



Queenie

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The seductive and beguiling story of Dawn Avalon, who when wrongfully accused of a crime she didn't commit, flees her homeland to London where she becomes 'Queenie', a star of both the stage and screen.

Queenie Details

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Author : Michael Korda

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From Reader Review Queenie for online ebook

Deepika says

love this book very nice and well written , i cud not stop reading till the end once i began

Dana Al-Basha ????? ?????? says

When I was young my mom kept telling me I remind her of a miniseries she watched years ago before the war but couldn't find again called Queenie starring the enchanting Mia Sara.

Years later, I told a friend of mine who was obsessed with books and movies about it and he got me the book, first edition, I kept on searching until I got two copies one on VCR and another on DVD as a surprise to my mother, I was 16 at the time, we only had half of the miniseries before and to me watching the whole thing was breathtaking.

We had a ritual for a while of watching it over and over again, reciting the best scenes like "Who am I mama?".

Years later I discovered that this story is actually real about a beautiful actress called Merle Oberon. To tell you the truth, I haven't finished reading this book, but I'm planning on it.

My older review:

I LOVE LOVE LOVE this book, the story is very rare and amazing, I have seen the movie zillion of times with mom, starring Kirk Douglas and Mia Sara, it is a story about Merle Oberon, a spectacularly beautiful half-caste, rose from the slums of Calcutta hoping to the heights of Hollywood/London stardom in the 1930's.

Wrongly accused of murder, she fled Calcutta hoping to start over in London. There she worked as a stripper until a club owner and photographer, Lucien, turned her into a famous model.

Now, Queenie is to star in a film which is to film in Calcutta. She's terrified to return there. but her powerful producer vanquish her old enemies and clears her name. Grateful, she marries him even though it is Lucien whom she loves. When the producer dies the day of the film premier, she and Lucien are reunited. It is only then that Queenie, or Dawn Avelon proudly reveals the truth about her mixed heritage.

D Young says

I read this book a long time ago, but the story has stuck with me and I keep looking for it so I can re-read it. It is both tragic and joyous and paints a very realistic picture of the "dark side" of fame.

Maya says

I enjoyed this, though it certainly had a bit of 80s camp about it--even though it was about colonial India, 30s London, and 40s Hollywood! I got interested in this after reading Korda's memoir about being an editor, and it is based on his aunt Merle Oberman, who I saw in part of a movie once. Anyway, not great literature, but a fast and entertaining, if not a little guilt-inducing, read, especially for 632 pages!

Martin says

During the heydays of the '80s soaps, publishing firms... <http://sleaze-factor.blogspot.ca/2016...>

Khristine Doiron says

I really enjoyed this book, from the start to the finish. I was drawn in right from the start and even though there were many characters, which I do not like in books, I did not have a hard time keeping them all straight. If you are looking for a happy go lucky book, than this is not the book for you.

Emily says

Η ζω? της μικρ?ς, ?μορφης, υπολογ?στριας Κου?νι ξεκιν?ει στην Ινδ?α, κ?νει μια στ?ση στην Αγγλ?α και τελει?νει στην Αμερικ?, μ?σα στα διαμ?ντια και στα μπριλ?ντια.

Εξωτικ? σαπουν?περα, η οπο?α εν μ?ρει αποδ?δει τη ζω? της ηθοποιο? Merle Oberon και αυτ? ε?ναι ?να ενδιαφ?ρον σημε?ο στο βιβλ?ο.

Προικισμ?νη με μια σπ?νια ομορφι?, ανατρ?φεται απ? τη μαμ? της ως Αγγλ?δα, με στ?χο να μεγαλουργ?σει. Και τα κατ?φερε. ?γινε ηθοποι?ς του σινεμ? και στροβιλ?στηκε στα φ?τα, απολαμβ?νοντας θαυμαστ?ς, ?ρωτες, γο?νες, μετ?ξια, διαμ?ντια και λεφτ?. Η ?λλειψη ταλ?ντου της καλ?φθηκε ε?κολα απ? ταλαντο?χους σκηνοθ?τες και φωτογρ?φους που πρ?βαλαν την εξωτικ? ομορφι? της και τις φωτοσκι?σεις του προσ?που της.

Παντελ?ς ανα?σθητη μπρος στον σκοπ? της, χρησιμοπο?ησε ανθρ?πους και αδιαφ?ρησε πλ?ρως για τη μητ?ρα της, ρ?χνοντας πο? και πο? μερικ? κροκοδε?λια δ?κρυα.

Δεν ξ?ρουμε αν αγ?πησε κ?ποιον απ? τους φουκαρ?δες που χρησιμοπο?ησε κατ? καιρο?ς. Μ?λλον

απ'θανο, μιας και ?πως φα?νεται, αγαπο?σε περισσ?τερο απ? κ?θε τι, το ε?δωλο της το οπο?ο φρ?ντιζε αφειδ?ς.

Εκε?νο που θα θυμ?μαι απ? το βιβλ?ο (δι?τι ?λα τα ?λλα σ?ντομα θα καλυφθο?ν απ? τη λ?θη) ε?ναι το εξ?ς.

