

Legendary Children: The First Decade of RuPaul's Drag Race and the Last Century of Queer Life Book PDF Download



By:
Tom Fitzgerald

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4.5 Stars

I loved this book!

I would have given it 5 stars, had it been longer. This book was simply too short.

Legendary Children is about the history of Queer culture told through the prism of RuPaul's Drag Race. RuPaul is a legend. He was one of the first Drag Queens I ever saw on tv. I can't remember if I saw Divine in Hairspray or RuPaul's Supermodel music video first. I was fortunate enough to have grown up knowing several Drag Queens. My mom's best friend from high school Bobb

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Mara

Could this book have been more up my alley? I guess if it had also somehow included Agatha Christie, perhaps, but oh man, this was exactly the kind of niche social history I adore about a topic I love. I learned so much in this book about the history of queer performance communities in the last

hundred years (BTW, so thankful to discover I am alive in the same time of history as the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence), and I appreciated how the book used Drag Race as a jumping off point to explore

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Jamie

At the beginning of this, the authors say they expect you to read it with one hand always googling the folks they write about to get a deeper knowledge than they can give. Let me tell you: they are right. Much like a great oral history (I'm thinking of EDIE or MEET ME IN THE BATHROOM), Tom and Lorenzo's book is catnip for people wanting an entry into a world they think they know,

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Siria

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than it is a primer on a century of queer (almost entirely American) history which uses the show as a lens to examine everything from Tom of Finland's fetishisation of the male form to the Stonewall Riots, from the iconic lipsync of Tandi Iman Dupree (seriously, look that one up on YouTube) to the communal activism of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence.

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Tom Fitzgerald and Lorenzo Marquez are keen to stress that this is not an attempt to provide a definitive history of either

or queer life in the U.S. post-1880. If you approach the book with the expectation that it will be either, you will be disappointed; even with that caveat granted, there were times when I wanted a little more depth, a little more discussion of some of the people discussed. But I think younger LGBTQ readers in particular should appreciate it for its light, often witty tone paired with careful contextualisation of the figures and moments who are discussed. Fitzgerald and Marquez take pains to excavate the deep, multi-branched roots of drag and to show how much history the culture does have.

Sasha

There was something cheesy about this but also I learned so much that it didn't really matter. It had a really logical structure, with each chapter connecting an area of Drag Race (lip syncing, runway, acting, etc.) to a larger part of queer/trans history. It's much more about that LGBTQ history than about Drag Race itself. It really is a great read if your main introduction to or knowledge of drag comes from the show, because it gives an incredible amount of context and breadth to the world and

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this book! I love that it encourages you to do more research and to always be looking up the people they're talking about. It would have been nice if this book had a visual component! The cover is so incredible it makes me wish it was a graphic novel (specifically illustrated by the artist Cheyne Gallard) or even a coffee table book (I looked at so many incredible photos of different queens and performers while reading this). My main gripe is that I think they could've been a lot more critical while still maintaining the nuance they were striving for. Overall, I am just so pleased with how much I learned!