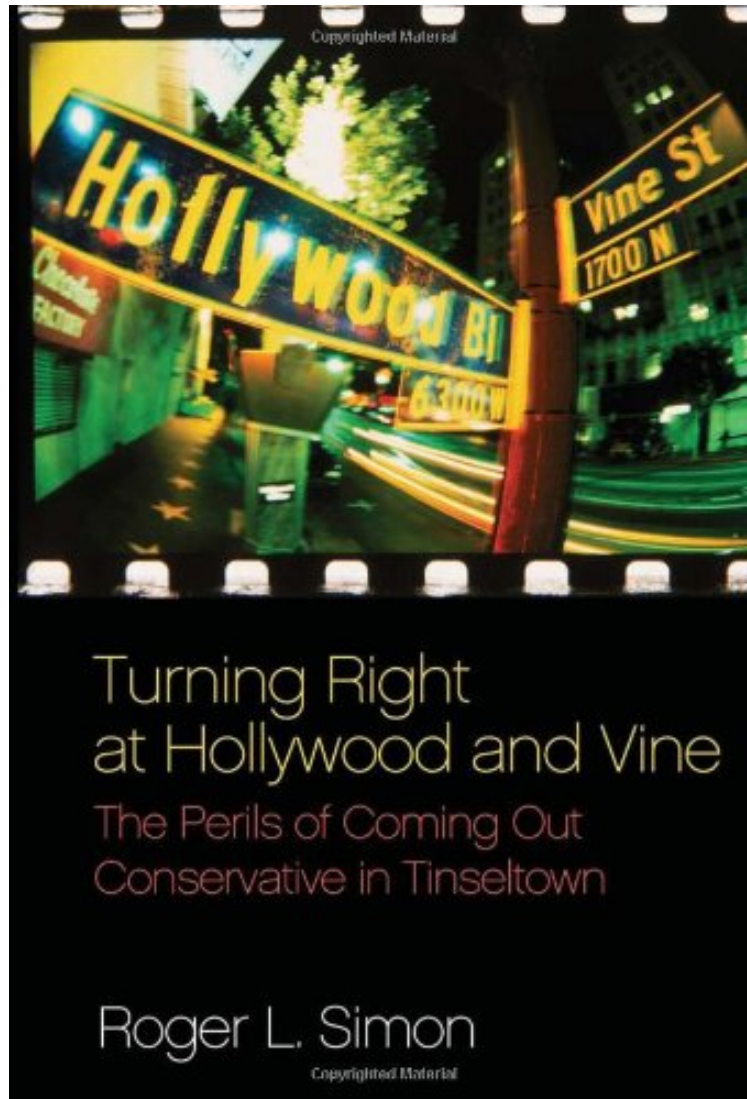


[Get free] Turning Right at Hollywood and Vine: The Perils of Coming Out Conservative in Tinseltown

Turning Right at Hollywood and Vine: The Perils of Coming Out Conservative in Tinseltown

Roger L. Simon

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Roger L. Simon : Turning Right at Hollywood and Vine: The Perils of Coming Out Conservative in Tinseltown before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Turning Right at Hollywood and Vine: The Perils of Coming Out Conservative in Tinseltown:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. An honest and insightful view of the politics of Hollywood written with a sense of dispassion and humility. A good read. By SF Writer When my book club decided to do another memoir

