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based on new interviews this fresh portrayal of an american film legend retraces her steps from her beginnings in silent films in the 1920s through her oscar winning performance in mildred pierce and subsequent decline biography

joan crawford the essential biography explores the life and career of one of hollywood s great dames she was a leading film personality for more than fifty years from her beginnings as a dancer in silent films of the 1920s to her portrayals of working class shop girls in the depression thirties to her oscar winning performances in classic films such as mildred pierce crawford s legacy has become somewhat tarnished in the wake of her daughter christina s memoir mommie dearest which turned her into a national joke today many picture crawford only as a wire hanger wielding shrew rather than the personification of hollywood glamour this new biography of crawford sets the record straight going beyond the gossip to find the truth about the legendary actress the authors knew crawford well and conducted scores of interviews with her and many of her

friends and co stars including frank capra george cukor nicholas ray and sidney greenstreet far from a whitewash crawford was indeed a colorful and difficult character joan crawford corrects many lies and tells the story of one of hollywood s most influential stars complete with on set anecdotes and other movie lore through extensive interviews in depth analysis and evaluation of her films and performances both successes and failures lawrence j quirk and william schoell present crawford s story as both an appreciation and a reevaluation of her extraordinary life and career filled with new interviews joan crawford tells the behind the scenes story of the hollywood icon lawrence j quirk is the author of many books on film including bob hope the road well traveled william schoell is the author of several entertainment related books including martini man the life of dean martin

meticulously researched joan crawford the last word deals in full with her long movie career and explores in detail her turbulent private life respected biographer fred lawrence guiles uses newly discovered sources and recent interviews with many who knew her and some who loved her to establish the person behind the carefully crafted screen icon for most of her adult life she was a star who dedicated herself entirely to her career but since her death her luster has been tarnished here at last is a biography that sets the record straight in her heyday joan crawford was probably the most imitated woman in the world magazine covers featured her face and high school and college girls copied her makeup and clothing born lucille lesuer in kansas city she spent her childhood on the edge of poverty but an iron will developed in adolescence drove her to new york city and eventual work in a chorus line spotted by a hollywood talent scout she was soon on her way to the film capital four times married to actors douglas fairbanks jr franchot tone philip terry and pepsi cola executive alfred steele and driven by a powerful sexuality joan crawford lived her life on the razor s edge yet she was a woman of great generosity who cared deeply for her four adopted children although her ideas of discipline were colored by her own harsh upbringing her professional career spanned more than forty years and included such classics as grand hotel mildred pierce and whatever happened to baby jane her remarkable progression from silent films to talkies to television exemplified her ability to adapt chameleonlike to the ever changing demands of the industry that in many senses invented her

joan crawford was a legend few could compare to the charm and grace that she brought to the silver screen little did anyone know however of the charmed yet ultimately tragic life she led away from the camera and the main stage crawford was married four times and ended up disinheriting two of her children from her will she certainly had her share of problems but no one could keep this ambitious leading lady down for long in this book we cover the life and legend of joan crawford in full discover a plethora of topics such as a difficult childhood lucille lesueur becomes joan crawford crawford s big break marriage

and divorce adoptions and academy awards late life and death and much more explore the life of joan crawford the iconic actress whose talent and tenacity made her a legend of hollywood s golden age from silver screen stardom to lasting cultural impact her story is one of ambition and reinvention perfect for classic film fans and lovers of cinema history get your copy today and discover the legacy of a true screen legend

film historian and acclaimed new york times bestselling biographer scott eyman has written the definitive biography of hollywood icon joan crawford drawing on never before seen documents and photos from the crawford estate joan crawford burst out of her poverty stricken youth to become a bright young movie star in the 1920 s drawing the admiration of f scott fitzgerald and the attention of audiences worldwide she flourished for decades working for multiple studios in every genre from romance to westerns mildred pierce johnny guitar musicals to noir torch song a woman s face and being directed by a young steven spielberg in one of her last appearances along the way she accumulated four husbands an academy award for best actress and the undeniable status of a legend joan crawford a woman s face looks at the reality of this remarkable woman through the prism of groundbreaking primary research interviews with friends and relatives and with the same insightful analysis of character and motive that author scott eyman brought to john wayne and cary grant among others joan crawford was a woman like no other and joan crawford a woman s face is the first full telling of her dazzling turbulent life

