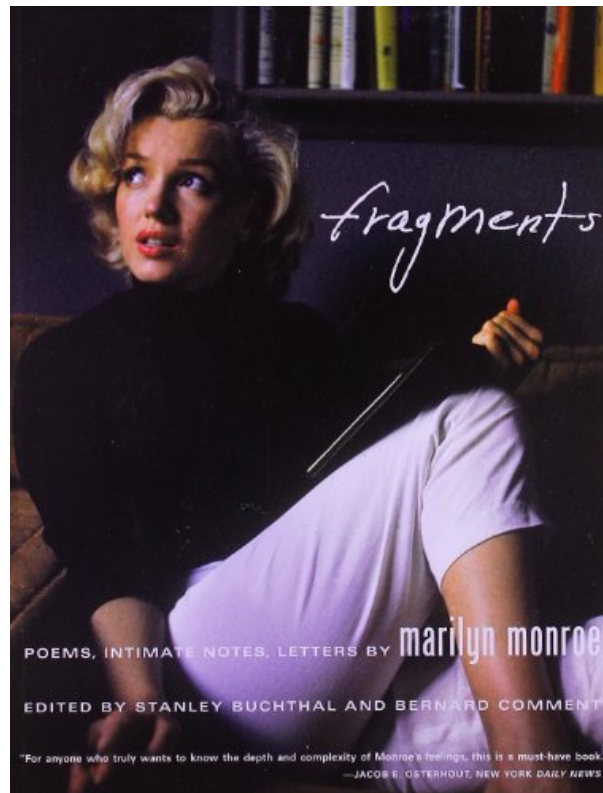
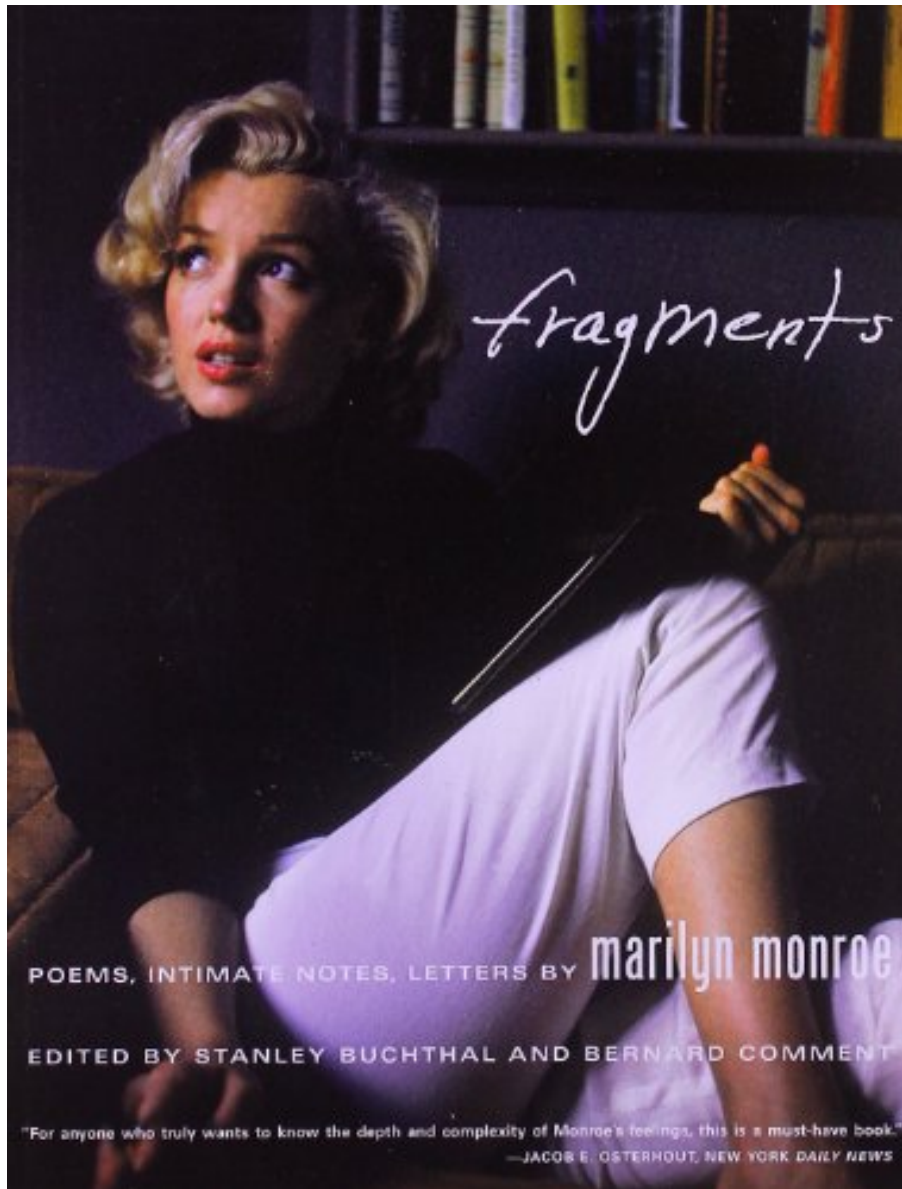