after Peter Coyote, *Sleeping Where I Fall*, I almost cringed. Coyote was an artist with a pen, but his memoir like all memoirs was riddled with egotism and narcissism. Coyote strained to be honest but never quite got there, continually hung up on blaming his father for his own choices. In contrast, Simon is brutally honest and far and away more introspective, but I admit that I missed Coyote's ability to craft a metaphor or paint with words. Still, I would choose Simon over Coyote. Simon lacks the rhetorical flourish of Coyote as a craftsman, but he more than makes up for it by being painfully honest about his life. One finds Simon an engaging and alluring character. But the book is more about him and Hollywood than it is about the effect of politics on his decision making. True, there are chapters designed specifically to bring this point home, but Simon digresses into his own non-political story. We hear why Simon moved right, but we never quite see it. For all the personal introspection, the political introspection is wanting or subsumed by his desire to tell his non-political story. Still, a good read and a penetrating and honest insight into the man and his Hollywood environment. Refreshing in its honesty and worth the read. By way of disclosure, I used to write for *PJM* and met Simon on a few occasions. He is a likeable person with none of the self-importance or lofty hubris usually found in the Hollywood set. This certainly comes across in the humility and honesty with which the book is written. Oh yes, my book club liked it. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great on a few levels. By Comedy Snob Another great example of someone seeing the light. Great read, not only on politics but the business of writing. 4 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Out of Hollywood's Political Closet By Heather Hale In *Blacklisting Myself*, Roger L. Simon has the balls to come out of the Hollywood political closet and lay his cards on the table. I respect that. Further, I agree with him on almost every point. And his journey is painfully poignant to so many in the artistic and entrepreneurial global arena. An Academy Award-nominated screenwriter and mystery novelist, Roger L. Simon went from Mother Jones liberal, financing the Black Panther Breakfast Program; through some eerily familiar (let's call them "development," rather than "horror") stories with Richard Pryor, Warren Beatty, Timothy Leary, Richard Dreyfuss, Woody Allen and even an odd, few hour blip with Barbra Streisand; to pioneering as one of the first modern Americans to get behind the iron curtain to see the real People's Republic of China, Cuba and the Soviet Union (including a veiled KGB recruitment), to the elusive and fleeting red carpet moments, to a National Review endorsed 9/11 Democrat, to being an early adopter of - or shall we say, capitalizer on - the freedom of speech afforded in our new Wild West, our final frontier: the burgeoning blogosphere. His is a fascinating and thoughtful, appreciably self-deprecating without posturing that he's figured it all out yet - but on a sincere and genuine quest through many of the contemporary and relevant -isms: Marxism, Freudianism, Libertarianism, Laissez-Faire Capitalism, Zen Buddhism, Quaker Pacifism, Neoconservatism, Neoliberalism to his terror at the surging Islamofascism. Defying all labels - or at least stringently trying to jockey them, this is a refreshing memoir full of profound personal insights along an interesting journey, surveying the cross-section of politics, religion and media from the sixties to the post 9/11 new millennium. Working in Hollywood or maybe even just living in our "post 9/11" world, it's a daring thing to actually express an honest opinion. On anything. Much less mature and constantly evolving thoughts, prudently open for further consideration and evolution through discussion. (You know: thinking? Remember: "conversation?" The long lost art of rational and friendly debate?). Our hyper-PC world is so full of snap judgment decisions and knee jerk volatile reactions, speaking your truth can get you eviscerated on all sides - from all radii of every spectrum. In a world where everything has been reduced to out of context clips or random tweets (or who sponsored the message or controls the medium), one meaningful or revealing comment can get you locked in a box with a label slapped on you forevermore by the smug, erroneous conclusion that that one utterance revealed all the layers to your onion, justifying and is somehow the launch sequence for all the presumed toggle switches that define your entire life's belief systems. Usually, this is done by hypo (and hyper) critical people, oblivious to their own ludicrous dualities who are just too terrified to take a cold hard look at the provenance of their own belief systems, much less ever truly challenge them (to really, truly have earned the right to proselytize - not that that's ever welcome). Instead, they are free to roam the earth, judging and pointing fingers, deliriously oblivious to their own delusions as to the inconsistencies between what they preach and how they "model" it. I could go on and on - but this is a book review - obviously, it got me thinking.

An Academy Award-nominated screenwriter and a mystery novelist, Roger L. Simon is the only American writer to pull off the amazing trick of being profiled positively in both *Mother Jones* and *National Review* in one lifetime. The stunning story of his political odyssey is told in this memoir, where Simon recounts his migration from financier of the Black Panther Breakfast Program to pioneer blogosphere mogul beloved by the right as a 9/11 Democrat. But Simon is beholden to neither right nor left in this tale of Hollywood chic run amuck, as he talks out of school about his adventures with, among many others, Richard Pryor, Warren Beatty, Timothy Leary, Richard Dreyfuss, Woody Allen, and Julian Semyonov, the Soviet Union's version of Robert Ludlum and also a KGB colonel who tempted Simon to join the KGB himself. Among the topics covered along the way: Is there a new blacklist in Hollywood, this one targeting conservatives? Simon's red-carpet tours of the Peoples Republic of China, Cuba, and the Soviet Union with Hollywood screenwriters and famous mystery novelists. Why Al Gore's documentary on global warming didn't deserve the Oscar on artistic grounds alone; and why the Academy's voting system is so corrupt. And, as they say, there is

much, much more besides.

Years ago, I read Roger L. Simon's first mystery novel, *The Big Fix*, and I was delighted. Roger was a left liberal then and so was I. Now Roger's politics and mine have changed, but his gifts as a writer have only grown richer.

Blacklisting Myself is a story of Hollywood and America, funny and perceptive at the same time. --Michael Barone, US News World Report, American Enterprise Institute Rueful, thoughtful, refreshingly direct, and full of juicy inside stories, Roger L. Simon's memoir is the best and most intimate account of Hollywood's politics yet published. When I read Roger L. Simon's witty and riveting *Blacklisting Myself*, I felt as if I were reading the memoir of my own lost brother. This indispensable and entertaining book is the first to tell the true story of Hollywood and politics from the perspective of someone who actually lived it.