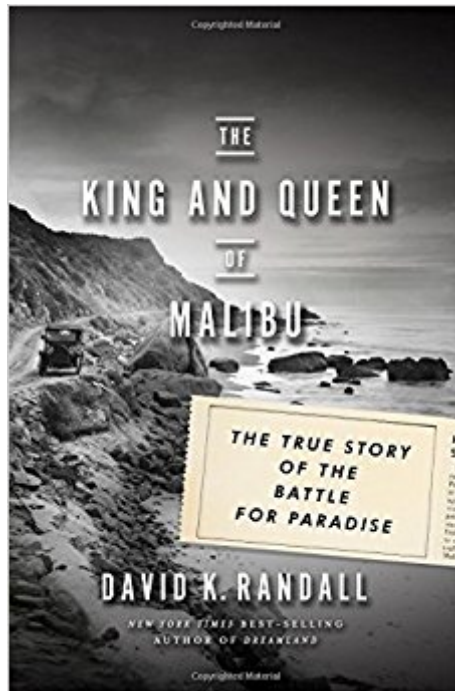




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# The King And Queen Of Malibu: The True Story Of The Battle For Paradise



## Synopsis

New York Times best-selling author David K. Randall spins a remarkable tale of the American West and the desire of one couple to preserve paradise. Frederick and May Rindge, the unlikely couple whose love story propelled Malibu's transformation from an untamed ranch in the middle of nowhere to a paradise seeded with movie stars, are at the heart of this story of American grit and determinism. He was a Harvard-trained confidant of presidents; she was a poor Midwestern farmer's daughter raised to be suspicious of the seasons. Yet the bond between them would shape history. The newly married couple reached Los Angeles in 1887 when it was still a frontier, and within a few years Frederick, the only heir to an immense Boston fortune, became one of the wealthiest men in the state. After his sudden death in 1905, May spent the next thirty years fighting off some of the most powerful men in the country—as well as fissures within her own family—to preserve Malibu as her private kingdom. Her struggle, one of the longest over land in California history, would culminate in a landmark Supreme Court decision and lead to the creation of the Pacific Coast Highway. The King and Queen of Malibu traces the path of one family as the country around them swept off the last vestiges of the Civil War and moved into what we would recognize as the modern age. The story of Malibu ranges from the halls of Harvard to the Old West in New Mexico to the beginnings of San Francisco's counter culture amid the Gilded Age, and culminates in the glamour of early Hollywood—all during the brief sliver of history in which the advent of railroads and the automobile traversed a beckoning American frontier and anything seemed possible. 8 pages of illustrations; map

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“The King and Queen of Malibu is an irresistible and compelling tale of a strong-willed and fabulously wealthy woman who sought to keep the beaches and mountains of Malibu as her private enclave.” - Meryl Gordon, author of *Mrs. Astor Regrets*

David Randall’s *The King and Queen of Malibu* is a compelling love story about an unlikely couple and at the same time a rich and instructive tale about the American Dream crashing head-on into the march of American progress. Always fascinating and elegantly written, it totally absorbed me in the unfolding drama.” - Howard Blum, New York Times best-selling author of *Dark Invasion* and *American Lightning*

Anchoring himself in exhaustive research, David K. Randall enshrines this paradigmatic American story in a compelling narrative that at once explores the power and the limits of the Southern California dream.” - Kevin Starr, University of Southern California

David K. Randall’s *The King and Queen of Malibu* is a vivid narrative of a strong-willed woman in a man’s world. May Rindge, the landlady of her private Malibu paradise, was feared, even hated, but also respected. Randall tells the true story of a bloody feud that needs no invention.” - Bill Dedman, coauthor of *Empty Mansions*

David Randall has unearthed a rowdy origin story for Malibu, vividly proving that movie stars weren’t the first people to bring drama to that fabled stretch of coastline. This thrilling book shows that before Barbie and surfers showed up, the beach was a battleground.” - Monte Reel, author of *Between Man and Beast*

David K. Randall is the New York Times best-selling author of *Dreamland* and a senior reporter at Reuters. A California native, he now lives outside New York City with his family.

This brief but riveting book follows the life of Frederick and May Rindge following their departure from Cambridge, Mass and their purchase of an enormous ranch which consisted of virtually all of Malibu. The story of the fantastically wealthy couple and their efforts to maintain their ranch in the face of enormous population growth early in the 20th century is informative and entertaining. However, equally as fascinating is the author’s description of the growth of Los Angeles & Santa Monica during those years. I highly recommend this book if you are someone interested in the historical development of Southern California.

Overall I enjoyed this book very much. I didn’t “love it A small book easy to read quickly. Very

interesting story as I grew up in Southern California and had heard some of the names mentioned in the book. If you are a Los Angeles history buff you might want to include this in your reading list, especially Santa Monica, Malibu and downtown L.A. in the early 20th century. I would buy it as a gift for a friend. `

This book was beautifully written and reflected the amazing history of the fight for Malibu. This gifted author has given readers much insight into Frederick and May Rindge and their lives. It was inspiring as well as enjoyable reading that I didn't want to put down. The research that went into this effort was above and beyond anything imagined and it certainly paid off. My heart went out to these folks and being able to read their direct thoughts through the frequent quotes was great. I would recommend this to anyone, history buffs or anyone who enjoys a good read!

Terrific account of both the building of Malibu and the birth of Los Angeles. A city with a short but fabulous history that grew into a major metropolis overnight. A must read for history buffs everywhere.

King and Queen of Malibu was a very interesting true story of the Rindge's, it was quite fascinating, and also interesting how disturbed May became as time went on. If one is interested SM/ LA, Malibu history then this is a book worth reading, it's a very interesting part of the history of the area.

What an extraordinary book. I first read about the Rindge family in Sam Watters books, "Houses of Los Angeles", and was amazed to learn that one family owned the land that I commuted down, five days a week for four years, between Ventura County and Santa Monica. This book is so well written and researched, I was completely absorbed in the story. One of those books that you regret coming to the final page.

As a former Angelino who lived near Malibu, I thoroughly enjoyed this book. It describes one influential family's role in promoting the transformation of Los Angeles from an insignificant backwater into a major metropolis while at the same time trying to preserve Malibu in its pristine native state. Although the family lost their battle, the duration of the fight did prevent Malibu from being as thoroughly developed as adjacent communities.

This was a good story and an interesting story. However, missing from the book was a map showing the Malibu ranch. Just reading the book was interesting but a map that would allow the reader to see what it was really about would have been most helpful.

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