as charlotte chandler did so well in her previous biographies she will again draw on the recorded words of joan crawford and those who knew her well to paint a rich portrait of the woman and the star joan crawford was born lucille lesueur in texas in 1908 she became a chorus girl in silent films before finding her voice in possessed 1931 with clark gable their affair would continue on and off screen for many years throughout the thirties joan continued to earn critical acclaim for her forte of playing career women who never gave up her oscar winning film mildred pierce in 1945 began the long running feud between joan and bette davis which reached its height with whatever happened to baby jane in 1962 joan was married four times including once to douglas fairbanks jr who spoke extensively to charlotte chandler for this book following her death joan s decision to cut her eldest children out of her will prompted her daughter christina to write the damning book mommie dearest which changed joan s image forever charlotte chandler spent many hours recording interviews with joan and also those closest to her what emerges is a subtle portrait of a complex woman and a new insight into the legendary actress

bob thomas tells the fabulous truth of how joan crawford rose from a kansas city telephone operator to one of hollywood s biggest stars in this compelling biography few hollywood careers have been more fabulous more scandalous or more glaringly in the

spotlight than that of joan crawford born lucille fay lesueur in 1906 or 1908 according to her own press releases joan crawford changed her name and rewrote her life story when she left her job as a telephone operator and grew into one of the most well known film and television actresses in america now pulling back the curtain on a breathtaking tale of rags to riches and triumph to tragedy bob thomas takes readers into the life of joan crawford sharing stories of her famed life filled with glamour glitter romance and ultimate stardom

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

joan crawford s contribution to film noir during the 1940s and 1950s though rarely discussed in its totality is one of her most impressive and far reaching career achievements several of her noir and noir tinged efforts contain arguably her best acting work and all bear her personal stamp these aren t conventional film noirs they are joan crawford noirs highly distinctive films that extended the boundaries of noir content and brought added depth and dimension to the noir style unlike most actors who routinely adapted to the needs of particular film projects and directors she approached each film first and foremost as a joan crawford vehicle often exerting great control over multiple production functions and at times operating as a de facto producer examining these films as a collective and relatively cohesive body of work this book highlights what crawford aspired to achieve in her art how when the circumstances were right she could deliver

superb results how she helped expand the possibilities for noir and why the best of her efforts speak across the decades with such intensity and authority

joan crawford was a legendary hostess her dinner parties were famed throughout hollywood and invitations to her various lavish homes were much sought after one of her 1930s menus included elaborate treats such as almond soup roast squab and crêpes suzette later in life she became known for her more prosaic dishes such as meat loaf and coleslaw jenny hammerton is the proprietress of silver screen suppers a website dedicated to the things that classic hollywood stars liked to eat and drink joan crawford is her favourite actress and she has gathered together over 30 of the queen of the screen's signature dishes in this compact and bijou book why not grab a classic crawford movie on dvd invite over your most cherished friends pop on a hostess gown and enjoy some of joan's favourite things to eat

joan crawford's classic beauty dazzling confidence and sheer toughness made her the very definition of a star her formidable talent won her an oscar for mildred pierce and shines through in other classics such as grand hotel and the women focusing on the often overlooked first half of her career this is the first visual book to reclaim her place in the canon of glamour crawford pioneered a new depth that had not been seen before in roles for women her domineering charisma gave audiences a new kind of heroine laying the path for today's actresses from meryl streep to cate blanchett women and many men identified with her in ways they never had before drawing from archives around the world and including more than a hundred photos unseen in the past fifty years joan crawford is sure to reintroduce fans to this ultimate hollywood legend she was the perfect image of a movie star you could photograph her from any angle and the face moved beautifully george cukor director

first person story from her movie career through several marriages to her present business affiliation with the pepsi cola corporation

in the first biography of joan crawford to give the full uncensored story bestselling author david bret tells crawford's rags to riches climb from working in a kansas city laundry to collecting an oscar for her defining role in mildred pierce and on to her devotion to christian science and reliance on vodka he discusses the star's legendary relationship with clark gable her countless love affairs her marriages three of them to gay men and her obsession with rough sex bret divulges what really happened that led her to disinherit two of her four children earning her the nickname mommie dearest as well as how her loathed mother forced crawford to work as a prostitute appear in pornographic films and sleep her way to the top bret analyzes crawford's films many of which were constructed purely as vehicles where actress and character were often indistinguishable overtly generous towards her coterie of gay friends she was heartless towards her enemies

particularly bette davis her co star in whatever happened to baby jane with whom she shared a lifelong feud drawing on a wealth of unpublished material and interviews david bret presents a unique fascinating portrait of a single minded uncompromising woman

in this discussion of joan crawford s life and work including lengthy reviews of her films and television appearances she is examined as a feminist forerunner a gay icon a dynamic artist and one of the world s great movie stars the many anecdotes and quotes within reveal the sassy indomitable spirit of this actress who grew up in abject poverty with an indifferent family and yet against unseemly strife and setbacks rose from the ashes like a phoenix publisher marketing

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