



Surviving James Dean

By William Bast

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A beautifully written memoir, candid and definitive, that tells the story of Bast's five year relationship with the charismatic actor and American legend—James Dean.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Bast, a TV writer and journalist, was infatuated with James Dean (1931–1955) from the moment they met (at UCLA in 1950). A closeted gay man, Bast had a crush on the brooding, unknown actor and had a brief fling with him. This work records their close friendship, Dean's rise to stardom and the years following his premature death at age 24. Dean's troubled life is well documented, and Bast isn't interested in repeating his previous *James Dean, a Biography*, written in 1956. At the time, Bast was loathe to reveal his homosexuality or Dean's affairs with men. He now hopes to make up for his "youthful shortcomings and omissions." The hook is Dean's sexuality, which Bast explores in detail, discounting his relationships with women and focusing on those with men, including a stint with a notorious "chicken hawk," an older man who fancies younger guys (Bast quotes Dean saying of the union, "I paid my way"). This simple, heartfelt book records Bast's coming out and the long-term impact Dean had on his life. 16-page b&w photo insert not seen by PW. (Apr.)

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Herman Nelson:

Have you spare time for the day? What do you do when you have much more or little spare time? That's why, you can choose the suitable activity with regard to spend your time. Any person spent their particular spare time to take a move, shopping, or went to often the Mall. How about open or perhaps read a book called *Surviving James Dean*? Maybe it is to get best activity for you. You know beside you can spend your time with the favorite's book, you can smarter than before. Do you agree with it has the opinion or you have other opinion?

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Richard Barbosa:

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