

# The Sixties Diaries: Unveiling the Transformative Journey of Christopher Isherwood

The 1960s, a decade filled with profound cultural and social changes, witnessed the emergence of remarkable literary works that captured the essence of the era. Among them, Christopher Isherwood's "The Sixties Diaries: 1960-1969" stands out as an extraordinary exploration of the transformative experiences that shaped this influential writer.

In this compelling piece, we delve into the life and works of Christopher Isherwood during the pivotal decade of the 1960s. We unravel the pages of his diaries, immersing ourselves in the personal and professional experiences that provide a unique insight into this acclaimed author's creative process and the cultural environment he inhabited.

## The Evolution of Christopher Isherwood

Christopher Isherwood, born in 1904, was an English-American writer known for his exceptional mastery of combining introspection, social observation, and satire in his works. He gained recognition for his novels, including "Goodbye to Berlin" and "A Single Man," both of which served as the basis for notable film adaptations.

### The Sixties: Diaries:1960-1969

by Christopher Isherwood (Kindle Edition)

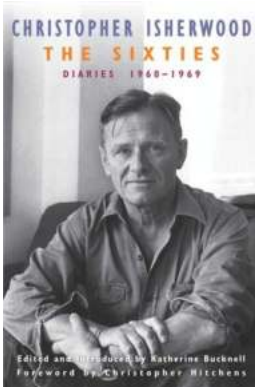
★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 3057 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported



Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 805 pages



With the onset of the 1960s, Isherwood embarked on a new literary endeavor, documenting his thoughts, experiences, and encounters in a series of diaries. These diaries offer a captivating glimpse into his personal life, friendships, political beliefs, and artistic struggles.

## **The Sixties Diaries: A Portal to Isherwood's World**

Isherwood's diaries for the 1960s reveal an artist grappling with his identity, his place in society, and the societal changes taking place around him. Through detailed accounts, he captures the essence of the social and cultural movements that defined the era, providing readers with a firsthand perspective on the revolutionary transformations that occurred during the decade.

These diaries serve as an intimate portrait of Isherwood's relationships within the artistic and literary communities. From his interactions with the likes of W. H. Auden, Truman Capote, and Tennessee Williams to his reflections on his own writing processes, Isherwood offers readers a unique opportunity to witness the creative psyche of an artistic genius.

## **A Personal Revolution**

Isherwood's diaries poignantly depict his personal journey throughout the 1960s, as he explores his sexual identity, undergoes psychoanalysis, and engages in various spiritual practices. The decade served as a catalyst for his self-discovery and acceptance, shaping his worldview and transforming him as both a writer and an individual.

The diaries not only explore Isherwood's personal growth but also shed light on the historical events unfolding at the time. From the Cuban Missile Crisis to the Civil Rights Movement, these turbulent times provide a backdrop to Isherwood's personal experiences, enriching the depth of his storytelling and offering readers a comprehensive understanding of the era.

## **Impact and Legacy**

Christopher Isherwood's "The Sixties Diaries: 1960-1969" not only preserves a significant period in his life but also offers readers a unique window into the challenges, triumphs, and transformations of the era. These diaries act as a time capsule, capturing the essence of an artist grappling with personal and social change, inspiring subsequent generations to reflect on their own journeys of self-discovery and societal engagement.

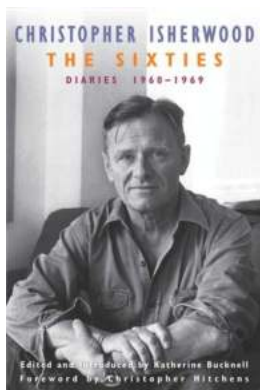
As we navigate a world marked by rapid changes and cultural shifts, Isherwood's diaries remain relevant and enlightening. They invite readers to engage with the past, learn from its lessons, and embrace the transformative power of self-reflection and creative expression.

## **In**

The Sixties Diaries: 1960-1969 by Christopher Isherwood stands as a testament to the transformative power of introspection and self-expression during an era marked by cultural and social revolutions. Isherwood's diaries offer readers a

comprehensive understanding of the author's personal and professional growth, contemporaneous events, and the lasting impact of the 1960s.