Η Κου?νι ?χει πλ?ον μεγαλ?σει, ?χει πρακτικ? αποσυρθε? στη β?λα της με τον κατ? πολ? νε?τερο ?ντρα της (νο?μερο 3 νομ?ζω) αλλ? αναγκ?ζεται να ξεμυτ?σει για μια δημ?σια εμφ?νιση προκειμ?νου να παραλ?βει ?να βραβε?ο. Εμφαν?ζεται λοιπ?ν, με μια μακρι? τουαλ?τα με μαν?κια και ψηλ? λαϊμ?, γιατ? ε?χε την εξυπν?δα, λ?ει ο συγγραφ?ας, να μη συγκριθε? με τις κατ? πολ? νε?τερες και ομορφ?τερες ηθοποιο?ς (στα πεδ?α λαϊμ?ς και μπρ?τσα). Κ?τι μ?θαμε δηλαδ? απ? τη σαπουν?περα.

Nancy Rossman says

First a disclaimer: my husband bought this for me as a joke because of its title alone. Once a few years ago in a moment of contention my husband blurted out that I was "such a princess" to which I replied, "No, Queen."

Anyhow, as these things go with married couples some things that were once angry become funny and reappear from time to time. Thus his nickname of me as Queenie has stuck. And so this year on our anniversary when he was out of ideas this book became one of my gifts.

We shared a good laugh. Then I opened it, thinking I'd donate to the library and began a completely immersed read. After ten pages, I knew I would finish it, despite my distaste for 600 page books.

Imagine a setting of pre WWI and India, rich with cultural clashes, rich/poor, ambition, the threat of the British pulling out. What will happen? A handsome Irish man has fathered a child with an Indian and he bolts, leaving them poor and without means to support themselves. But the mother is enterprising, resourceful, and proud. She will survive. The child, Queenie, is gorgeous. Exotic, light-skinned, and also determined. Her mother's brother, Morgan, is devoted. Mad about as a child but in love with her as she enters teenage years. Surely Morgan can find a way to get them "home", as in England where Queenie thinks all of her problems will be solved. His golden touch on the saxophone has allowed him to walk the line of where his "race" will be accepted. Queenie insists that Morgan steal from a wealthy English woman whom he beds on occasion so that they will have the required funds to bolt.

This tale is twists and turns with all that happens in England and then to America. Queenie turns heads and uses her beauty in a variety to get ahead. The success keeps soaring but she's never happy, turning one good opportunity into another. You'd think you would hate her but in a way there was no way I couldn't root for her. Her many secrets pull her down, time and time again.

Brilliant, really and left me panting to the last sentence. Well done. Must see what else this author wrote since he was unknown to me.

Philip says

I first read QUEENIE when it was published in 1985, and remember it as a juicy, hard-to-put-down roman a clef about Hollywood's legendary Merle Oberon. All the author did was change the names!

Michael Korda knew his subject well - by virtue of her marriage to his uncle, film producer Sir Alexander Korda, Oberon was for a time the author's aunt.

And with its pedigree, why shouldn't it be a juicy, hard-to-put-down book? The author, after all, was at the time Editor-in-Chief of Simon & Schuster, and among the authors he edited were Larry McMurtry, Harold Robbins, Susan Howatch, Irving Wallace, Mary Higgins Clark and many other popular writers - he helped them tell their stories well, and was pretty good at it himself!

12/14: It was, as I remembered, a really good read, almost - well, almost like Harold Robbins in his prime!

Scott Roberts says

The book cover has "all time favourite" theme to the historical romance novel. I give this book 5 stars.

♥ Marlene♥ says

This was another book that I loved when i was younger. I still have the Dutch copy. Might tell my daughter to give it a try. She loved Lace by Shirley Conran. (I did too)

Back in the days I loved reading books like this. Judith Kranz, Jacqueline Susann, Jackie Collins and Harold Robbins come to mind. That is what is great about goodreads. You click one book and then you see other books which reminds you you have read those as well.

Well if you are not easily offended by sex scenes and you want to read something light, this is the book. Not sure when I read this.

JoAnne Pulcino says

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Goodreads has given me another reason why I love their site so much. When reading reviews and comments by my friends, I'm constantly reminded of books I've read and loved before there was a goodreads. This is one of those books.

Beautiful, seductive, Anglo Indian Dawn Avalon flees the street of Calcutta for London when she is wrongfully accused of murder. She uses her intelligence and beauty to become a bona fide movie star mainly by marrying a charismatic director and their union is as enchanting and riveting as any movie. This novel is full of colorful characters and intrigue.

The fascinating thing about this book is that it is a roman a clef about the famous movie star Merle Oberon. She managed to marry Alexander Korda, one of England's greatest producers and directors. The author, Michael Korda is the nephew of Alexander Korda and had a front row seat in the making of Ms. Oberon's career. Michael Korda is an author of books I have always enjoyed. He was also a publisher and editor who

guided Jackie Kennedy in her career at Doubleday.

Helen Carolan says

tried reading this book years ago and didn't like it. got a copy recently and decided to give it another go. loved it this time around!! Queenie Kelly leaves the slums of Calcutta to become Dawn Avalon a film star in hollywood just before the war. loved this so much and liked Queenie who was prepared to do anything to become famous.

Donna says

I absolutely LOVED this book ... this was one that I couldn't put down!!! I just recently came across another Michael Korda book that I'm going to read ... I hope it is written as well as Queenie was!!!

Ashira says

Michael Korda doesn't know how to write for a woman. Queenie is a hollow shell of a character that fails to impress throughout the entire book. It's a droll journey through mediocrity that fails to live up to the stories potential.
