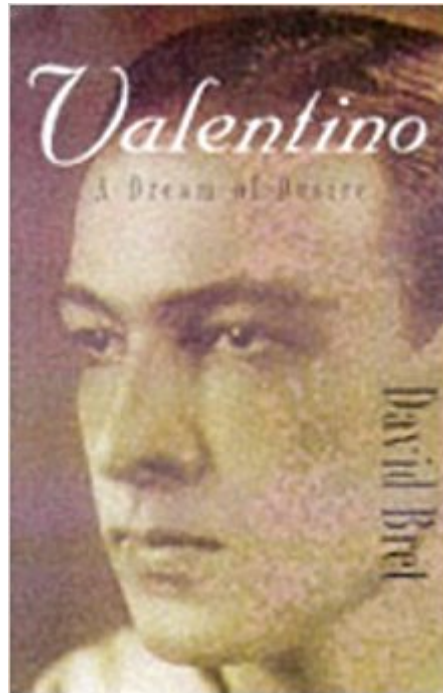




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Valentino: A Dream Of Desire



Synopsis

In this unique biography of the world's greatest lover, there is much unpublished material to reveal the real Valentino, a man who was sexually attracted to other men and whose relationships with women brought heartbreak and disaster. Valentino was far less ashamed of his sexuality than he was afraid of being trapped by the image of his public persona. Yet it was his persistent need to prove his "manhood" that contributed to his early death. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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Customer Reviews

David Bret's first biography, *The Piaf Legend*, was published in 1988 to great critical acclaim. Biographies of the French star Mistinguett and Maurice Chevalier followed, and Marlene Dietrich, one of his closest friends, was the subject of his fourth book, fully authorised by Marlene and published shortly after her death. Since then he has written successful biographies of Morrissey, Gracie Fields, Freddie Mercury, Tallulah Bankhead, and Maria Callas. David Bret lives in Yorkshire, UK. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The book is interesting in that it reveals Valentino's involvement with a number of male lovers, but it is frustrating in that no documentation is offered to support the narrative. David Bret fails to cite the sources for what he reports and quotes are likewise not cited. There are also a few factual errors in the text, such as referring to the California jail that Valentino was incarcerated in overnight as "the

Tombs" (which is in fact in New York).

although all of the undocumented homosexual affairs of valentino mentioned in this book may not be exactly true, his homosocialty rings true in my experience of the latin male sexuality where appearances are everything and anything goes privately. some of the mentioned associations may have been mere friendships between two friends who shared either homo or bisexuality. that valentino was sexually attracted to andre devan is convincing particularly in light of his travel diary published in the 1920s[a copy of which i own]. it subtly reveals more than either valentino or the publishers may have known. this book gave me an insight into the sexuality of valentino .

If you are the kind of person (and there are a lot of your ilk out there) who can respect a celebrity only if you can believe he is heterosexual and only if you aren't subjected to details about his sexual life if he isn't, then DREAM OF DESIRE is a must-to-avoid for you. Save yourself the need to write a hateful, vitriolic review. David Bret names names, cites sources and leaves no doubt that Rudolph Valentino enjoyed having sexual relations with other men. (However, his contention that Valentino was gay and not bisexual is less convincing.) There is a wealth of information in this biography, and not just about sex . . . Bret's research is so thorough, and his descriptions so detailed, you'd think he had been there at the elbows of Valentino and his wife Natacha Rambova while these events were taking place. That said, I would NOT call this book well-written. Bret's writing tends toward the sensationalistic and shallow, and he contradicts himself fairly often (Valentino is "only" attracted to men, and yet on the next page he becomes sexually attracted to a woman; he supposedly had no physical desire for Rambova, yet he tries numerous times to bed her, and so on). It's not a great book, and the picture it paints of the silent screen legend is anything but flattering. And there are far too few photos. Yet because of the voluminous information it contains, I would say it's an essential stop along the road to learning all there is to know about the star of silent classics like "The Sheik," "The Four Horsemen of The Apocalypse" and "A Sainted Devil."

Curiosity got the better of me, so I read the whole thing in less than two hours. This was a repeat performance of his last book about Joan Crawford. David Bret seems to be following a recipe for mediocrity.....collect all the salacious stories you can about your long dead victim (Valentino), throw in a heavy doses of gossip about friends and acquaintances (also long dead), flesh out the stories with graphic detail, call it a book, and sell it. Seriously, if you want to read an excellent Valentino bio read Emily Leider's book which is an objective treatment and well researched. Bret's book is a joke

and not worth your \$ or your time.

David Bret has a horrible reputation...Not only are his books complete and utter garbage- a cross between poor reiteration of common knowledge and ridiculous fantasy nonsense- BUT, he is known to crash fansites of the individual he's writing about and- if they've dared to acknowledge that his work is, in fact, garbage- unleashing an onslaught of tasteless, offensive vulgarities & insults. And he delights in this. Truly sick. I came across this book recently, and it's more of the same nonsense. What was factual has been written countless times before, and better. Beyond that he seems determined as a biographer to do little else than give credence to the ancient rumours of Valentino's sexuality. Skip this and find something more reliable, like "Hollywood Babylon" or the National Enquirer.

It is pathetic that no research went into the writing of this book, and worse still that it was not edited, let alone allowed to be published. Take the other dozen bad reviews to heart - they are telling you the truth. Don't spend one cent on this garbage - it's not worth the price of shipping alone. Shame on the publisher, and double shame on the person who wrote it. Bad, bad, bad...complete waste. I wouldn't line my pet gerbils cage with the pages of this book.

Believe none of what you hear and only half of what you see was something I learned a long time ago. I would certainly apply the adage to this book. In all of his "biographies, according to David Bret, every (deceased) person in the movie industry; male and female, from the lighting technicians to the highest paid stars and the movie moguls themselves; the single and the married as well, were all either, bi-sexual, lesbian, homosexual... or wish they were. Mr. Bret offers no proof except what apparently exists in the fantasy dream world of others or his own imagination... and perhaps wishful thinking. It makes for titillating reading but unless the author can back up his claims it is all fiction and the reader should take it with a grain of salt.

My father has a saying: DON'T BELIEVE EVERYTHING YOU READ OR HEAR AND ONLY BELIEVE HALF OF WHAT YOU SEE...Please don't waste your money on this book. I am really enjoying DARK LOVER by Emily W Leiber about the late and great Valentino....Whatever he was, all I know is he was an amazing actor and am sure a good man and deserves some respect...what a waste to die so young.

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