



# Crowned Heads

*Thomas Tryon*

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## **Crowned Heads** Thomas Tryon

Thomas Tryon brings to breathtaking life the Golden Age of Hollywood and the great golden people who became the crowned heads of this kingdom of stars.

**FEDORA:** Her enigma unriddled—the greatest, the most exquisite, the longest-reigning Hollywood star of them all. Now she has made an incredible comeback, her glorious face strangely untouched by time....

**LORNA:** She zoomed from high school cheerleader to sex goddess. Now after many men, many jobs, and much trouble, she has come to a remote Mexican resort to find herself....

**BOBBITT:** He was a star at ten. Now he's in his thirties and as winsome as ever. But today the Bobbitt movies are forgotten. And Bobbitt himself—does he exist at all?

**WILLIE:** For decades a worldwide symbol of elegance and wit. Now he is alone in his showplace Hollywood villa—his precious "Bee" dead—morning the past. Then suddenly, viciously, with a knock on the door, the future breaks in....

## **Crowned Heads Details**

Date : Published 1976 by Hodder and Stoughton

ISBN : 9780340213698

Author : Thomas Tryon

Format : Paperback 399 pages

Genre : Fiction, Horror, Literature, Contemporary

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## From Reader Review Crowned Heads for online ebook

### jeffrey says

Disturbing stories about pathetic characters

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### Jenine Whitehawk says

#### Interesting

The novel is split into 4 pieces- they may be read individually or as part of a longer narrative. Tryon sets a leisurely pace and never achieves a literary climax and that is okay. Read this book for character description and you will walk away with a pleasant buzz.

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### Debra Pawlak says

I did something I rarely do--I decided to reread some of Tom Tryon's books. I started with 'Crowned Heads', which I originally read when it first came out in the early seventies. Couldn't remember much about it except that I really enjoyed it. So when I came across a hard cover edition at a used book sale, I couldn't resist. Just finished it and was quite good. Tryon is a clever writer who left us about one dozen books before he died--much too soon--starting with 'The Other'. 'Crowned Heads' is made up of four novella-type stories about the Golden Age of Hollywood--something Tryon (who was also a fine actor) is familiar with. He interweaves his fictional stories with real people and events. Be warned, however, the last story is not for the faint of heart. Looking forward to revisiting a few more of his books and reading the ones that I haven't gotten to just yet.

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### Sarah D Bunting says

As usual with Tryon, wildly overwritten and yet compelling. Takes too long to get to plot twists the reader had guessed ten pages into each novella, but still entertaining.

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### Nick says

Tryon's 4-part novel of behind-the-scenes classic Hollywood. Fun, but hardly essential Tryon reading.

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### Bettie? says

[Bettie's Books (hide spoiler)]

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## **Zachary says**

### **CROWNED HEADS: A NOVEL**

Being an old movie lover I really enjoyed this book. I would have given it a 4 1/2 star review, however, believe it or not after all of these years I have yet to figure out how to do it. ( Someone please let me know if you can!) Anyway, as I said I enjoyed this book immensely, trying to figure out who the characters might be, but.... for me some of the scenes with "LORNA and WILLIE" went on too long for me. Everyone raves about Mr. Ryan's previous works and I'm sure they are wonderful, however I think I'll stick to "OLE HOLLYWOOD!"

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## **Bunny says**

Dated but I still enjoyed it. I always loved Thomas Tryon's works even the non-horror like this.

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## **Boris Cesnik says**

What a triumph of style and story-telling.

Short novellas and a bit more spookily intermingled by delicate hints and reappearances, beautifully narrated with empathic skill and talent.

There is far more horror in these pages than your average monster/slasher book could ever contain.

If you know or love Thomas Tryon you know what to expect in terms of narrative style and language. It's sublime, entertaining, (un)comforting, never bland, always engaging. It digs deep and drags you in.

An unforgettable collection of long stories that you wished it had no ending...you want one more, another one, and another one, again, last one please, and again...

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## **Erin says**

ARC for review.

\*I read about fifty pages of this book last night before I came here to mark as "currently reading" and it was only then that I noticed that this is a re-issue of a book originally published in 1976, which answers a lot of my chronology questions.

