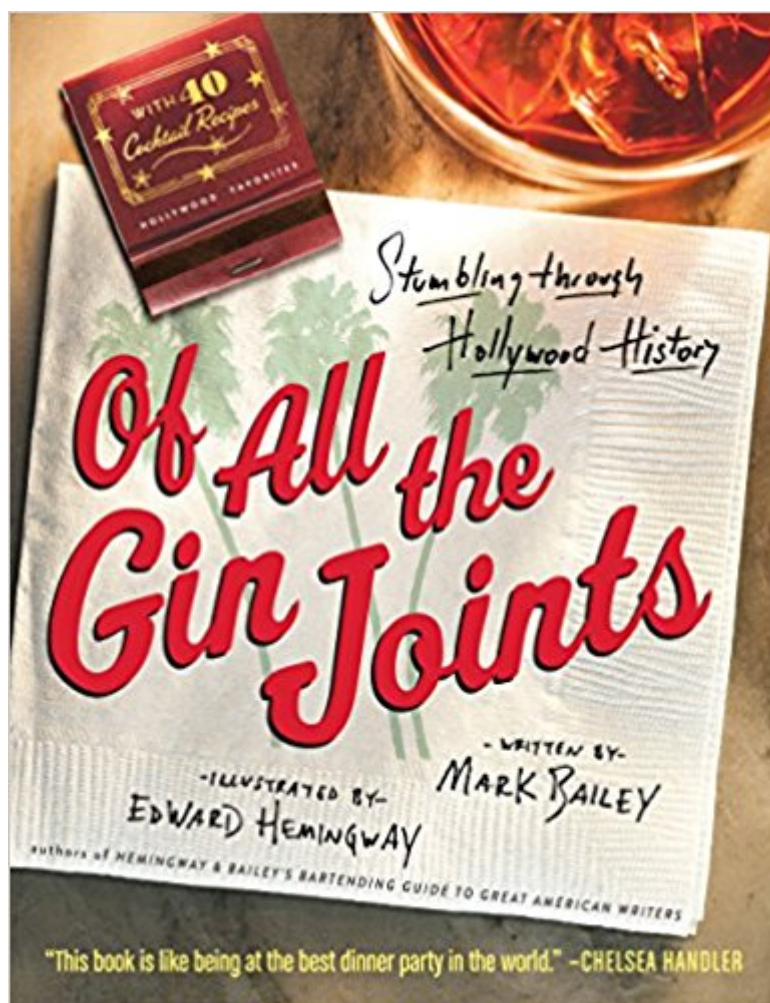


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Of All The Gin Joints: Stumbling Through Hollywood History



Synopsis

True tales of celebrity hijinks are served up with an equal measure of Hollywood history, movie-star mayhem, and a frothy mix of forty cocktail recipes. Humphrey Bogart got himself arrested for protecting his drinking buddies, who happened to be a pair of stuffed pandas. Ava Gardner would water-ski to the set of *Night of the Iguana* holding a towline in one hand and a cocktail in the other. Barely legal Natalie Wood would let Dennis Hopper seduce her if he provided a bathtub full of champagne. Bing Crosby's ill-mannered antics earned him the nickname "Binge Crosby." And sweet Mary Pickford stashed liquor in hydrogen peroxide bottles during Prohibition. From the frontier days of silent film up to the wild auteur period of the 1970s, Mark Bailey has pillaged the vaults of Hollywood history and lore to dig up the true—and often surprising—stories of seventy of our most beloved actors, directors, and screenwriters at their most soused. Bite-size biographies are followed by ribald anecdotes and memorable quotes. If a star had a favorite cocktail, the recipe is included. Films with the most outrageous booze-soaked stories, like *Apocalypse Now*, *From Here to Eternity*, and *The Misfits*, are featured, along with the legendary watering holes of the day (and the recipes for their signature drinks). Edward Hemingway's portraits complete this spirited look at America's most iconic silver-screen legends. "This book is like being at the best dinner party in the world. And I thought I was the first person to put a bar in my closet. I was clearly born during the wrong era." —Chelsea Handler

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Customer Reviews

• "An entertaining assemblage of boozy anecdotes, quotes, and Tinseltown lore."
 • "This book is like being at the best dinner party in the world. And I thought I was the first person to put a bar in my closet. I was clearly born during the wrong era."
 • Chelsea Handler • "Booze it up with F. Scott! Roll one with McQueen! In *Of All The Gin Joints*, you can experience the true measure of showbiz debauchery without the annoying side effects of divorce, death, or unfulfilled potential!"
 • Rob Lowe, author of *Love Life* • "Pure fun . . . A perfect bedside reader."
 • *ImbibeMagazine.com* • "Foodies and celebrity watchers alike will be delighted by this walk through Hollywood drinking history."
 • *Library Journal*, starred review • "Sensational stories of drinking and excess by Hollywood celebrities . . . [A] scrapbook approach, full of boxes and sidebars and illustrated with numerous cartoons by Edward Hemingway, while the stories are funny, sad and at times, unbelievable in the way only Hollywood could pull off."
 • *Forbes.com* • "Hollywood gossip before TMZ came along and ruined it for everyone."
 • *BookRiot* • "Emmy-nominated screenwriter Mark Bailey has concocted a heady mixture of stories from Hollywood watering holes . . . Snappy little bios of some of Hollywood's most famous imbibers . . . And like an olive in a dry martini, Edward Hemingway's slightly off-kilter illustrations are a nice adornment. Cheers!"
 • *Newsday* • "An irresistible compendium of Hollywood inebriates. It's one part history, one part cocktail recipe book, topped off with soulful black-and-white caricatures . . . Whatever your preferences or level of party, your knowledge of Hollywood or mixology, *Of All the Gin Joints* has something for everyone."
 • *KirkusReviews.com* • "This wonderful combination of words and pictures is the perfect cocktail of a book: sweet enough to go down easily, sour enough to cleanse the palate, and strong enough to leave you giddy. I gulped down the first half and sipped the second half slowly, but when I finished I still wanted more!"
 • Walter Kirn, author of *Blood Will Out and Up in the Air* • "Of All the Gin Joints is one part cinematic history, one part old Hollywood weirdness, and one part handy basic bar guide, with a dash of romance and more than a few wry twists. Bailey and Hemingway prove themselves very entertaining cultural mixologists."
 • Sam Lipsyte

