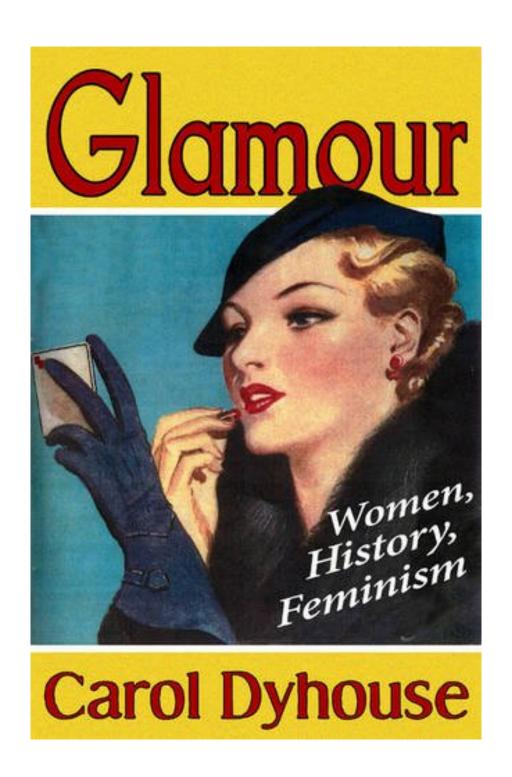


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"Sharp... Dyhouse has a real feeling for that era" --Veronica Horwell, The Guardian "Full of fascinating...and revealing insights into the myriad ways in which notions of 'glamour' have been constructed and reinvented across the decades" -- Nathaniel Mehr, Morning Star "An entertaining read that explores the changing nature of glamour throughout the 20th Century" -- June Purvis, Times Higher Education Supplement "Dyhouse's book is a manifesto for glamour as a revolutionary device" -- Nicola Copping, The Financial Times

About the Author

Carol Dyhouse is a social historian and research professor of history at the University of Sussex.

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In this lavishly illustrated book, author Carol Dyhouse surveys the world of glamour from early Hollywood right up to Madonna. She deftly unpacks the ever-changing nature of the word, its relationship to femininity and fashion, and its place in twentieth century social history. With wit and insight, Dyhouse conducts a dazzling tour of the history and meaning of costume, cosmetics, perfume, and fur; and disentangles some of the arguments surrounding femininity, appearance and power; and directly addresses feminist concerns. As Dyhouse shows with style and flair, glamour as an expression of desire and entitlement in women can't simply be dismissed as an oppressive, or subjective male fantasy, but carries celebratory and liberating meanings for women.

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3 of 3 people found the following review helpful.

Very academic

By BlackHerring

This book is very academic, I felt like I was back in my women's studies class. That is not a drawback or a criticism, it's just not what I expected when I bought the book. For what it is, the book is very enjoyable and the authors treatment of various trends and fashions and practices as interpreted through the lens of a scholar was educational. There are many interesting illustrations of vintage fashions and actresses, many of them English and less well known to me as an American.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

A strong defense of classic glamour and elegance from the feminist perspective

By Joseph A. Admire

It might be expected, according to the stereotyped (not to say sexist) view of feminist academics, that one such writing on the subject of the evolving concepts of glamour over the past century would denounce it as a tool of oppression. This is definitely not the case with Carol Dyhouse's book "Glamour: Women, History, Feminism". She convincingly makes the case, in an academic but quite readable way, that glamour, properly understood and deployed, is woman-empowering rather than depowering, pleasurable, profitable and a path to establishing identity and agency. Dyhouse is an aficionado of classic film and fashion (as a pharmacist's daughter, she's particularly fond of vintage perfumes), and she takes the bulk of her examples from the elegant beauties of classic American and British cinema. The book is liberally illustrated with numerous black-and-white images of vintage fashion and accessories.

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