

Marilyn Monroe The Biography Donald Spoto

Marilyn MonroeA Passion for LifeLaurence OlivierThe Dark Side of GeniusBlue AngelEnchantmentRebelThe RedgravesJoanThe Art of Alfred HitchcockHigh SocietyElizabeth TaylorSpellbound by BeautyNotoriousThe Kindness Of StrangersPossessedBiographyThe Hidden JesusAn Actress Prepares Lenya Donald Spoto Donald Spoto Donald Spoto Donald Spoto Donald Spoto Donald Spoto Donald Spoto Donald Spoto Donald Spoto Donald Spoto Donald Spoto Donald Spoto Donald Spoto Donald Spoto Donald Spoto Rosemary Malague 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 was catapulted into child stardom at an early age this book explores the highs and lows of her life

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

absolutely compulsory reading the new york times book review no one but a tortured genius could have created such brooding suspenseful and utterly original films as spellbound psycho and the birds now alfred hitchcock the intensely private and often bizarre creator of these masterpieces is fully revealed in a masterful biography that traces the roots of his obsessions back to a childhood in which the seeds of his future films were sown

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

born in brussels in 1929 audrey hepburn was the daughter of a british father and a dutch baroness but when she was five her father deserted the family with the outbreak of war in 1939 her mother thought they would be safer in holland than holland park but although they survived the german occupation the experience left its physical and emotional scars back in england again audrey studied ballet with marie rambert after a few west end musicals and minor film parts she was spotted by the author colette to star in a stage version of her novel gigi and then audrey s career took off her debut screen role was the princess in the enchanting roman holiday it won her an oscar she went on to bring her unique grace and high spirits to a number of highly acclaimed films from funny face and the nun s story to my fair lady breakfast at tiffany s and robin and marian for a while it looked as though her personal life would follow the hollywood dream but her marriage to mel ferrer was not to last she married and divorced a second time and there were other passionate but short lived affairs some revealed for the first time in this book but her relationships were never entirely successful with all the insight background knowledge and innate sympathy for his subject qualities that have made his biographies of hitchcock dietrich monroe and bergman such international successes donald spoto truly captures the spirit of an elusive beautiful talented and vulnerable woman

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

the dramatic poignant and revealing saga of the redgraves one of history s greatest families of actors for more than a century the redgraves have defined theater and film while captivating the public eye their history is a rich tapestry of singularly talented individuals whose influence is felt to this day yet their story has never before been told in the redgraves bestselling biographer donald spoto draws on his close personal relationships with the family and includes both his interviews and unprecedented personal access to them the result is a groundbreaking account of this extraordinary clan and their circle including such luminaries as elizabeth taylor katharine hepburn and sir laurence olivier the story began in 1907 with the marriage of actress daisy scudamore to matinee idol roy red grave and the birth in 1908 of their son michael who became a famous stage actor and movie star michael s family and wild social circle knew that for decades he was insistently bisexual notwithstanding his marriage to rachel kempson one of england s most glamorous and admired actresses their daughter vanessa a great and revered performer is the only british actress ever to win oscar emmy tony cannes golden globe and screen actors guild awards achievements that have been paralleled by a profound humanitarian commitment even as she tackled difficult and controversial roles vanessa s sister lynn redgrave led a triumphant and complex life in her own way too from her performance in the movie georgy girl to her prizewinning play about her father and her oscar nominated performance in gods and monsters lynn established herself as a very different redgrave corin redgrave their brother was known for his acclaimed performances onstage and screen and he was a tireless and outspoken political radical the family tradition of distinction continues with the careers of joely richardson and jemma red grave and reached a high point in the life and career of vanessa s daughter natasha richardson who earned a tony award for her role as sally bowles in the revival of cabaret natasha s sudden death after a skiing les son in 2009 shocked and saddened admirers of her work and graceful spirit the product of more than thirty years of research the redgraves recounts the epic saga of a family that has extended the possibilities for actors on stage screen and television in britain america and around the world

