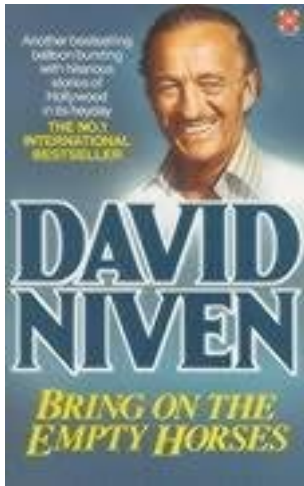


# Bring on the Empty Horses



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IF at this moment you are in a bookstore leafing through these early pages and wondering if the whole thing is worth a sizable expenditure, may I suggest that you keep your back toward the salesman and read on because, coming up, is a brief description of what this book is all about.

To be an actor, it is essential to be an egomaniac; otherwise it just doesn't work. The supreme act of egomania is to sit down and write 30,000 words about oneself. That I have already done in

The Moon s a Balloon, so you will be relieved to learn that this is not a book about David Niven... at least, it is not meant to be.

Unfortunately, the actor s urge to take up a firm position at center stage is a strong one, and if, despite valiant efforts to remain in the wings, I have, on occasion, eased myself forward, I apologize.

This book is about Hollywood; not the whole mishmash, because that has been done a hundred times, and anyway, the canvas is too huge and quite beyond my mini-brushwork, so I have attempted to splash a little color on just one comer--the twenty-five years between 1935 and 1960.

I was there from "extra" on down (or up--it s for you to decide), and I was part of it, but I have made little effort to keep things in chronological order; provided the people and events coincided with the allotted time span, I have just described them as I saw them.

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