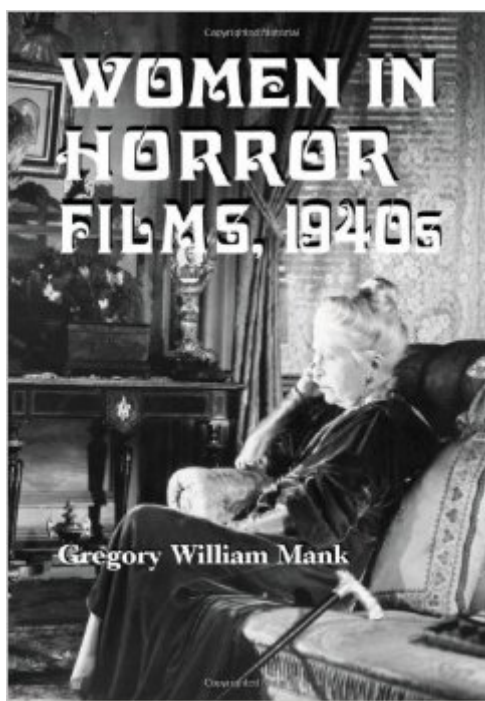


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# Women In Horror Films, 1940s



## Synopsis

They had more in common than just a scream, whether they faced Dracula, Frankenstein's Monster, the Mummy, Dr. Jekyll, Mr. Hyde, King Kong, the Wolf Man, or any of the other legendary Hollywood monsters. Some were even monsters themselves, such as Elsa Lanchester as the Bride, and Gloria Holden as Dracula's Daughter. And while evading the Strangler of the Swamp, former Miss America Rosemary La Planche is allowed to rescue her leading man. This book provides details about the lives and careers of 21 of these cinematic leading ladies, femmes fatales, monsters, and misfits, putting into perspective their contributions to the films and folklore of Hollywood terror and also the sexual harassment, exploitation, and genuine danger they faced on the job. Veteran actress Virginia Christine recalls Universal burying her alive in a backlot swamp in full mummy makeup for the resurrection scene in *The Mummy's Curse* and how the studio saved that scene for the last day in case she suffocated. Filled with anecdotes and recollections, many of the entries are based on original interviews, and there are numerous old photographs and movie stills.

## Book Information

Paperback: 405 pages

Publisher: McFarland (May 16, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0786423358

ISBN-13: 978-0786423354

Product Dimensions: 1 x 7 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (5 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,029,199 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #283 in [Books > Arts &](#)

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## Customer Reviews

As in his brilliant *Women in Horror Films of the 1930's*, author Gregory William Mank provides 21 interviews with some of the women from classic horrors of the 1940's. And this book is nearly as outstanding as the 30's book. I say nearly only because the 1930's produced such pioneering classics of the genre like *Frankenstein*, *King Kong*, *The Mummy*, and *Dracula*, while in the 1940's, horror films had become almost exclusively "B" films. Mank has meticulously researched not only

the films these actresses starred in, but their entire career, providing a filmography for each. The Beautiful Evelyn Ankers is hailed as the top scream queen of the 1940's, starring in classics like "The Wolfman" and "Ghost of Frankenstein", and not so classics like "Son of Dracula", "The Mad Ghoul" and "Weird Woman." Lon Chaney Jr., always a bit of a gruff individual, delighted in scaring Evelyn when he was in full Jack Pierce Wolfman makeup. Peggy Moran starred in only one horror, "The Mummy's Hand" which was the first, and best sequel to the 1932 classic. It's interesting to note that Moran actually met actor Tom Tyler, who played the mummy Kharis, out of his mummy makeup due to shooting schedules. Anne Gwynne is another interesting actress who did a number of horror films including "Black Friday", the 1941 "Black Cat" and "House of Frankenstein." Gwynne speaks fondly of "House of Frankenstein", particularly of her scenes with John Carradine who played Dracula. She felt it was one of her best performances. One of my favorite actresses to read about was the sensuous Louise Albritton. Her most noted role was playing opposite Chaney Jr. in "Son of Dracula", and completely stealing the show.

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