



Infamous Players: A Tale of Movies, the Mob, (and Sex)

Peter Bart

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In 1967, Peter Bart, then a young family man and rising reporter for the *New York Times*, decided to upend his life and enter into the dizzying world of motion pictures. *Infamous Players* is the story of Bart's whirlwind journey at Paramount, his role in its triumph and failures, and how a new kind of filmmaking emerged during that time.

When Bart was lured to Paramount by his friend and fellow newcomer, the legendary Robert Evans, the studio languished, its slate riddled with movies that were out of touch with the dynamic sixties. By the time Bart had left Paramount in 1975, the studio had completed a remarkable run with such films as *The Godfather*, *Rosemary's Baby*, *Harold and Maude*, *Love Story*, *Chinatown*, *Paper Moon*, and *True Grit*. But this new golden era at Paramount was also fraught with chaos and company turmoil. Drugs, sex, runaway budgets, management infighting, and even the Mafia started finding their way onto the Paramount backlot, making it surely one of the worst-run studios in the history of the movie industry.

As Peter reflects on the New Hollywood era at Paramount with behind-the-scenes details and insightful analysis, here too are his fascinating recollections of the icons from that era: Warren Beatty, Steve McQueen, Robert Redford, Clint Eastwood, Jack Nicholson, Marlon Brando, Al Pacino, Francis Ford Coppola, Roman Polanski, and Frank Sinatra among others.

For over five decades, first on the inside as a studio executive, and later as the longtime editor-in-chief of *Variety*, Peter Bart has viewed Hollywood from an incomparable vantage point. The stories he tells and the lessons we learn from *Infamous Players* are essential for anyone who loves movies.

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