



Film in Fiction

Lacking drama in your life? Curl up with a good book on Hollywood and the film industry!

Blumenthal, John. **What's Wrong With Dorfmann?: a novel** (2000)

Screenwriter Martin Dorfman has it rough — his work is ignored by producers, his agent doesn't return his calls, and the symptoms of his mysterious new disease have both he and his doctor baffled. In between script negotiations and rewrites, he visits herbalists, chiropractors, and psychiatrists in a quest to identify his ailment.

Dunne, John. **Playland** (1994)

Screenwriter Jack Broderick is researching a movie when he discovers long-lost child star Blue Tyler living in a trailer park outside Detroit. 40 years ago, Blue's gangster boyfriend was killed and she was blacklisted as a Communist. Determined to resolve Blue's contradictory versions of her life and the real reason for her exit from Hollywood, Jack researches records and interviews her contemporaries, each of whom remembers the events slightly differently.

Epstein, Leslie. **San Remo Drive** (2003)

Successful painter Richard Jacobi narrates his Hollywood family's history, from his father's testimony before the 1950s House on Un-American Activities Committee to the family's unraveling throughout the following four decades.

Estleman, Loren D. **The Rocky Mountain Moving Picture Association** (1999)

Aspiring writer Dmitri Pulski is sent to L.A. in 1913 to investigate the credit of the Rocky Mountain Moving Picture Association, a pioneering film company who's put in a huge order for ice with his family's company. Dmitri tells his story in a series of flashbacks including such Hollywood highlights as Valentino's 1926 funeral and a star-studded 1927 dinner party at Randolph Hearst's San Simeon estate.

Frank, Elizabeth. **Cheat and Charmer** (2004)

Dinah Lasker has always lived in the shadow of her beautiful actress sister Veevi. In the late 1930s, Veevi and her Bulgarian filmmaker (and vocal Communist) husband leave Hollywood for Paris. Years later, Dinah is subpoenaed by the House on Un-American Activities Committee, which threatens to destroy her husband's Hollywood career unless she names her sister.

Knodel, Helen. **Ticket Out** (2003)

Film critic Ann Whitehead is less than thrilled with her job at an L.A. alternative paper. She's shaken from her boredom when she finds the murdered body recent film school graduate Greta Stenholm on her property. Investigating, she comes across a case of murder blackmail, and cover-up from 1944—a case Greta was using as the basis of a screenplay when she was murdered.

Leonard, Elmore. **Get Shorty** (1990)

Small-time loan shark Chili Palmer tracks a bad debt from Miami to Beverly Hills. There he hooks up with Harry Zimm, once a leading director of grade-B horror flicks, now trying to make a comeback.

Mann, William. **The Biograph Girl** (2000)

A fictionalized account of the life of early actress Florence Lawrence, known in the early 1900s as the mysterious "Biograph Girl". Despite her rumored suicide, a pair of twins find the actress alive at age 107 and attempt to re-activate her stardom, one by writing her biography and one by selling her story as a screenplay.

Naylor, Clare and Hare, Mimi. **Second Assistant: a Tale From the Bottom of the Hollywood Ladder** (2004)

Former congressional intern Elizabeth must learn to deal with the deranged, the egocentric, and the impossibly glamorous when she takes a job at a Hollywood agency. Fans of **The Devil Wears Prada** will enjoy this look at the film industry from a novice's point of view.

Simon, Roger L. **Director's Cut: a Moses Wine Novel** (2003)

Hollywood P.I. Moses Wine goes undercover on a movie production in Prague to investigate the appearance of hate messages on the set. Before long, the film's director is killed, and terrorists kidnap Moses and the film's lead actress. An action-filled thriller with a post-9/11 sense of heightened security and fear.

Stahl, Jerry. **I, Fatty** (2004)

Based on the life and career comic actor Roscoe "Fatty" Arbuckle, Stahl's novel describes his rise to success in silent films and the 1921 scandal (his arrest and trial for the rape and murder of actress Virginia Rappe) that destroyed his life.

Wagner, Bruce. **Still Holding: a Novel of Hollywood** (2003)

In the third of his "Hollywood Trilogy" (which includes 1997's **I'm Losing You** and 2002's **I'll Let You Go**), Wagner turns a critical eye on the entertainment industry. Focusing on would-be actress/Drew Barrymore look-alike Becca, neurotic secretary Lianne, and Buddhist heartthrob Kip, he savagely sends up Tinseltown and its players.

Wolper, Carol. **Mr. Famous** (2004)

Failed sitcom writer-turned-chef Lucinda works for aging action movie star Victor (aka "Mr. Famous"). As Victor struggles with his failing career, a difficult tabloid romance, and an overindulgence in fast food, he leans heavily on Lucinda. She accompanies him on adventures in his Cape Cod hometown and Las Vegas, and Mr. F. begins to reinvent his Hollywood persona.

Woods, Stuart. **Prince of Beverly Hills** (2004)

When the security chief of a film studio is killed in a suspicious murder-suicide, recently demoted police detective Rick Baron takes the job and gets caught up in the glamorous world of 1939 Hollywood. The bulk of his job is damage control—he covers up the suicide attempts and abortions of starlets, monitors an actor's drinking problem, etc. But when Rick finds incriminating photos in his predecessor's old locker, and mafia types get involved, things get more serious.