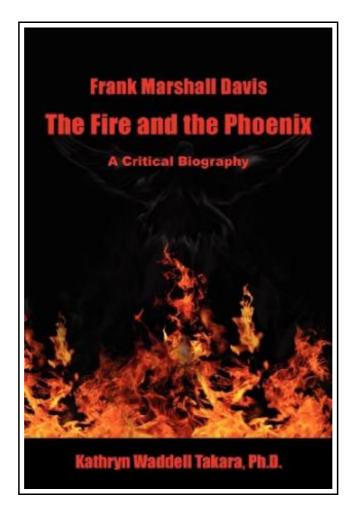
# Frank Marshall Davis: The Fire and the Phoenix (a Critical Biography)



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### **Reviews**

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(Marques Pagac)

## FRANK MARSHALL DAVIS: THE FIRE AND THE PHOENIX (A CRITICAL BIOGRAPHY)



Pacific Raven Press. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 218 pages. Dimensions: 9.0in. x 5.9in. x 0.6in.Frank Marshall Davis: The Fire and the Phoenix (A Critical Biography) is a compelling historical biography about Frank Marshall Davis (1907-1987), journalist, editor, poet, labor activist, and Renaissance man of the Black Chicago Renaissance. He wrote expansively about social relations of his times and the failures of democracy, recorded his observations on race relations, African American culture and community, and critiqued economic disparities in the USA and imperialism in Hawaii. Kathryn Waddell Takara writes with an uncanny ability to dissect the humanity of Frank Marshall Davis and to explore the myths and legacy that Davis left to the world, applicable to the 21st century. Waddell Takara met, visited, befriended, and interviewed Davis in Hawaii during the last 15 years of his life. She felt a special affinity for and understanding of Davis due to certain shared situations: the Jim Crow South, poetry and politics, activism, and interracial marriage and life as an African American in Hawaii. Between the pages of this critical biography, Waddell Takara reveals Daviss efforts to establish connective marginalities between the black and white worlds, both conventional and nonconventional, in the first half of the 20th century. His personal aim to acquire power, status, and dignity like any white citizen and the methods he utilized were often unusual, unconventional, and challenging: journalism, editorials, poetry, music, American and African history, politics, and activism. Daviss aesthetic perceptions, sociopolitical analysis, and rigorous interpretive thought are valuable today in understanding (current issues). He documented the racial climate, the black psyche, identity issues, migrations of blacks to urban areas, struggles with poverty, lack of education and training, tattered dreams, sexual politics, and conflicts based on stereotypes alternately using lyricism and satire to educate, empower and push for...



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