Contents

Preface ix
Acknowledgments xv

Part One. A Comic History of Dames
1 Fast-Talking Dames 4
2 Female Pygmalions 36

Part Two. Hot Heiresses and Working Girls
3 Blonde Bombshells: Jean Harlow, Carole Lombard, and Ginger Rogers 84
4 My Favorite Brunettes: Myrna Loy, Jean Arthur, and Claudette Colbert 132

Part Three. The Grande Dames
5 Missing Links: Bringing Up Baby 174
6 The Lady-Dame: Irene Dunne and The Awful Truth 202
7 Garbo’s Laugh 236
8 Female Rampant: His Girl Friday 268
9 The Lady Eve and the Female Con 298
   Conclusion: Blondes Born Yesterday 324

Notes 341
Index 359