



## Eves Hollywood

By Eve Babitz

NYRB Classics. Paperback. Condition: New. 328 pages. Journalist, party girl, bookworm, muse, artist: by the time she hit thirty, Eve Babitz had been all of these things. Immortalized as the nude beauty facing Duchamp over a chessboard and as one of Ed Ruscha's Five 1965 Girlfriends, it turns out that Babitz was a writer with stories of her own. In *Eves Hollywood* she gives us indelible snapshots of southern California's haute bohemians, of surpassingly lovely high school ingenues (people with brains went to New York and people with faces came West) and enviably tattooed Chicanas, of burnt-out rock stars in the Chateau Marmont. In her deceptively conversational prose, we are brought along on a ride through an LA of perpetual delight: to a joint serving the perfect taquito, to the corner of La Brea and Sunset where we make eye contact with a rollerskating hooker, through the Watts Towers, and shopping at Central Market. This daughter of the wasteland is here to show us that her city is no wasteland at all, but a glowing landscape, swaying with fruit trees and bougainvillea, buffeted by earthquakes and Santa Ana winds. By the end, there is little doubt that Babitz herself is...



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