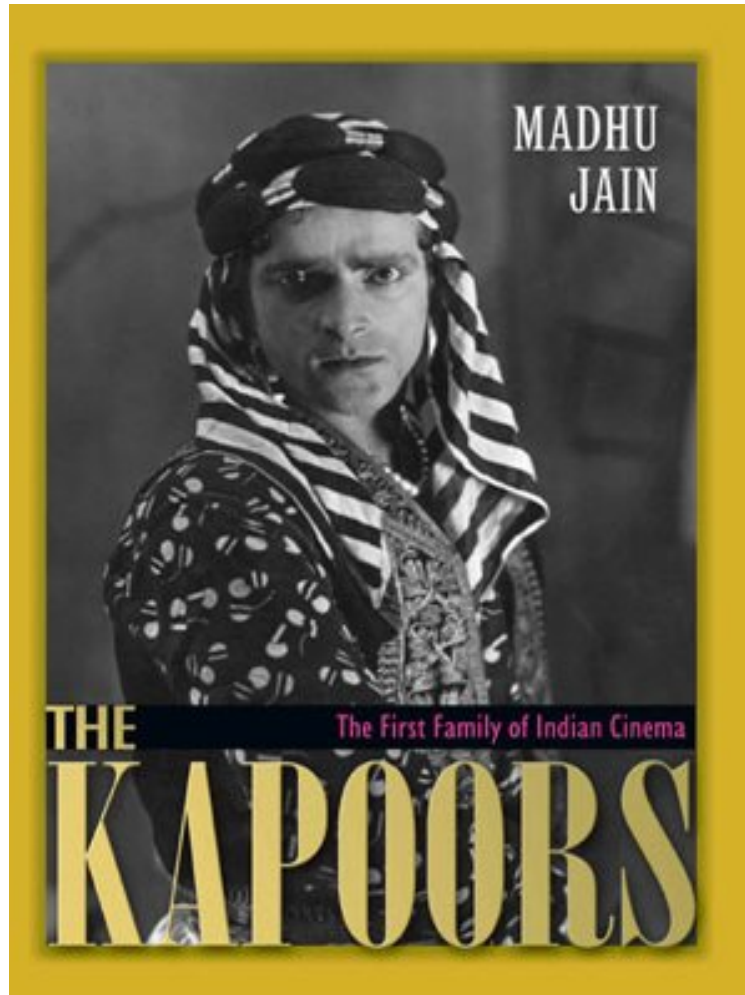


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The Kapoors: The First Family of Indian Cinema

Madhu Jain

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Madhu Jain : The Kapoors: The First Family of Indian Cinema before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Kapoors: The First Family of Indian Cinema:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Truth or FictionBy CustomerSo I've read the book half way and I'm disappointed. The main reason I bought this book was to know more about Nargis-Raj Kapoor relationship. It seems the author either doesn't know much about them or chooses to not reveal some details out of some misguided notion of loyalty towards the family, or worse just assumes that we know all there is to know about the most significant relationship in Raj Kapoor's life. I'm a newly converted fan and wanted to know more details, especially since the author claims to be so close to the family. Also, she doesn't take the pains to identify if certain facts are truth or just rumors, especially about Shammi Kapoor. The reader is left to their own devices to figure out if they are truth or fiction.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Ronald C. WagnerGood read about the Kapoor

Family!!!0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four Generations of Hindi Cinema : Kapoor and SonsBy
JITENDRA MUCHHALThe sweeping presence of Gandhi or Kennedy family in public life spanning multiple generations - this is what The Kapoors are to Hindi Cinema , often referred to as Bollywood. From the stately imposing personality of Prithviraj to his sons - Raj, Shammi, Shashi - and then their children and grand children, The Kapoors have always occupied a unique presence, an aura of sorts in their fans. The book narrates their glorious successes and even more colossal failures - on screen and in real life. RK Studios, Prithvi Theatre, Krishna Bungalow and the rich history of "The Kapoors' lurking in each nook and corner of their famed compounds and the pages of sepia tone in this book by Madhu Jain.

There is no film family quite like the Kapoors. A family of professional actors and directors, they span almost eighty years of film-making in India, from the twenties to the present. Each decade in the history of Hindi films has had at least one Kapoorif not moreplaying a large part in defining it. Prithviraj came to Bombay in the twilight era of silent movies and went on to straddle both theatre and the silver screen like a colossus, starring in the first full-length talkie, Alam Ara (1931), setting up Prithvi Theatres, and giving life to memorable characters like Akbar and Sikandar on-screen. His three sonsRaj Kapoor, Shammi Kapoor and Shashi Kapoorhave earned secure and distinct places in the celluloid pantheon, dominating Hindi cinema throughout the fifties and sixties. Over the next decade and a half, Raj Kapoors sons Randhir and Rishi Kapoor survived the Amitabh Bachchan-spawned age of the action hero. Later, just when it looked like the familys fortune in tinsel town was finally in decline, Karisma Kapoor, the first daughter of the clan to become a star, and her sister Kareena put it right back in the lead. As this book goes to press, Rishi Kapoors son Ranbir Raj is waiting in the wings.Never before have four generations of this familyor five, if you include Bashesharnath Kapoor, Prithviraj Kapoors father, who played the judge in Awarabeen brought together in one book. The Kapoors details the professional careers and personal lives of each generationbox-office successes and failures, the ideologies that informed their work, the larger-than-life Kapoor weddings and Holi celebrations, their extraordinary romantic liaisons and family relationships, their love for food and their dark passages with alcohol. Madhu Jain goes behind the faade of each of them to reveal what makes them tick: what prompted Prithviraj Kapoor to leave Peshawar for Bombay to become an actor, abandoning his semi-bourgeois background; what explains Raj Kapoors all-consuming, at times self-destructive, passion for cinema; what it was about the Kapoors that made them so irresistible to the women they worked with; and what it has been like for each successive generation of the Kapoors to grow up in the shadow of overwhelming ancestors.Based on extensive personal interviews conducted over seven years with family members and friends, The Kapoors resembles the films that the great showman Raj Kapoor made: grand and sweeping, with moments of high drama and touching emotion.Unprecedented in its scope and wealth of detail, it is a must-read for all lovers of cinema.

About the AuthorMadhu Jain was educated at Connecticut College in the United States, following which she did her masters in literature from Delhi University and studied French literature at the Sorbonne in Paris. In the seventies she worked as a reporter for the Statesman, moving towards the end of the decade to Sunday magazine to write on politics, foreign affairs and culture. She was also the New Delhi correspondent with the French national daily, La Croix, for a decade before she joined India Today in 1986, where she remained until 2000. Since then she has written for several publications, including Outlook and the Hindu, on contemporary life, art and cinema. She has curated two art exhibitionsKitsch Kitsch Hota Hai on kitsch and the contemporary imagination and the other on the painter Viswanadhan. Madhu Jain lives in Delhi with her physicist husband Krishna Jain. They have two children.