



Women and Gay Men in the Postwar Period

By John Portmann

Bloomsbury Academic. Hardcover. Condition: New. 208 pages. Friendships between women and gay men, portrayed in TV shows such as Will and Grace, captivated the American media in the opening decade of the 21st century. In this book John Portmann places this phenomenon in its historical context, examining the changing social attitudes towards gay men in the postwar period and how their relationships with women have been portrayed in the media. As women and gay men struggled for similar social goals in the late 20th century, many women understood that defending gay men was in their best interest and had political as well as personal implications. Straight women used their influence with straight men to fight homophobia; beyond the political fray, some straight women also discovered they liked the feel of friendship with a gay man. With the hostility that arose as a result of HIV infection in the 1980s, a significant number of lesbians volunteered as caregivers to gay men. Famous women provided high-profile examples of both support and condemnation for homosexuality, with women such as Judy Garland, Madonna and Lady Gaga becoming idols for gay men, and Portmann considers these women in relation to their unknown female contemporaries. Looking...



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