FRAGMENTS: POEMS, INTIMATE NOTES, LETTERS BY MARILYN MONROE



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Review

“There is delight in this picture of the icon as more sincere, striving, intellectually ambitious, and perceptive than we'd ever have guessed.” ?Publishers Weekly

“Sentences trail across the page, then merge in clumps, like paper airplanes tossed into a net; multiple cross-outs, repetitions and misspellings make them a challenge to decipher. Nonetheless, a certain potency resides in their runic quality...Passionate decoders of the Monroe legacy will have a field day..” ?The New York Times

About the Author

Marilyn Monroe was the defining actress of her age. Born in Los Angeles in 1926, Monroe first gained notice for small but memorable roles in *The Asphalt Jungle* and *All About Eve* in 1950. Over the next decade, she starred in numerous films, including *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*, *Some Like It Hot*, *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, *Marry a Millionaire*, and *The Seven Year Itch*. Acclaimed for these and many other performances, Monroe also studied with Lee Strasberg at the Actors Studio. She died in 1962.

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FRAGMENTS: POEMS, INTIMATE NOTES, LETTERS BY MARILYN MONROE PDF

Fragments is an event—an unforgettable book that will redefine one of the greatest icons of the twentieth century and that, nearly fifty years after her death, will definitively reveal Marilyn Monroe's humanity.

Marilyn's image is so universal that we can't help but believe we know all there is to know of her. Every word and gesture made headlines and garnered controversy. Her serious gifts as an actor were sometimes eclipsed by her notoriety—and by the way the camera fell helplessly in love with her.

Beyond the headlines—and the too-familiar stories of heartbreak and desolation—was a woman far more curious, searching, witty, and hopeful than the one the world got to know. Now, for the first time, readers can meet the private Marilyn and understand her in a way we never have before. Fragments is an unprecedented collection of written artifacts—notes to herself, letters, even poems—in Marilyn's own handwriting, never before published, along with rarely seen intimate photos.

Jotted in notebooks, typed on paper, or written on hotel letterhead, these texts reveal a woman who loved deeply and strove to perfect her craft. They show a Marilyn Monroe unsparing in her analysis of her own life, but also playful, funny, and impossibly charming. The easy grace and deceptive lightness that made her performances indelible emerge on the page, as does the simmering tragedy that made her last appearances so affecting.

- Sales Rank: #188526 in Books
- Published on: 2012-10-16
- Released on: 2012-10-16
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 10.05" h x .55" w x 7.66" l, 1.66 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 256 pages

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Most helpful customer reviews

89 of 95 people found the following review helpful.

Marilyn, The Woman She Really Was.

By James Cabello

If you are looking for a book about Marilyn's life and dramatic details about being an orphan, foster child, and struggling in Hollywood, this isn't the book for you.

This book is for the people that truly cared about Marilyn the person, and want to learn about her true self. This is a book with her thoughts, feelings. There are poems, personal letters, and written thoughts throughout the book.

A high quality scanned picture of the actual page that she wrote things on is placed side by side with an easy-to-read transcription on the other page. The pictures included might not be new to some fans, but there are many beautiful pictures included.

Although the book is 230 something pages in length, it's actually half of that because of the scanned pictures, which contain the exact content of the transcribed pages. I also doubt this is the only content there is available of Marilyn's writings.

Overall, a book for anybody that would appreciate an insight into the woman that truly was Marilyn. A woman who loved, doubted herself, and fought interpersonally.

After reading this, her short life will be sincerely tragic, and you will see Marilyn in a new way, as a person, and not an object or another 50s actress, like most people do.

Marilyn Monroe was so much more than an actress or sex symbol, as proven in this book. She was a genuine human being.

49 of 54 people found the following review helpful.

Did we ever really know her?

