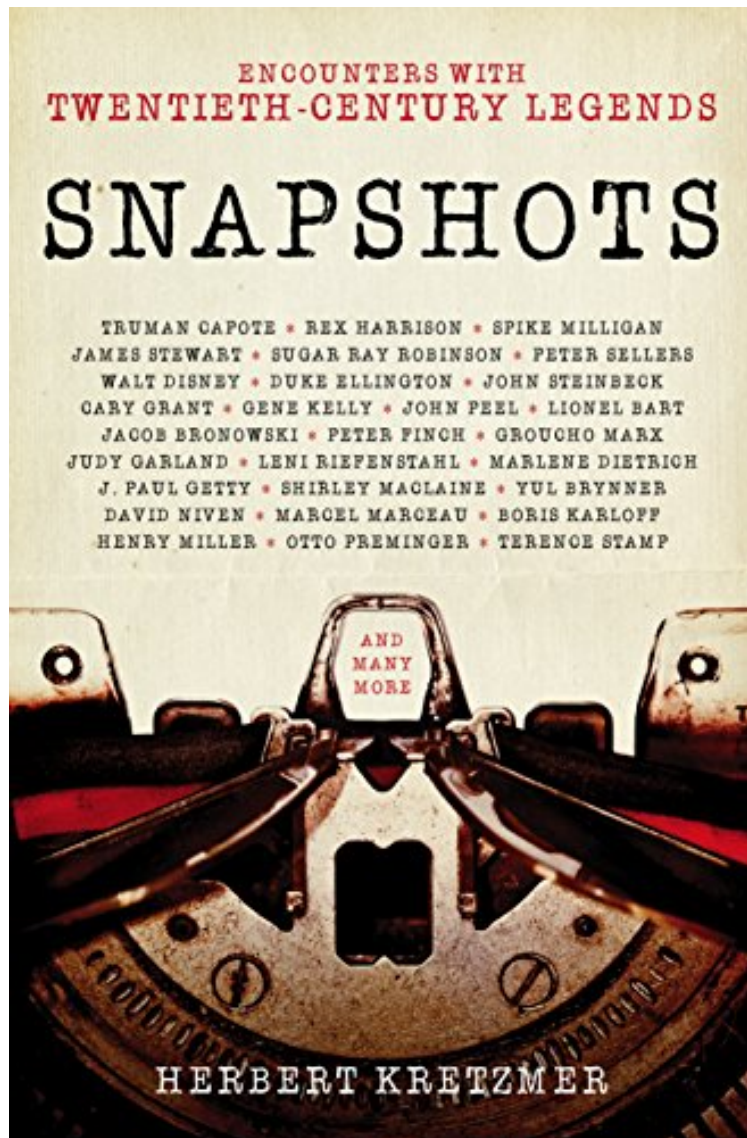


Snapshots: Encounters with Twentieth-Century Legends

Herbert Kretzmer

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Herbert Kretzmer : Snapshots: Encounters with Twentieth-Century Legends before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Snapshots: Encounters with Twentieth-Century Legends:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. "Snapshots" is a brilliant compendium of these "selfies" -- it is as if ...By G. J. Davis Before songwriter Herbert Kretzmer composed the songbook of Les Miserables, he was scrambling all over London as a work-a-day journalist! His assignments brought him into encounters with many of our culture's heroes, legends and celebrities including Truman Capote, Walt Disney, Jacob Bronowski, J. Paul Getty, David Niven, Boris Karloff, Henry Miller and on and on. "Snapshots" is a brilliant compendium of these "selfies" -- it is as if

Kretzmer has held a cellphone up to each of these startlingly surprising people and let them snap away. He defines not only their accomplishments but the details of their worlds that contribute to how they viewed themselves. Maurice Chevalier, already somewhat despised for living too comfortably under the Vichy government (Chanel too!) comes across less as a collaborator than a tightwad; Truman Capote, dressed brightly as a budgie, hates Paris; Petula Clark remains ageless and lovely; I'm not a reader of People magazine but I love people watching and Kretzmer's profiles are witty, sharp and full of insights that delight and dazzle. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The title perfectly conveys what this book is: brief ...By Andrew D SorokowskiThe title perfectly conveys what this book is: brief, vivid images of twentieth century figures, mostly entertainers. It provides an insight into the mind and culture of the mid-twentieth century in particular. The author -- himself a journalist and song-writer, famous for his English lyrics for "Les Miserables" -- usually had limited time with these individuals, and knew how to make the most of it by asking the pertinent questions. A very entertaining book. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Memory LaneBy Donna StewartAbsolutely an interesting read. Each snapshot or interview is a little piece in the private world of these great legends of the past 60 years. Just reading their names brought back memories. Because Herbert Kretzmer shows their flaws and their strengths, he has helped me understand more clearly why these people achieved success. A nice walk down memory lane.

In his diverse career as a journalist and wordsmith, Herbert Kretzmer has interviewed and profiled some of the twentieth century's greatest figures in theatre, literature, show business and sport. His meetings with these legends are touching, funny and devastatingly honest, providing brief but lasting snapshots of their lives. Brought together for the first time, these portraits offer unique insights into some of the extraordinary talents and personalities who have shaped our culture. Kretzmer's intimate interviews allow us to meet such charismatic individuals as Truman Capote, Petula Clark, Billy Wilder, Cassius Clay, Anita Loos, John Osborne, Joan Plowright, Nicol Williamson, Peter Shaffer, J. P. Donleavy and many others. They are people who achieved greatness by virtue of their innovations, personalities and flair, and in these glimpses into their lives they share their hopes and opinions, anecdotes and memories.

"As a superb lyric writer, Herbert Kretzmer knows exactly how to employ words to maximum effect. As a raconteur he does much the same." Hugh Whitemore "The collection of Kretzmer's encounters with 20th-century legends shows what a proud and revelatory craft showbusiness journalism once was." The Telegraph "The cast list of this collection is sumptuous - It is not only what his subjects say but the way Kretzmer frames the snapshot that is revealing - Throughout, Kretzmer remains a courteous, self-effacing observer of the games others play." Daily Mail "A who's who of the last century's greats." Jewish ChronicleAbout the AuthorHerbert Kretzmer was born in South Africa, came to live in London in 1954, and has since pursued twin careers as newspaperman and lyricist. He joined the London Daily Express in 1960 and later became its senior drama critic, a post he held for eighteen years. As a lyric writer he wrote weekly songs for *That Was the Week That Was*, the BBC's groundbreaking satire programme. Other award-winning songs include two written with, and for, Charles Aznavour: 'Yesterday When I Was Young' and the chart-topping 'She'. He is probably best known for his lyrics for the 1985 West End production of the Boublil-Schonberg musical *Les Miserables*, the longestrunning musical in history. Kretzmer was honoured in 1988 by the French government, being appointed Chevalier of the Order of Arts and Letters. In 2011 he was appointed Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE). He holds two honorary doctorates. He lives in London.