



Possessed: The Life of Joan Crawford

By Donald Spoto

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New York Times bestselling author Donald Spoto has already brilliantly explored the lives and careers of numerous Hollywood stars and entertainment icons—Grace Kelly, James Dean, Alfred Hitchcock, and Marilyn Monroe, to name but a few. In *Possessed*, his subject is the inimitable Joan Crawford, one of the most electrifying divas of the Golden Age of American film. A more thorough, revealing, and sympathetic portrait of the often maligned movie star—most notably lambasted, perhaps, in the scandalous bestseller, *Mommy Dearest*—*Possessed* is a fascinating study of the real Joan Crawford, a remarkable actress, businesswoman, mother, and lover. <?xml:namespace prefix = o ns = "urn:schemas-microsoft-com:office:office" />

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Possessed: The Life of Joan Crawford By Donald Spoto Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

Spoto, author of several best-selling biographies of film and theater stars, sets his sights on Joan Crawford for this, his latest effort. Based on exclusive interviews and archival information, he pieces together Crawford's (then Lucille LeSeuer) early life with her poverty-stricken family, her days as trophy-winning Charleston dancer and fast life as a flapper during World War I, her discovery by MGM, and her life as a movie star. He also details her four marriages, her troubled family life, her several love affairs, achievements as a movie star, and time as a business executive on the board of directors of Pepsi-Cola. Obviously a great fan of the notorious Crawford, the author tries to dispute the stories of child abuse and mental instability that besmirched the reputation of the actress; however, his arguments in the end are not all that persuasive. An illuminating look at a bygone era, and a fairly entertaining read, that movie fans will enjoy. --Kathleen Hughes

From the Back Cover

The definitive biography of a remarkable woman and true legend of film

Joan Crawford was one of the most incandescent film stars of all time, yet she may have also been 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 portrayed in her adopted daughter Christina Crawford's memoir, *Mommie Dearest*—to give us a three-dimensional portrait of the real woman behind the actress, her dazzling career, and her extraordinary life and times.

Based on new archival information and exclusive interviews, *Possessed* traces Crawford's fifty years of memorable performances in such film classics as *Rain*, *The Women*, *Mildred Pierce*, and *Sudden Fear*, which are as startling and vivid today as when they were first released. Spoto goes behind the myths to examine the rise and fall of the studio system; Crawford's four marriages; her passionate, thirty-year on-and-off affair with Clark Gable; her friendships and rivalries with other stars; the truth behind the scathing stories in her daughter's memoir; and more.

About the Author

Donald Spoto has written two dozen bestselling biographies of film and theater stars—among them Grace Kelly, Alfred Hitchcock, Tennessee Williams, Ingrid Bergman, and Marilyn Monroe. Born in Westchester County, near New York City, he now lives in Denmark.

Users Review

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Priscilla McCreary:

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John Threadgill:

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