

Marilyn Monroe The Biography Donald Spoto

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Spoto's biography of Hollywood icon Marilyn Monroe makes use of over 150 interviews and more than 35,000 pages of previously sealed files including Monroe's diaries, letters, and other personal and revealing documents. The book reveals new details of every aspect of her life, from her guarded childhood and her relationships with men and marriages to her mysterious death. Spoto comments on previous books about Marilyn and puts to rest questions regarding Monroe's connection with the Kennedys.

born in england to socially ambitious parents elizabeth taylor was catapulted into child stardom and molded by mgm into the great violet eyed beauty of postwar america along the way without training or counsel she became an award winning actress dazzling audiences everywhere with spectacular performances spoto explores the gripping story of her brutalizing six month marriage to compulsive gambler and hotel heir nicky hilton her romances with top hollywood directors and her marriage to the ailing michael wilding four years later she would be swept off her feet by showman mike todd into an alternately violent and loving marriage that would end with todd s death in a plane crash leaving taylor a twice divorced widow with three children at the age of twenty six and here are taylor s years with eddie fisher republican senator john warner and richard burton with whom she would share a hedonistic brash lifestyle that would virtually define the 1960s jet set

marlene dietrich s story spans germany s cabarets hollywood s silver screen and beyond

this is the definitive life story of alfred hitchcock the enigmatic and intensely private director of psycho vertigo rear window the birds and more than forty other films while setting forth every stage of hitchcock s long life and brilliant career donald spoto also explores the roots of the director s obsessions with blondes food murder and idealized love and he traces the incomparable bizarre genius from hitchcock s english childhood through the golden years of his career in america as one of the greatest directors in the history of filmmaking

an in depth study of the man behind the legend examines olivier s personal life professional career relationships sexuality and glamorous milieu and discusses links between the actor s turbulent professional and emotional life

the dramatic and revealing account of five generations of the redgrave family one of the greatest theatrical and hollywood movie dynasties of all time includes lynn redgrave vanessa redgrave and natasha richardson

based on meticulous research and new interviews with dozens of family members friends lovers directors and costars rebel offers a revelatory look at actor and film icon james dean 1931 1955 from the dusty roads of rural indiana to manhattan s gay culture from broadway to burbank here is dean s troubled life the tragic death of his mother when he was nine his tumultuous relationship with his father his rise to stardom in new york and hollywood and his on and off screen exploits

lotte lenya the extraordinary singer actress of international acclaim whose career spanned six decades is best remembered for her brilliant performances on stage in cabaret in films such as from russia with love and as the foremost interpreter of the songs and musical dramas of bertolt brecht and her husband kurt weill including her unsurpassed portrayal of jenny in the 1954 revival of the three penny opera book jacket

drawing on his unprecedented access to grace kelly bestselling biographer donald spoto at last offers an intimate honest and authoritative portrait of one of hollywood s legendary actresses in just seven years from 1950 through 1956 grace kelly embarked on a whirlwind career that included roles in eleven movies from the principled amy fowler kane in high noon to the thrill seeking frances stevens of to catch a thief grace established herself as one of hollywood s most talented actresses and iconic beauties her astonishing career lasted until her retirement at age twenty six when she withdrew from stage and screen to marry a european monarch and became a modern working princess and mother based on never before published or quoted interviews with grace and those conducted over many years with her friends and colleagues from costars james stewart and cary grant to director alfred hitchcock as well as many documents disclosed by her children for the first time acclaimed biographer donald spoto explores the transformation of a

convent schoolgirl to new york model successful television actress oscar winning movie star and beloved royal as the princess requested spoto waited twenty five years after her death to write this biography now with honesty and insight high society reveals the truth of grace kelly s personal life the men she loved the men she didn t and what lay behind the façade of her fairy tale life