By journeying through the pages of these diaries, readers embark on an immersive experience that transcends time, inviting reflection on personal and societal progress. Through Isherwood's unique perspective, we gain insights into a tumultuous yet transformative decade, empowering us to navigate our own journeys of self-discovery in an ever-changing world.



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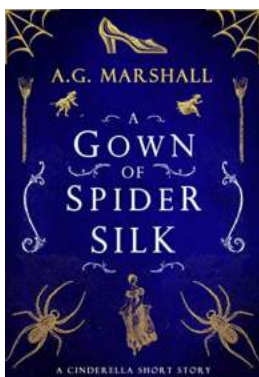
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This second volume of Christopher Isherwood's remarkable diaries opens on his fifty-sixth birthday, as the fifties give way to the decade of social and sexual revolution. Isherwood takes the reader from the bohemian sunshine of Southern California to a London finally swinging free of post-war gloom, to the racy cosmopolitanism of New York and to the raw Australian outback. He charts his ongoing quest for spiritual certainty under the guidance of his Hindu guru, and he reveals in reckless detail the emotional drama of his love for the American painter Don Bachardy, thirty years his junior and struggling to establish his own artistic identity.

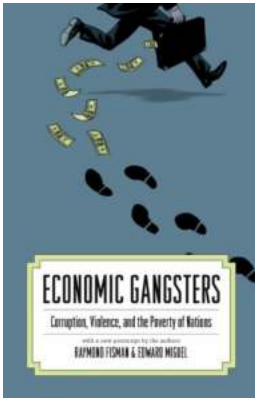
The diaries are crammed with wicked gossip and probing psychological insights about the cultural icons of the time—Francis Bacon, Richard Burton, Leslie Caron, Marianne Faithfull, David Hockney, Mick Jagger, Hope Lange, W. Somerset Maugham, John Osborne, Vanessa Redgrave, Tony Richardson, David O. Selznick, Igor Stravinsky, Gore Vidal, and many others. But the diaries are most revealing about Isherwood himself—his fiction (including *A Single Man* and *Down There on a Visit*), his film writing, his college teaching, and his affairs of the heart. He moves easily from Beckett to Brando, from arthritis to aggression, from Tennessee Williams to foot powder, from the opening of *Cabaret* on Broadway (which he skipped) to a close analysis of Gide.

In the background run references to the political and historical events of the period: the anxieties of the Cold War, Yuri Gagarin's spaceflight, de Gaulle and Algeria, the eruption of violence in America's inner cities, the Vietnam War, the Summer of Love, the moon landing, and the raising and lowering of hemlines. Isherwood is well known for his prophetic portraits of a morally bankrupt Europe on the eve of World War II; in this unparalleled chronicle, *The Sixties*, he turns his fearless eye on the decade that more than any other has shaped the way we live now.



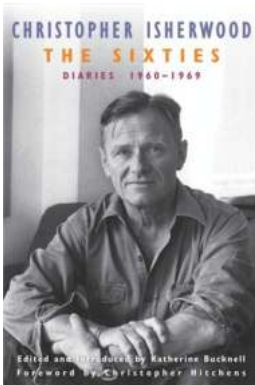
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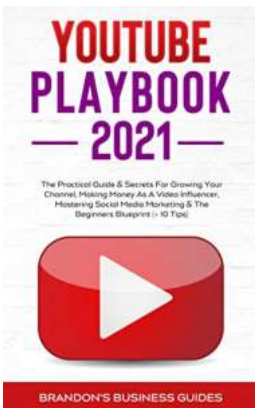
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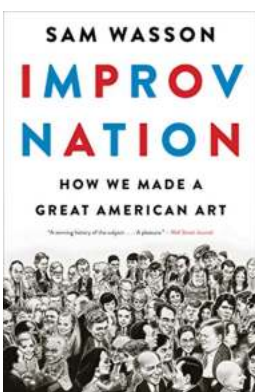
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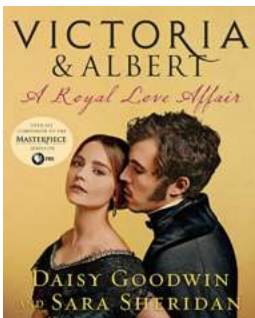
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