By Reine des Coeurs

Many a biography will come out and has come out on Marilyn, as her mystique and the public's fascination with her seems never to fade, but very few actually give you an idea of what she thought, who she was and how she saw the world around her. This beautiful collection of letters, poems and assorted writing is both touching and melancholic. I've read so many books on this lovely lady, but this is the first one that's ever really made me question on whether or not I really knew anything at all about Marilyn Monroe. She was so much more than she appeared to be. And that makes the tragedy of her short life all the more heartbreaking.

17 of 17 people found the following review helpful.

The Marilyn We Never Knew, Until Now - Superbly Done - Five Stars !!!!

By Richard of Connecticut

Was there a film star as famous as Marilyn Monroe? A star that became even more famous in death than in

life. In the end all we know of her is what other people have written, or the photographs that were taken of her. All of it, the writing, the images, it has all been staged to make us think whatever it is the crafter wished us to respond to. All of it until NOW.

With this book *Fragments*, we have for the first time what Marilyn thought, what she wrote, and how she was. We see her gifts as a person and her craft, not the image, not the notoriety. In the 1950's she came to New York and grew very close to Lee Strasberg, who was the head of the Actor's Studio. Strasberg who we all know as the Meyer Lansky type figure in the second *Godfather* movie was very enamored of Marilyn as we all were.

The funniest line in the book is when Strasberg who is a stickler for being on time complains to her about being timely for meetings. She says she simply cannot be on time. Strasberg's response was, "Then be early."

When she died in the summer of 1962, she left her belongings to Strasberg who was married to a much younger woman Anna. Years later, Anna went through the boxes that Marilyn had entrusted to Strasberg. Mrs. Strasberg came across a collection of writings on random pieces of paper such as hotel stationery, envelopes, and a series of different notebooks never completed. The writings also included poems, some finished, some unfinished.

Much of the material was written in a disjointed fashion, with scribing and cross outs, sentences started here, and finished somewhere else. Marilyn had her own way of doing things. With the help of professional editing the authors were able to make the random writings begin to make sense, and the thought then became, can this be turned into a book?

The answer was a RESOUNDING YES.

Thus began the journey to take the unaltered writings of the real Marilyn Monroe and weave them into a manuscript that could be published, so that the rest of us could get to know the essence of this woman in an unvarnished fashion. I have gone through every page of this book and the results are both astounding and gratifying.

This is no DUMB BLOND

That's the first thing you need to understand. The public image was to sell sex, but behind it was a sensitive human being with a keen desire for both knowledge and introspection. She did not have a high school education, and so while a young star in Hollywood; she went to UCLA and studied the history of literature and American history as well. How many of us are doing that today?

She loved books and at the time of her death she owned more than 400 of them. She had without question read Milton, Whitman, Hemingway, Kerouac, Dostoyevsky, and Beckett. We all knew she had brains. The fact that she was married to one of America's greatest playwrights, Arthur Miller indicates that.

Miller had recommended that she read Carl Sandburg's six volume biography of Abraham Lincoln, which she did cover to cover. She loved art as exemplified by her knowledge of Dali, De Kooning, and Warhol, all three of whom she helped promote. She was also a student of the Italian Renaissance and appreciated Botticelli, Goya, and Degas.

ORGANIZATION OF FRAGMENTS

The book is laid out beautifully. I think of it as a work of art in itself. In a chronological manner the authors put Marilyn's writings on the left. It is actually a photograph of the original writing in her handwriting. You see the cross outs, add-ons, miss spellings and all the mistakes that you would never ever see in a book.

On the right hand side is a typed word for word transcription of what Marilyn wrote on the left. In addition you will see via an easy to understand system of black and red lines where the authors had to show the continuation of her thoughts in a different area of the page. This makes the entire page easy to read and to follow.

Strasberg demanded that the star undergo classic psychoanalysis in New York as a way to get in touch with herself as an actress. There is also much correspondence in the book, again in Marilyn's handwriting, some of which is with her analyst. Near the back of the book are two pages with photographs of some of the books from the star's personal collection. These include Madame Bovary, A Farewell to Arms, and the Sun Also Rises. Put it all together and you get incredible insights into who Marilyn Monroe really was.

CONCLUSION:

For those of us who were smitten with her, this is a wonderful addition to our libraries. I have never accepted the official version of her death based on the circumstances as I understand them, and as the years go by and new information becomes available, it seems less likely that she died of her own hand. It is also too convenient for a lot of people that no longer wanted her around but this is another story for another book.

If you FRAGMENTS, you will get to know a brilliant, savvy young woman who loved knowledge, life, reading, introspection, and oh yes, she just happened to be the most famous actress of her generation. You will love this book. Pick yourself up a copy and get to know her as we never have, and thank you for reading this review.

Richard C. Stoyeck

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