

(Download pdf ebook) Fred Astaire: His Friends Talk

## Fred Astaire: His Friends Talk

*Sarah Giles*

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**Sarah Giles : Fred Astaire: His Friends Talk** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Fred Astaire: His Friends Talk:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Adjunct Information Source By R. Bono I enjoyed the book, though I must admit that I thought there was a certain snobbery and lack of empathy for Ginger Rogers, by a number of Fred's British friends, a line of thinking which Fred would never would have countenanced. It was Rogers among very few, who had contributed so mightily to the establishment of Fred's film career. And, as Hermes Pan emphasized, it was Rogers, and no one else, who was Fred's best dance partner. The reason you read such books, which have so little author editorial content, is to understand the different point of views, vis a vis the subject. The book after all, is about Astaire, not Rogers. As a compendium of quotes about Fred's life, it is a nice short adjunct to other sources for a clearer vision of the man. What a man, and what a life. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Classiest Star By Gene Cisco Fred Astaire defines 'star' just in his name, but he embodies what it means to achieve self-perfection to such a degree that his genius stands alone. Seriously. This is part of the immediate appeal of this book by Sarah Giles. Most of Astaire's admirers have all his movies on film, but here, she captures him so many times in wonderful stills from his private life enough that I can savor for many years. His simplicity, generosity and thoughtfulness come through the candid remarks of Hollywood insiders page by page. Although he had the 'English look' about him, this is remarkable for an Omaha, Nebraska boy. When you see his family photos you will understand the reach of his understated elegance goes much beyond fashion. His self-control, modesty and conservative ways shaped his family into one self-confident, close-knit family. Beyond that is speculation and that is how Astaire would want it in a book

about himself. It was surprising, to me, to see mention of Barrie Chase, finally getting her due, and a bonus to see this wonderful dancing partner in motion with her soul-partner in dance. There is something to say about a society that was once class-conscious, which produced the likes of Cary Grant and Fred Astaire, both from the lower, working classes who rose to prominence through hard work and struggle. With Fred Astaire, his stylish panache was just a patina to his wonderfulness and unrivaled talent. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Very interesting. By Sixeyes Very interesting. I was a very big fan. He was a nice guy.

Hardcover and dust jacket, as pictured; scratch on dust jacket, as shown in my image; text is excellent (bio)

From Publishers Weekly Friends of the late Astaire talk but have little insightful to say in this handsome photo album assembled by Giles, editor-at-large at Vanity Fair. Perhaps the Duke of Devonshire got it right: "He had great charm, but, to be slightly unkind, he wasn't frightfully interesting. But, then, why should he have been?" Born Frederick Austerlitz in Omaha in 1899, the self-effacing Astaire established an unequaled standard of dancing yet few voices here discuss his work with perspicacity. Compared to the generally unenlightening comments from family (daughter Ava: "Daddy always drank Heineken"), the words of Astaire's doctor and housekeeper stand out as the most detailed and intelligent. Conspicuous by their absence are reminiscences by the dancer's son who was not approached by Giles and his second wife, who chose not to cooperate. Despite the disappointing text, the photographs do full justice to a man whose incandescent face rivaled the impeccable optimism of his feet. Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Expanding a Vanity Fair article, Giles presents snippets taken from some 75 interviews with Astaire's friends, relatives, colleagues, and admirers, with the intent of providing the reader with a broadened sense of this man who was perfection on screen. The collection of quotes addresses aspects of the public and private man. Those interviewed include some expected names Hermes Pan, Ginger Rogers, Ava Astaire (his daughter), Irving Berlin and some unexpected names Twiggy, Jerry Hall. Barrie Chase, a favorite partner, and Robyn Smith, Astaire's second wife, are noticeably absent. The quotes are light, chatty, and sometimes informative. They will appeal to gossip column fans. Joan Stahl, Enoch Pratt Free Lib., Baltimore Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc.