recounts the story of his life during which he struggled as a hollywood writer experienced personal failure and heartbreak and worked to overcome problems related to alcohol and drug abuse as well as the suicides of two siblings

plagued by the suicides of both his siblings heir to alcohol and drug abuse divorce and economic ruin novelist james brown lived a life clouded by addiction broken promises and despair beautifully written and limned with dark humor these twelve deeply confessional interconnected chapters address personal failure heartbreak the trials of writing for hollywood and the life shattering events that finally convinced brown he must change or die

in material dreams starr turns to one of the most vibrant decades in the golden state s history the 1920s when some two million americans migrated to california the vast majority settling in or around los angeles although he treats readers to intriguing side trips to santa barbara and pasadena starr focuses here mainly on los angeles revealing how this major city arose almost defiantly on a site lacking many of the advantages required for urban development creating itself out of sheer will the great gatsby of american cities he describes how william ellsworth smyth the peter the hermit of the irrigation crusade propounded the importance of water in southern california s future and how such figures as the self educated irish engineer william mulholland who built the main aquaducts to los angeles and george chaffey who diverted the colorado river transforming desert into the lush imperial valley brought life supporting water to the arid south he examines the discovery of oil yes it s oil oil oil that makes la boil went the official drinking song of the uplifters club the boosters and land developers the evangelists such as bob shuler the methodist savanarola of los angeles and aimee semple mcpherson and countless other colorful figures of the period there are also fascinating sections on the city s architecture such as the remarkably innovative bradbury building and its eccentric neophyte designer george wyman the impact of the automobile on city planning the great antiquarian book collections the hollywood film community and much more by the end of the decade los angeles had tripled in population and become the fifth largest city in the nation in material dreams kevin starr captures this explosive growth in a narrative tour de force that combines wide ranging scholarship with captivating prose

cari beauchamp masterfully combines biography with social and cultural history to examine the lives of frances marion and her many female colleagues who shaped filmmaking from 1912 through the 1940s frances marion was hollywood s highest paid screenwriter male or female or almost three decades wrote almost 200 produced films and won academy awards for writing the big house and the champ

this memoir is a personal story of human responsibility and guilt of alcoholism of suicide of marital struggle of the uncertainties and ambiguities of a writer s life in modern america

this is the first ever compilation on internet television and provides details of 405 programs from 1998 to 2013 each entry contains the storyline descriptive episode listings cast and crew lists the official website and comments an index of personnel and programs concludes the book from barry the demon hunter to time traveling lesbian to hamilton carver zombie p i it is a previously undocumented entertainment medium that is just now coming into focus forty eight photos accompany the text

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