



The LGBT Studies Shelf

HomoAmerican - The Secret Society

Michael Dane

Independently Published

www.homoamerican.com

9780578463285, \$24.95, HC, 500pp, www.amazon.com

Synopsis: In this current climate of post truth and subjective realities, of grappling for social recognition and change, it is important that we recognize our past and the challenges that ignited the gay rights movement. With the 50th Anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion just behind us, "HomoAmerican - The Secret Society" by Michael Dane remembers that time through the eyes of a witness who grew up in a world where we were invisible -- not merely the tale of a gay man growing up in America, but a firsthand, disturbing and yet often hilarious portrait of those turbulent and confusing times.

In ghettos and in stereotypes there is an underlying thread of a war, not with society at large, but with ourselves -- and the cost of acceptance is always denial. We see the past being whitewashed and erased to conform to popular tastes. As a result of conspicuous rebellion, that of simply being and not living in disguise, HomoAmerican presents another society, a kind of Secret Society, comprised of people who have grown up and survived, despite a world where lies of omission shape our destiny and keep us apart.

For those who, despite the dangers, lived defiantly and openly through those dark times, free of convention we wander along dangerous paths in search our own; we confront the confines of society and pursue the promise and myths of sexual liberation at our own peril. As an openly gay man in Iran, as witness to the lavish extravagances and social horror of apartheid South Africa, arrested for murder in Paris and for prostitution in New York, reinvented and reborn in silence Michael Dane recounts a very personal journey of that man, being pieced together, bit-by-bit, out of shadows.

Critique: Exceptionally well written, impressively informative, notably thoughtful and thought-provoking, "HomoAmerican - The Secret Society" is a deftly crafted history that is both intensely personal and at the same time universal in scope and subject. While unreservedly recommended for community, college, and university library LGBTQ collections, it should be noted for the personal reading lists of students, academia, and non-specialist general readers with an interest in the subject that "HomoAmerican - The Secret Society" is also available in a digital book format (Kindle, \$7.99).