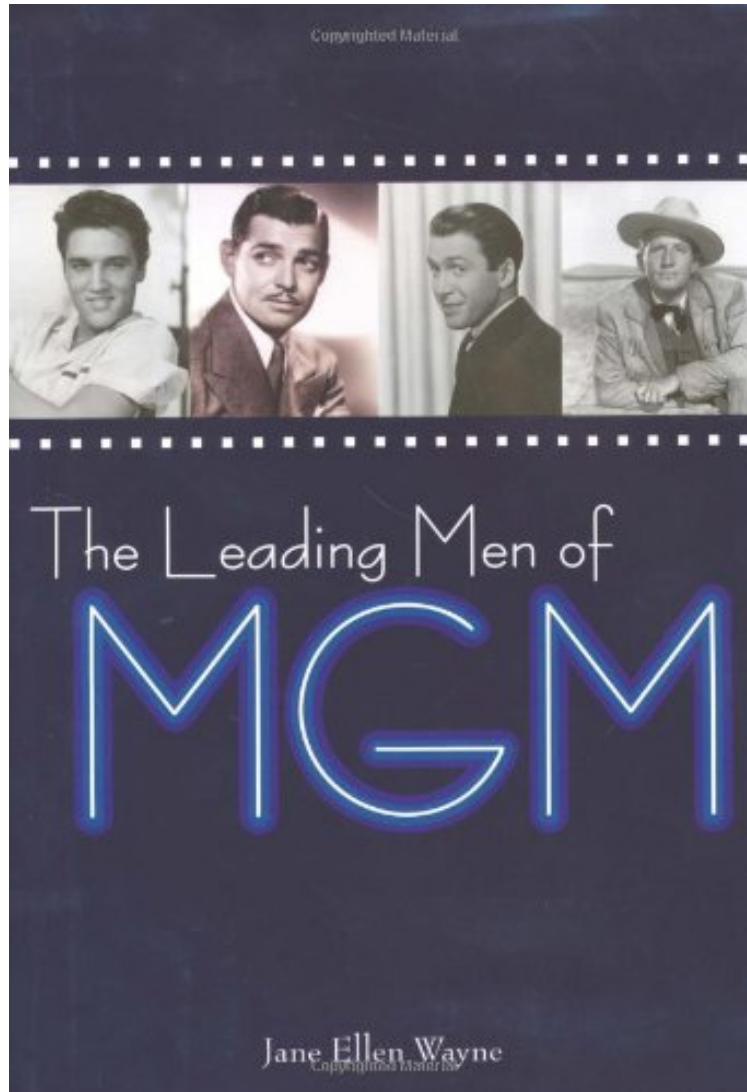


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The Leading Men of MGM

Jane Ellen Wayne

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Jane Ellen Wayne : The Leading Men of MGM before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Leading Men of MGM:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. When Men Were MenBy Judith E. HanhisaloMs. Wayne is given to gossip but it makes for juicy reading. This isn't to be completely relied on for accuracy but it's a good read.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Absolutely AWFUL sack of horse pucky. Terrible in the extreme.By Kujifanya Jinal noticed many people reviewing this book did not buy it. They had bought prior books by this author and as a result extend their reviews to this book. Their ire is no misplaced. What a dump of horse manure this book is.

I bought it and I'm sorry I did. Historically inaccurate in the extreme, written as if it was dictated and never edited, incoherent to the point of insanity, it's just freaking AWFUL! That Publisher's Weekly could give this book such a good review forever taints Publisher's Weekly in my eyes. This is the worst of the worst. I work for a movie historian and he and I were just appalled as we tried to read it. Don't waste your money on this. Don't even get it at the library. Don't accept it if someone offers to give it to you. It's that wrong. It's that bad. 5 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Jane Ellen Wayne should be sued!!!! By a viewer No, I did not buy this book!! I spent two hours at "Borders" yesterday perusing it. This woman is all about "trashy gossip" and has no authentic sources to back up her claims. Because most of the principals of her "dish" are dead it is safe to assume that no one can sue the pants off of her. But it is an insult to the memory of the stars...especially Robert Taylor. What is it with this woman's fixation with him???? It is quite obvious she was totally obsessed with him to the point of "stalking". She lambasts Barbara Stanwyck at every turn and claims ridiculously that Stanwyck was bisexual. She seems jealous that Stanwyck had Taylor and she did not. Of course, Wayne wrote a "Taylor" biography many years ago so much of what was written about him in this book came from that one. What she says about Gable, Ramon Novarro and William Haines is no less stupid. Do not support this woman and her tabloid style of writing. This book isn't worth one penny! The author is emotionally disturbed, I know that!!

