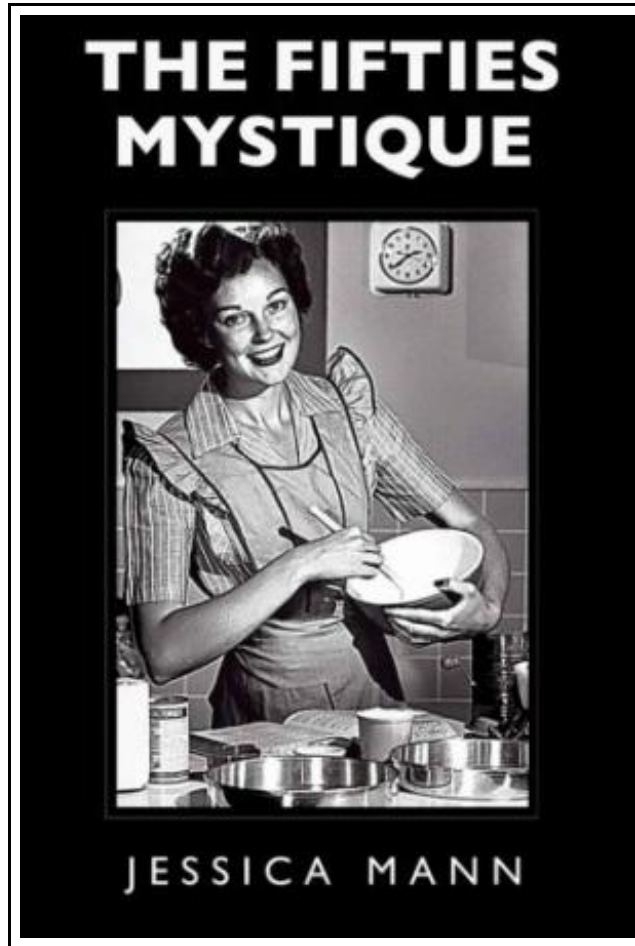


The Fifties Mystique



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Reviews

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THE FIFTIES MYSTIQUE



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The Cornovia Press. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 224 pages. Dimensions: 9.0in. x 6.0in. x 0.6in. Many young women long to put the clock back to the post-war years when life seemed prettier and nicer. In this book Jessica Mann demolishes such preconceptions about their mothers or grandmothers young days, showing that in reality life was uglier and nastier. Born just before WW2, she grew up in the post-war era of austerity, restrictions and hypocrisy, before anyone even dreamed of Womens Lib. The Fifties Mystique is both a personal memoir and a polemic. In explaining the lives of pre-feminists to the post-feminists of today, Mann discusses the periods very different attitudes to sex, childbirth, motherhood and work, describes how she and other young women lived in that distant world with its forgotten restrictions and warns against taking hard-won rights for granted. Jessica Mann analyses the decade with forensic precision stripping away the rose-coloured specs for good The Daily Mail thoughtful and emphatic a richly readable and persuasive piece of work Penelope Lively, The Spectator an excellently readable book Katharine Whitehorn Her battle cry is full of vivid descriptions of the grim, snobbery and casual misogyny of postwar Britain. A crime-writer by trade, her barely veiled exasperation only makes the polemic more enjoyable. The Mail on Sunday an extremely engaging read: revealing, touching, informative and occasionally comic. Simon Parker, The Western Morning News She recalls the grime of the 50s: endless stinking nappy buckets; smog; inadequate washing facilities; body odour whenever people were crowded together. She recalls boredom and isolation, and suspects both the child-rearing experts and the government of a concerted push to get mothers back home after the war, so that there would be jobs for the returning boys. And she recalls the unacceptability of talking, or sometimes even knowing,...



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