



Tales of the Lavender Menace: A Memoir of Liberation

Karla Jay

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Karla Jay's memoir of an age whose tumultuous social and political movements fundamentally reshaped American culture takes readers from her early days in the 1968 Columbia University student riots to her post-college involvement in New York radical women's groups and the New York Gay Liberation Front. In Southern California in the early '70s, she continued in the battle for gay civil rights and helped to organize the takeover of *The Ladies' Home Journal* and an "ogle-in" — where women staked out Wall Street and whistled at the men.

Tales of the Lavender Menace: A Memoir of Liberation Details

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Author : Karla Jay

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Sapphire says

This memoir is easy to read, well-written, and honest. Karla Jay paints a stunning picture of what that time in history felt like for a young radical version of herself. Despite not feeling particularly connected to that personal history anymore, she does this without judging or justifying why she chose to do one thing or another (be it leaving a protest partway through because of a dream-omen or deciding to back out of getting married for political reasons or experiencing burnout or whatever else others may have been less inclined to include in a book of their lives)... Karla Jay just tells her story for what it was, authentically, and her memoir is as informative and thoughtful as it is witty. I'd recommend this book to anyone who wants a good look at the early days of the lesbian feminist movement.

I. says

It's worth reading but her understanding of racism/the issues specifically affecting woc & lesbian woc is very limited.

Anna says

one of the rare glimpses inside BOTH the women's and gay liberation movements of the late 70s and how they clashed. fascinating firsthand account of the historic moments -- both good and bad.

Manda Keeton says

Karla Jay's memoir provides a portrait of a number of early political movements erupting in 1969 and 1970 for feminist, leftist/student, civil rights, gay liberation, and sexual liberation causes in New York and Los Angeles. She describes early tactics such as consciousness raising groups and dances that were designed to bring about social change through sharing stories and experiences. Yet she also is critical of the movements, detailing how some felt politics justified violence or how sexual freedom pushed the boundaries of consent. Most often, she describes how the ruptures and contradictions in radical groups often sidelined or silenced others (like women, LBT, and POCs). The portraits she provides of many activists and lovers can seem judgmental and even cruel at times, but the memoir serves as an essential glimpse into the radical politics of this era of American history.

Sarah says

A fascinating and easy to read memoir about the early years of the radical feminist and gay liberation movements. I would recommend this to anyone interested in radical feminism, queer history, feminist

history, or just a good memoir.

Dani says

I picked this up on a whim while looking for new books to donate to my local library. It was engaging and interesting to see a slice of the feminist movement most people don't talk about.

jessicamax stein says

An important memoir of the gay liberation movement. Also very fun to read. A little mean in parts, but that just adds to the fun!

Becky says

very interesting historically

Jim Dear says

Fascinating and engaging memoir.

Joanna says

I know Karla and I was there for a lot of the demonstrations she describes. A great history.
