

Dizzy Gillespie, and Thelonious Monk, but defines it as one more development in the century-old jazz tradition. The second master narrative is “the trope of revolution,” brandished by those who find in music “evidence of broader social or political currents.” In this view, bebop is both a radical break with the musical past and the prelude to Black Power, “a rebellion by black musicians against a white-controlled capitalist hegemony.”

DeVeaux tests the “lofty abstractions” of these master narratives against the “quirky contingencies” of biography. The result is a rare hybrid: a scholarly book about jazz that does justice both to the music and to the forceful personalities involved. This is no dry musicological treatise, although DeVeaux’s transcriptions and analyses are careful and precise. Nor is it a typical jazz bio, gushing enthusiasm at the expense of ideas. Rather, it is an intellectually informed account of how a remarkable group of people coped with the triple challenge of being distinguished artists, ambitious professionals, and African Americans. If the book contains no blinding revelations about bebop’s how and why, it does offer welcome confirmation of Ralph Ellison’s observation that the makers of this extraordinary music were less interested in becoming avant-gardists or in overthrowing the system than in coming up with “a fresh form of entertainment which would allow them their fair share of the entertainment market.”

—Martha Bayles

HEMINGWAY AND HIS CONSPIRATORS:
Hollywood, Scribners, and the Making of American Celebrity Culture.

By Leonard J. Leff. Rowman & Littlefield. 255 pp. \$22.95

In 1960, newspapers around the world erroneously reported that Ernest Hemingway had died in a plane crash in Africa. One obituary claimed that he had been trying to reach the site of his story “The Snows of Kilimanjaro.” The author may have been amused by the media efforts to link his life and his art, but he had no reason to be surprised.

Leff, a film professor at Oklahoma State University, shows that Hemingway came along just as publishers were learning to promote authors like movie stars, a marketing shift that resulted partly from Hollywood’s transformation of popular books into even more popular films. From the outset,



Hemingway recognized the conflict between celebrity and art, writing to his mother shortly after the publication of *The Sun Also Rises* (1926) that he wanted to “write as well as I can, with no eye on any market.” Still, a part of him reveled in the attention. In a letter to his editor at Scribners, Maxwell Perkins, concerning a planned media campaign, he enthusiastically offered “all the pictures you want.”

After the failure of his novel *Death in the Afternoon* (1932), Hemingway remarked in a letter that he was “getting pretty well rid of a good lot of unsought popularity.” Soon after, though, Paramount released *A Farewell to Arms*, complete with a publicity campaign likening Hemingway to the courageous protagonist (played by Gary Cooper). The movie was a smash, and the novelist became more renowned than ever. According to Leff, this new measure of fame marked the end of Hemingway’s greatest creativity. For the rest of his life he remained first and foremost a celebrity, more interested in polishing his image than polishing his prose.

Who’s to blame? Leff implicates Hollywood, Scribners, the news media, and the culture, but he never lets us forget that the death of the artist, like the death of the man, was a suicide.

—Forrest Norman

THE END OF THE NOVEL OF LOVE.

By Vivian Gornick. Beacon Press. 165 pp. \$20

This slim book of intelligent linked essays is not well served by its sweeping title. Gornick, whose previous books range from a memoir of her mother to a meticulous sociological study of women in scientific careers, believes that the quest for love has lost its status as a central literary metaphor for transcendence and fulfillment, that “to-