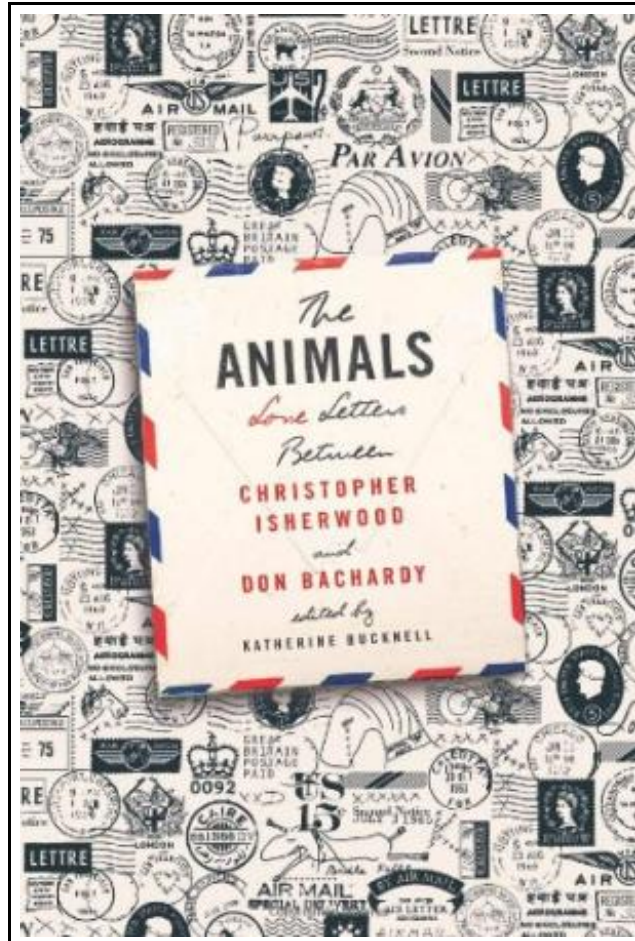


The Animals: Love Letters Between Christopher Isherwood and Don Bachardy



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Reviews


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THE ANIMALS: LOVE LETTERS BETWEEN CHRISTOPHER ISHERWOOD AND DON BACHARDY



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FSG. 1 Cloth(s), 2013. hard. Book Condition: New. English novelist and screenwriter Christopher Isherwood was already famous as the author of *Goodbye to Berlin* when he met Don Bachardy, a California teenager, on the beach in Santa Monica in 1952. Within a year, they began to live together as an openly gay couple, defying convention in the closeted world of Hollywood. *The Animals* is a testimony in letters to their extraordinary partnership, which lasted until Isherwood's death in 1986 despite a 30-year age gap, affairs and jealousy (on both sides), the pressures of increasing celebrity, and the disdain of 20th-century America for love between two men. The letters including some sketches and cartoons reveal the private world that the two create, "the Animals": Isherwood was Dobbin, a stubborn old workhorse; Bachardy was the rash, playful Kitty. Isherwood drew Bachardy into his semi-secret realm, nourished his talent as a painter, and launched him into the artistic career that was first to threaten and eventually to secure their life together. The letters also tell of public achievements the critical acclaim for *A Single Man*, the commercial success of *Cabaret* and the bohemian whirl of friendships in Los Angeles, London, and New York with such stars as Truman Capote, Julie Harris, David Hockney, Vanessa Redgrave, Gore Vidal, and Tennessee Williams. "In her excellent introduction . Bucknell does a skillful job of trying to interpret the lovers' talk for the reader. Apparently Bachardy reminded Isherwood of his younger self and indeed there was a strong physical similarity. The letters end in 1970 and Isherwood died in 1986, survived by Bachardy. But thanks to *The Animals* Isherwood's devotion lives on." *Independent* (London) 481.

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