Gable, Tracy, Stewart, Ol Blue Eyes, the King. They were Hollywood gods; men wanted to be them, women just plain wanted them. As celluloid royalty and soldiers in Louis B. Mayer's box office army, the men of The Leading Men of MGM captured the hearts and imaginations of the movie-going public during a thirty-year stretch encompassing three wars and the ultimate downfall of a studio empire. And while their roles onscreen are some of cinema's most memorable, they often pale in comparison to the lives these men lived behind the scenes. The Leading Men of MGM exposes these legendary figures in all of their salacious glory from Clark Gable's clandestine homosexual encounters in bistro bathrooms to Elvis's pill-popping and Sinatra and Lawford's icy post-Kennedy jousts. Also profiling such stars as Ramon Novarro, Billy Haines, and Van Johnson, the collection offers complete filmographies, photographs, and insightful looks at the nature of stardom during an era when the phenomenon was being minted. Offering a warts-and-all look at fifteen-plus legendary Tinseltown stars in addition to exploring their successes as genuine Hollywood talent, author Jane Wayne has written a must-have volume for film buffs of all stripes.

From Publishers Weekly The men in Wayne's booksome producers (Louis B. Mayer, Irving Thalberg), but mostly actors (Clark Gable, John Gilbert, Elvis Presley, Mickey Rooney, Frank Sinatra, Spencer Tracy) are, theoretically, connected because they were all big names on MGM's roster. Really, though, they're all here so that Wayne (The Golden Girls of MGM) can dish the dirt, which she does, shovel-like. The Tracy chapter delves into his long history of alcohol abuse and his decades-long relationship (of convenience, says Wayne) with Katharine Hepburn (who, Wayne reports, mothered him while putting up with constant abuse and his refusal to divorce his wife and marry her). Tracy's story is more sad than entertaining, as is the chapter on the miserable decline of Peter Lawford. More tawdry and fun are the sections on Gable and Sinatra, where Wayne first shows what unlikely romantic leads they each were (Gable had big ears and false teeth; Sinatra was a "skinny, unknown singer who acted like a celebrity") before getting to the real meat of their careers: who they slept with, when, and if they were any good. Although suspiciously thin on attribution Wayne has a mysterious, Kitty Kelley-like way with the sources of her more sensational material this is an undeniably enjoyable selection of Hollywood juice. Photos. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist This excellent shelfmate for Wayne's Golden Girls of MGM (2003) contains stories of male movers and shakers at MGM, onscreen and offscreen, from 1924 to about 1960. Screen idols (Spencer Tracy, Mickey Rooney, etc.) receive the most attention, but execs (Thalberg and Mayer) get their due, too. In fact, Mayer's mostly malevolent presence pervades the book. While dishing plenty of gossip, Wayne imparts filmographically important details. For instance, she dredges up a homosexual encounter by Clark Gable with fellow actor Billy Haines (twice noted as being always "the fucker, never the fuckee") that loomed large in Gable's rise to stardom and figured in why George Cukor was replaced as director of *Gone with the Wind*. Also prominently examined are Elvis Presley's and Frank Sinatra's metamorphoses from teen idols to movie stars. Replete with individual filmographies and discographies, as appropriate, a fine addition to the film history shelves. Mike Tribby Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "Fun, gossipy...a good (if sensational) entree to their careers and milieus."