while her name is synonymous with elegance style and grace this poignant funny and deeply moving biography reveals the private audrey hepburn and invites readers to fall in love with her all over again over the course of her extraordinary life and career audrey captured hearts around the world and created a public image that stands as one of the most recognizable and beloved in recent memory but despite her international fame and her tireless efforts on behalf of unicef audrey was also known for her intense privacy with unprecedented access to studio archives friends and colleagues who knew and loved audrey bestselling author donald spoto provides an intimate and moving account of this beautiful elusive and talented woman tracing her astonishing rise to stardom from her harrowing childhood in nazi controlled holland during world war ii to her years as a struggling ballet dancer in london and her tony award winning broadway debut in gigi spoto illuminates the origins of audrey s tenacious spirit and fiercely passionate nature she would go on to star in some of the most popular movies of the twentieth century including roman holiday sabrina funny face the nun s story breakfast at tiffany s and my fair lady a friend and inspiration to renowned designer hubert de givenchy audrey also emerged as a fashion icon and her influence on women s fashion virtually unparalleled to this day behind the glamorous public persona audrey was a different and deeper person and a woman who craved love and affection donald spoto offers remarkable insights into her professional and personal relationships with her two husbands and with celebrities such as gregory peck william holden fred astaire gary cooper robert anderson cary grant peter o toole albert finney and ben gazzara the turbulent romances of her youth her profound sympathy for the plight of hungry children and the thrills and terrors of motherhood prepared audrey for the final chapter in her life as she devoted herself entirely to the charity efforts of an organization that had once come to her rescue at the end of the war unicef

the trouble today is that we don t torture women enough alfred hitchcock it is remarkable how infrequently over a period of more than fifty years alfred hitchcock spoke about the beautiful legendary and talented actresses he directed and when he did his remarks were mostly indifferent and often hostile but his leading ladies greatly enriched his films even as many of them achieved international stardom precisely because of their work for hitchcock among the dozens of women were madeleine carroll joan fontaine grace kelly and tippi hedren yet he maintained a stony insistent silence about the quality of their performances and their contributions to his art spellbound by beauty the final volume in master biographer donald spoto s hitchcock trilogy that began with the art of alfred hitchcock and continued with the dark side of genius the life of alfred hitchcock is the fascinating complex and finally tragic story of the great moviemaker and his female stars the unusual ideas of sex and romance that inform his films and the hollywood dreams that often became nightmares rich with fresh revelations based on previously undisclosed tapes new interviews private correspondence and personal

papers made available only to the author this thoughtful compassionate yet explosive portrait details hitchcock s outbursts of cruelty the shocking humor and the odd amalgam of adoration and contempt that time and again characterized hitchcock s obsessive relationships with women and that also paradoxically fed his genius he insisted for example that madeleine carroll submit herself to painful physical demands during the making of the 39 steps he harbored a poignantly unrequited love for ingrid bergman he meticulously and deliberately constructed grace kelly s image finally he stalked harassed and abused tippi hedren his treatment of his daughter pat was certainly unusual while his strange marriage to his sometime collaborator alma reville was a union that according to hitchcock himself was forever chaste after one incident spellbound by beauty offers important insights into the life of a brilliant powerful eccentric and tortured artist and it corrects a major gap in movie history by paying tribute at last to those extraordinarily talented actresses who gave so much to his films

this is the first complete critical biography of tennessee williams 1911 1983 one of america s finest playwrights and the author of among many important works the glass menagerie summer and smoke a streetcar named desire cat on a hot tin roof suddenly last summer and the night of the iguana award winning biographer donald spoto gives us not only a full and accurate account of williams s life he also reveals the intimate connections between the playwright s personal dramas and his remarkably autobiographical art from his birth into a genteel southern family through his success celebrity and wealth to his drug addictions promiscuity and creative struggles tennessee williams lived a life as gripping as his plays the kindness of strangers based on williams s own papers his mother s diaries and interviews with scores of friends lovers and professional associates is in the author s words a portrait of a man more disturbing more dramatic richer and more wonderful than any character he created

drawing on his unprecedented access to grace kelly bestselling biographer spoto at last offers an intimate honest and authoritative portrait of one of hollywood s legendary actresses