I LOVE Thomas Tryon - THE OTHER is one of my all-time favorite books. He's books aren't flat-out horror, but the kind of psychological terror that I enjoy. I was excited to see this book come as an ARC...I'm assuming it's being re-issued as an e-book for a new generations of readers to enjoy.

So, this is a book of four related novellas (each titled after the main character, Fedora, Lorna, Bobbitt and Willie) and the general point is that if a person has any predilection for it, Hollywood stardom will make you crazy, as it did the primary characters in each of these great stories. Tryon does madness well - each type is

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very distinct and fascinating. Well worth reading.

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## **Cristian says**

I love the old-fashioned way Tryon writes, with another author I think I would not be able to get past a few pages: Tryon takes his time and all his stories usually have a slow pace, but his use of the English language is somehow a winner for me, I always get addicted.

The problem with these loosely linked novellas is that the plots are a bit thin, but his writing and his obvious love for Hollywood stardom and cinema in general is very palpable and addictive. All four titular characters aren't nice people to write about, and it's hard to sympathize with them, but otherwise they're worth reading. The story I liked least was Lorna, which seemed to go nowhere, and while Fedora is the better known of the stories, I liked it but I guessed the plot twist quite a few pages before being revealed, so it didn't quite gel as it should have with me. Great writing throughout though.

Bobbitt and especially, Willie, are very good stories though, the former reads like a Peter Pan fairytale and since the protagonist was not really the titular character but the lovable Nell it was a more satisfying read. And Willie.... knowing the fate of the character beforehand I thought would make it lose impact, but the creepy atmosphere created from the very beginning never decreases and it was an absolute joy to read (even if it was with a lot of anguish). The twist about Willie's character was great though, I never guessed it and in fact I re-read the story up to that point because it changed the character a lot.

That story was really good so even if it would not be my book of choice for someone who wants to get into Tryon's literature (The Other would be), it is very worthwhile.

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## **Chris Marsh says**

I'm quite sure I'm missing a great deal as I'm geographically and chronologically separated from the characters, settings, and events in the four stories. The plots are interesting, but I can't seem to bring myself to like the characters that much. Let me address them one by one:

Fedora: My favourite story of the four, and Fedora is the only protagonist in any of them I respect. The beginning is excruciatingly slow (as it is in the other three) but the secret is well worth it.

Lorna: Supposedly a tragedy, but I cannot seem to feel any pity for the protagonist. She is a self-absorbed narcissist--bordering on psychopath--who believes she deserves the world on a silver platter. It's actually quite gratifying to see her get what she really deserves.

Bobbitt: The only story with a happy ending. Bobbitt himself is a spoiled child/man-boy and attention-seeker.

Willie: Lonely and foolish old man, though I do feel some pity for him; he certainly doesn't deserve to die, especially the way he does.

Still, I really like how the lives of these characters, and some of the minor ones, all intertwine through the decades.

## **karen says**

[manson family/home invasi

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## **Kristi Richardson says**

### **I loved this book!**

Thomas Tryon died too young. Every book he wrote was a winner.

Crowned Heads is a novel about Hollywood and four movie stars. Fedora is the mysterious star that never seemed to age.

Lorna is the beautiful sex symbol with mental problems.

Bobby is the former child star that never wanted to grow up.

Willie was the quintessential movie star from the golden years, whose life was a lie, that he pays dearly for in the end.

I checked this book from my local library.

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## **Timothy Juhl says**

Since it's publication in 1976, I've read 'Crowned Heads' at least six times. Thomas Tryon was a bit actor known mostly for his role in 'I Married A Monster From Outer Space'. In the early 70's his first novel, 'The Other' was a best-selling horror tale.

'Crowned Heads' was published in 1976 and is Tryon's fourth novel. A nicely woven story, that unfolds in a series of four novellas detailing the lives of four fictional screen stars; a silent movie icon, a child actor, the bombshell and the forgotten character actor.

This is my fail-safe read, a book I can take from the shelf when I'm bored with all other books and can immerse myself in a crafty, gossipy, bit of otherwise forgotten literature.

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