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

this definitive illustrated survey of all of alfred hitchcock s films is a book no movie buff or hitchcock fan can afford to be without the monumental scope of alfred hitchcock s work remains unsurpassed by any other movie director past or present so many of his movies have achieved classic status that even a partial list psycho the birds rear window vertigo spellbound brings a flood of memories in this essential text reissued on the occasion of hitchcock s centennial internationally renowned hitchcock authority donald spoto describes and analyzes every movie made by this master filmmaker illustrated throughout with shots from each film the art of alfred hitchcock also includes a storyboard section a complete filmography and a hitchcock album sixteen pages of photos as an added celebration of his life

this biography draws on a series of unpublished interviews and offers a startling and intimate portrait of one of the most glamorous icons of the 20th century in just seven years from 1950 through 1956 grace kelly made eleven feature films they established her as one of the screen s iconic beauties and as a performer of rare intelligence and wit donald spoto a personal friend of kelly s in whom she confided is in a unique position to tell the story of her transformation from

convent girl from philadelphia to last star of hollywood's golden age to european princess in this revelatory biography spoto draws on interviews with those who knew her from james stewart and cary grant to fred zimmerman as well as a series of taped interviews with kelly which have never before been published a film of grace kelly's life *grace of monaco* starring nicole kidman and tim roth will be released in 2014

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 ingénue 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

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

an informative account of the life and career of ingrid bergman who has appeared in 49 feature films and nine plays over a period of five decades the book tells of her controversial affairs and how her relationship with the italian director roberto rossellini scandalized america

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

i ve been protected by studio publicity men most of my life so in some ways i m a goddam image not a person i was a commodity a piece of property i felt an overwhelming obligation to my career and so i was an actress first a wife second i worked almost constantly and even when i wasn t working there was that image thing of looking like a star conducting myself like a star i just went ahead like a bulldozer i was a very selfish woman joan crawford was a complex contradictory driven human being but not the alcoholic sadistic monster depicted in the notorious book mommie dearest which appeared a year after her death in some ways donald spoto s possessed is the ultimate hollywood book about a young woman poor abandoned by her father but determined at all costs to succeed born in texas lucille fay lesueur escaped destitution by becoming a popular dancer and then managed to make the decisive leap that transformed her into a luminous unique star of the screen she became joan crawford there were many important men in her life not least clark gable with whom she appeared in eight pictures and with whom she conducted a thirty year affair she was married four times once to the debonair douglas fairbanks jr unaware that he had failed to discontinue his relationship with marlene dietrich dancer dramatic actress businesswoman corporate executive with pepsi cola joan crawford during her lifetime 1906 1977 was rarely out of the news with the use of only recently opened archives and personal papers donald spoto probes behind the lurid headlines to bring us joan crawford the private person as well as the movie legend

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

every day thousands of women enter acting classes where most of them will receive some variation on the stanislavsky based training that has now been taught in the u s for nearly ninety years yet relatively little feminist consideration has been given to the experience of the student actress what happens to women in method actor training an actress prepares is the first book to interrogate method acting from a specifically feminist perspective rose malague addresses the method not only with much needed critical distance but also the crucial insider s view of a trained actor case studies examine the preeminent american teachers who popularized and transformed elements of stanislavsky s system within the u s strasberg adler meisner and hagen by analyzing and comparing their related but distinctly different approaches this book confronts the sexism that still exists in actor training and exposes the gender biases embedded within the method itself its in depth examination of these stanislavskian techniques seeks to reclaim method acting from its patriarchal practices and to empower women who act i ve been waiting for someone to write this book for years a thorough going analysis and reconsideration of american approaches to stanislavsky from a feminist perspective lively intelligent and engaging phillip zarrilli university of exeter theatre people of any gender will be transformed by rose malague s eye opening study an actress prepares this book will be useful to all scholars and practitioners determined to make gender equity central to how they hone their craft and their thinking jill dolan princeton university

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