



# **The Garden on Sunset: A Novel of Golden-Era Hollywood (Hollywood's Garden of Allah novels Book 1)**

*Martin Turnbull*

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Book 4 - "Searchlights and Shadows"

**Martin Turnbull's Garden of Allah novels have been optioned for the screen by film & television producer, Tabrez Noorani.**

## **INTERVIEW WITH THE AUTHOR**

### **What was your original inspiration for these novels?**

I came across an online article about the Garden of Allah Hotel, which opened on Sunset Boulevard in 1927, just before "The Jazz Singer" ushered in the talkies, and closed in 1959, the year that "Ben Hur" announced the last hurrah of the studio system. The Garden's residents witnessed the unfolding evolution of Hollywood and actively participated in it.

### **How has writing these novels changed your view of this golden age that we perceive as the greatest era of film production?**

L.A. was a much less densely populated city. Consequently, all movie industry workers were far more likely to know each other. People moved from MGM to Paramount to 20th Century-Fox to RKO to Warner Bros. Two or three degrees of separation were usually enough!

### **Why did you not change the names of the major players to suit your story?**

The whole point of recounting the history of Hollywood through the eyes of the Garden's residents was because so many celebrities lived there. Harpo Marx and Sergei Rachmaninoff were neighbors, F. Scott Fitzgerald played charades with Dorothy Parker, Errol Flynn got drunk, Ginger Rogers was always looking for a tennis partner, and Bogart courted Bacall. Why tell it if I'm going to change the names?

### **Do you think stories set in old Hollywood are becoming more popular because of Turner Classic Movies?**

Yes! TCM has produced a whole new audience for them.

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