



Matinee and Evening "The Story of Actors Abby Lewis and John Seymour"

Paula Moore

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Matinee and Evening tells the story of Abby Lewis, a beautiful, strong, and determined actress, and her husband, the charming, sophisticated actor John Seymour. Their love story spans more than five decades, through many trials and triumphs.

Much of the background for the story was gleaned from the stars' extensive collection of letters, journals, and other official papers housed in the Institute of Historical Survey Foundation in Abby Lewis's home town of Mesilla Park, New Mexico.

The title comes from Abby's oft-repeated abbreviations "Mat." and "Eve." in her diary, indicating a long day in which both a matinee and an evening performance of a play were required.

As the title indicates, the two performers enjoyed long, busy careers in their chosen profession. For the general public, except those few who listened carefully or studied the quick-rolling credits, their names were often lost in the crowd, but they were well known and respected by many of the top names in the entertainment industry.

Matinee and Evening reads like a Who's Who of show business. Seymour, who came from a long line of actors, grew up in Broadway theaters and was on a first-name basis with many of its brightest stars, including the famous Barrymore clan.

Abby Lewis arrived in New York in the 1930s as an unknown, but found success on the stage. Both of them stayed busy as they lived through the golden days of radio and made the transition to film and TV. Matinee and Evening gives an insider's look into the trials and rewards of life as an actor. It paints a compelling portrait of a couple who "made it" in an extremely competitive field.



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