joan crawford was one of the most incandescent film stars of all time yet she was also one of the most misunderstood in this brilliantly researched thoughtful and intimate biography bestselling author donald spoto goes beyond the popular caricature the abusive unstable mother of her adopted daughter christina crawfords memoir mommie dearest to give us a three dimensional portrait of a very human woman her dazzling career and her extraordinarily dramatic life and times illuminating and entertaining possessed is the definitive biography of this remarkable woman and true legend of film

the acclaimed biographer and theologian delivers an engaging and at times gripping biography of the fifteenth century heretic saint and savior of france publishers weekly starred review since her execution at the age of nineteen in 1431 joan of arc has maintained a remarkable hold on our collective imagination she was a teenager of astonishing common sense and a national heroine who led men in to battle as a courageous warrior yet she was also

abandoned by the king whose coronation she secured betrayed by her countrymen and sold to the enemy in this meticulously researched biography donald spoto captures her astonishing life and the times in which she lived neither wife nor nun queen nor noblewoman philosopher nor stateswoman joan of arc demonstrates that everyone who follows their heart has the power to change history

the life of ingrid bergman 1915 1982 is as compelling as that of any of the women she portrayed in dozens of unforgettable movies and plays a list that includes casablanca intermezzo gaslight the bells of st mary s notorious anastasia and hedda gabler hers is a story that begins with a tragic childhood in sweden then moves on to the nightmare of germany under the nazis and later to hollywood in its golden age from her position as america s most beautiful admired and loved actress she was plunged into national disgrace and branded an apostle of degradation for her adulterous love affair with roberto rosellini in the late 1940s but her independent spirit triumphed in the end winning her honors and accolades even as she fought an eight year battle with cancer donald spoto who knew ingrid bergman and had unprecedented access to her husbands friends lovers directors and costars as well as to her papers letters and diaries has written a biography that the san francisco chronicle called mesmerizing and deeply moving the definitive account of a consummate actress who dared to live the truth

acclaimed biographer donald spoto strips away the legends from the life of francis of assisi to reveal the true story of a man who has too often been obscured by pious iconography drawing on unprecedented access to unexplored archives plus francis s own letters spoto places francis within the context of the multifaceted ecclesiastical political and social forces of medieval italy casting new light on francis and showing how his emphasis on charity as the heart of the gospel s message helped him pioneer a new social movement this nuanced portrait reveals the multifaceted character of a man who can genuinely be said to have changed the course of history

almost as old as the century marlene dietrich the daughter of a prussian police officer grew up in an atmosphere of privilege and german victorian rectitude before plunging into the hectic sexually liberated and sexually ambiguous world of 1920s berlin when she was cast by josef von sternberg in the blue angel the major influences on her life and career were in place remains this century s great icon of cosmopolitan glamour and elegant sexual allure yet she persistently denied any similarity between her public image and her private self in forty years as a film actress she seduced and was seduced by the camera when her film career faltered she created a new role for herself which led to a remarkable contribution to the allied effort in world war ii in later years she revived almost single handed the european nightclub cabaret tradition lovers included john wayne jean gabin maurice chevalier and generals patton and gavin her lesbian love affairs were if anything more intense on her part her life at every stage was more dramatic more unpredictable and more colourful than any hollywood scenarist could invent short in stature less than outstanding as an actress and singer she nonetheless established an image and a legend which made her one of the most sought after women of our age and which in the end made her their

prisoner

the author draws on his expertise as a new testament scholar to present a controversial reassessment of jesus life teachings relationships and standard doctrinal theology

elizabeth taylor has been called the last great star of hollywood s golden age her legendary beauty and luminous performances continue to enthrall movie fans nearly seventy years after she made her screen debut aged only ten from the wide eyed mgm ing nue she became both a respected double oscar winning actress and a larger than life million dollar movie star a scandalous tabloid favourite and a dedicated activist she was a wife a widow a lover and a mother as multi faceted as the diamonds she adored elizabeth taylor s life and loves never failed to capture the imagination of the world with comprehensive and perceptive insights into her iconic movie career and her fascinating relationships including her passionate romance with richard burton donald spoto s peerless biography offers a captivating portrait of a much loved and much missed hollywood legend

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