Mark Bailey is an author and Emmy-nominated screenwriter. His previous books include *American Hollow*, *Hemingway & Bailey's Bartending Guide to Great American Writers*, *Of All the Gin Joints*, and the children's book *Tiny Pie*. His films have appeared on HBO, PBS, Netflix, and Lifetime. Bailey lives in Los Angeles with his wife and three children. Edward Hemingway is a writer and artist living in Brooklyn, New York. He has done feature reporting for *GQ Magazine*, written comics for Nickelodeon, and been featured twice in *American Illustration*. His artwork has been included in the *New York Times*, *Abercrombie & Fitch Quarterly*, and *Nickelodeon Magazine*, among

others. He is the cocreator and illustrator of the book Hemingway & Bailey's Bartending Guide to Great American Writers, which has been published in three languages. He has also written and illustrated the children's books Bump in the Night, Bad Apple: A Tale of Friendship, which was selected for the 2013 Society of Illustrators Original Art Show, and Bad Apple's Perfect Day (August 2014). He is the illustrator of the children's book Tiny Pie, which has been published in two languages. An undergraduate of Rhode Island School of Design and a graduate of the School of Visual Arts, Hemingway has been a guest on NPR's Morning Edition, and his artwork has been featured in several shows across the country, most recently at the Brooklyn Public Library.

This book is a hoot, especially if you appreciate the golden age of Hollywood and a Martini straight-up. It features stories of famous directors, actors, and screenwriters involved in various alcohol-fueled escapades; classic movies that were notable for boozing on the set; and famous watering holes in Hollywood and Beverly Hills where stars hung out to be either/or seen and to imbibe. While some of the drinking elite are already well-known (W.C. Fields, Sinatra, John Wayne, Joan Crawford) you will be surprised by some of the celebrities profiled in this book who enjoyed a good cocktail to the extreme. Some of the stories will make you laugh out loud, and the book has great caricature illustrations plus actual drink recipes that were favorites of various celebrities. Most interesting thing I learned was the immense popularity of gin -- a ghastly brew if there ever was one, but to each his own. A thoroughly enjoyable read, bottoms up.

Stories told, twice or thrice, are still worth telling, and Mark Bailey has done an excellent job of gathering together the best of old Hollywood gossip, some borrowed, some blue, and some that even might be true. The illustrations, whether intentionally or not, distort some famous faces: they look as if they had been drawn while looking through the bottom of a martini glass. "Very dry please." Sammy Davis Jr. somehow is transformed into the famous book jacket photo of the young J.D. Salinger. J.D. was half Jewish and Sammy Jewish by adoption, which only goes to prove the miraculous effect of alcohol, if used discreetly. There are also a number of recipes for obscure cocktails of the past for those who would rather mix than read. All in all, a useful adjunct to anyone's bar or library.

Tales of fabled stars and their favorite drinking spots and recipes for the delicious cocktails imbibed by Hollywood's best actors, some who died because of alcoholism, smoking, and very active lives. Since I lived in Los Angeles, I remember a few of the Gin Joints noted in this book. Those that

were demolished prior to my stay in the City of Angels were brought alive by photos and sketches. I found this book to be a great read because I like to read about Hollywood celebrities, and I found out many useful recipes for parties. Vignettes of stars and their favorite alcoholic beverages held me rapt as I skidded along the pages of this book. I recommend this book to those of us who adore silent movies, talking movies of the thirties and forties, and great places to eat and drink. Bottoms up!

I bought this book after I heard an interview of the authors on NPR and I thought their stories were entertaining. This book consists of many vignettes which become repetitive and tiresome after the first hundred pages. Stories about old Hollywood watering holes are interspersed throughout the book. I guess I have a limited tolerance for stories about drunks. Many of the stories weren't that interesting.

In short character sketches, the reader learns of the drinking habits and outrageous exploits of many of Hollywood's Golden Age celebrities. It is a neatly organized book by chronological era, beginning with the celebrities of the 1920's, and stretching through the end of the studio era of the 1960's. A hard book to put down, one follows the famous through their trials and tribulations, as they often drink to excess as a coping mechanism with the demands of fame and celebrity.

A great book. Anything that describes the after-hour adventures of Hollywood's glitterati is definitely required reading. Author Mark Bailey has a wonderful wry writing style, and the accompanying illustrations are hysterical. And an added plus, the recipes for the drinks on which they got blasted (and where they drank them) are included.

This was a cute little book.

This book started out interesting. What great stories and such. As the book progressed, it got sadder and sadder. There was less of the laughable drunk and more of the star with a drinking problem. The stories got less endearing and more tragic. The book was good up to about half way through and then it was less entertaining and just...well...sad.

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