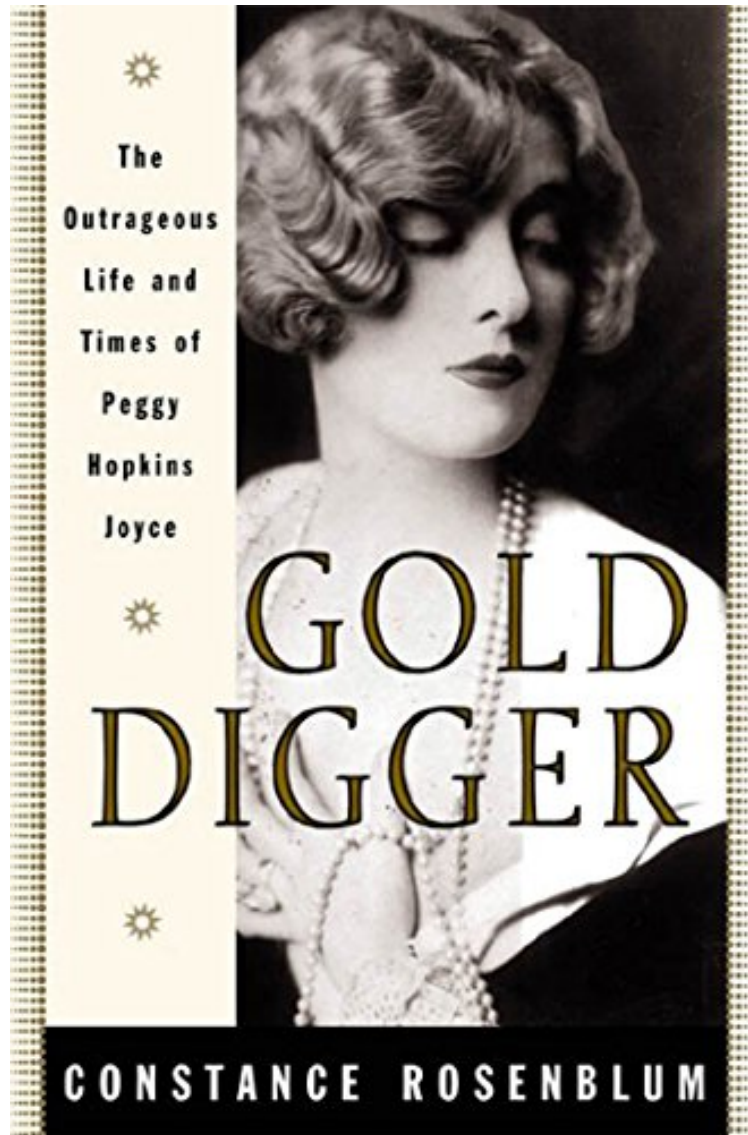


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Gold Digger: The Outrageous Life and Times of Peggy Hopkins Joyce

Von Constance Rosenblum
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Produktinformation Veröffentlicht am: 2015-08-18 Erscheinungsdatum: 2015-08-18 File Name: B010M25J8I | File size: 25.Mb

Von Constance Rosenblum : **Gold Digger: The Outrageous Life and Times of Peggy Hopkins Joyce** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Gold Digger: The Outrageous

Life and Times of Peggy Hopkins Joyce:

Kurzbeschreibung A sparkling biography of the original blonde whom gentlemen preferred, a woman who made a career of marrying millionaires and became the first tabloid celebrity. One of America's most talked about personalities during the Jazz Age, Peggy Hopkins Joyce was the quintessential gold digger, the real-life Lorelei Lee. Married six times, to several millionaires and even a count, Joyce had no discernible talent except self-promotion. A barber's daughter from Norfolk, Virginia, who rose to become a Ziegfeld Girl and, briefly, a movie star, Joyce was the precursor of the modern celebrity—a person famous for being famous. Her scandalous exploits—spending a million dollars in a week, conducting torrid love affairs with the likes of Charlie Chaplin and Walter Chrysler—were irresistible to the new breed of tabloid journalists in search of sensation and to audiences hungry for the possibilities her life seemed to promise. Joyce's march across Broadway, Hollywood, and the nation's front pages was only slowed by the true nemesis of the glamour girl: old age. She died in 1957, alone and forgotten—until now. In prose as vibrant as its subject, Constance Rosenblum's *Gold Digger* brings to life the woman who singularly epitomized this confident and hedonistic era. "I may be expensive," Peggy Hopkins Joyce (1893-1957) once remarked, apropos of the wealthy husbands she acquired and discarded so lightly, "but I deliver the goods." Such racy frankness made Joyce the darling of the newly powerful mass media during the 1920s. Though she was a Ziegfeld showgirl and made a few movies, she was essentially a new kind of celebrity, states Constance Rosenblum in this entertaining biography: "She did nothing of significance [but] Peggy was blessed with a profound understanding of the uses of publicity, not to mention an enormous hunger for its fruits." Rosenblum traces Joyce's trajectory from restless girlhood in the conservative South through her partying teens (she had been married twice by the age of 20) to the zenith of her fame as an icon of hedonistic Jazz Age glamour and the sad years of declining media attention and income cushioned by the judicious sale of jewels from former spouses. In this balanced appraisal, Joyce comes across as neither especially talented nor smart, but nonetheless oddly likable as she parlays her looks and charm into a life of comfort. "She knew what she wanted, went after it with her whole heart, and lived the life she yearned to live," Rosenblum concludes. "That is no small achievement, then or now." --Wendy Smith *Pressestimmen* "Entertaining and meticulously researched." (The New York Times Book) "A good biography of a bad girl." (The New Yorker) "Compelling as any tabloid serial, *Gold Digger* is a brilliant parable for both the power and perishability of celebrity. Unputdownable." (Neal Gabler, author of *Life the Movie*) "Gold Digger pairs a scandalous vamp living in an unbridled era with an entertaining and resourceful journalist—delicious!" (USA Today)