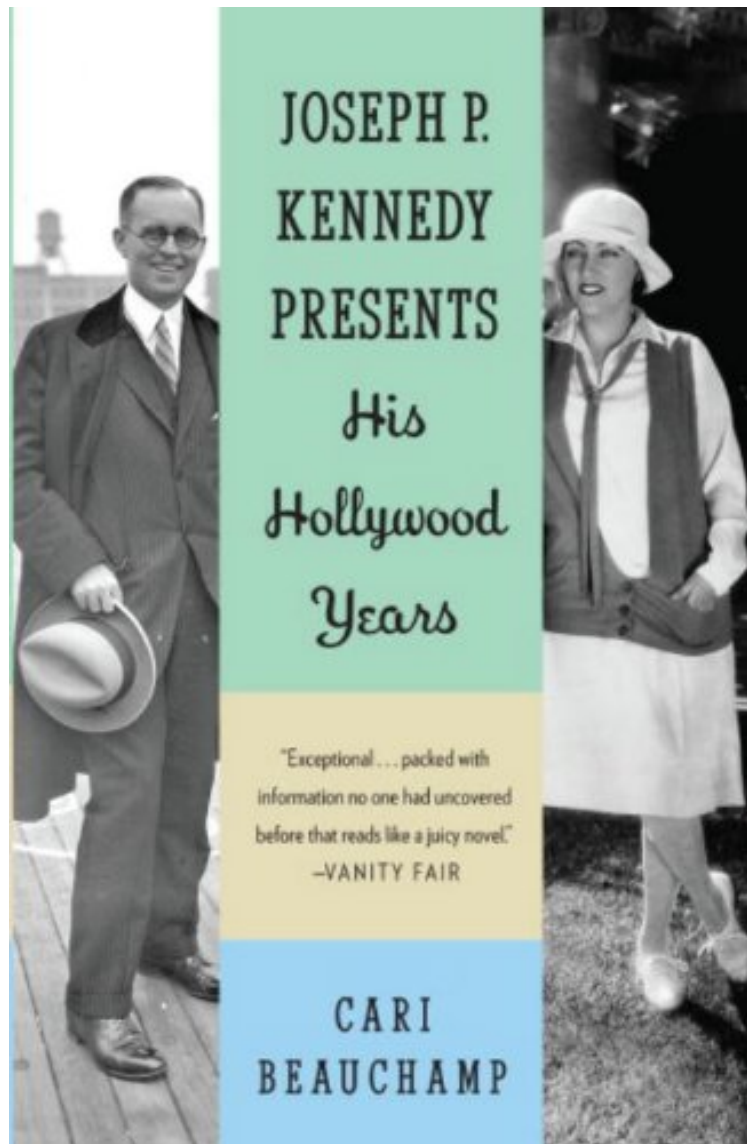


Joseph P. Kennedy Presents

Cari Beauchamp

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Cari Beauchamp : Joseph P. Kennedy Presents before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Joseph P. Kennedy Presents:

3 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Joseph P. Kennedy Presents His Hollywood YearsBy Vincent A. VetranoA truly outstanding book which provided countless previously unknown looks into Mr. Kennedy's involvement in the film industry.3 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Joseph P. Kennedy presents The Hollywood YearsBy Georgia HollingerI hoped this would be in the same vein as Howard Hughes biographies, where the personal life would be exposed or at least shared.Instead it was sort of a line sheet of net costs and gains.I am

interested in economics, but it didn't even meet that area. It was just a dry well for me. 5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Man of Many Plans By Richard C. Ferris This is a remarkable 403 page biography on the life of Joseph Kennedy. The author, Cari Beauchamp, has crafted a crisp and comprehensive assessment of Mr. Kennedy's monumental life journey with particular emphasis on his involvement with owning/managing motion picture studios during the 20s and 30's. It's a fascinating major chapter in his life that I wager many in the general public have little knowledge. His life has elements of Greek mythology where the gods award unlimited business acumen and the ability to acquire untold wealth. However, this gift comes with a dear price. He has to witness the violent death of four of his children on four separate occasions, Kathleen, Joe, John and Bobby. In addition he plays a role in inadvertently condemning his oldest daughter, Rosemary, to a life of unspeakable terror through a botched frontal lobotomy procedure. Truth is indeed stranger than fiction. The book portrays JK as a cold calculating business genius. The youngest bank president at 27 who's next challenge was building great wealth either managing or owning four movie studios. During one period he was successfully managing four studios at one time. Gloria Swanson was once quoted as saying "Joseph Kennedy operated just like Joseph Stalin". The book devotes many pages to the intimate and business relationship between JK and GS. Their romantic relationship somewhat complicated, and at other times enabled, by their respective spouses. Their business relationship, outlined in great detail, is extremely revealing. Kennedy was instrumental in restructuring her debt and renegotiating business contracts to place Gloria's financial footing on a lucrative path. He also was instrumental, as studio head, in reigniting her theatrical career. However as with everyone who dealt with Kennedy, it came with a price. One example was his creation of Gloria's Production, Inc. Kennedy loaned Gloria's Production substantial funds used to pay expenses charged from Kennedy's production company. He then expected Gloria's Production to repay his loans with substantial interest. Paraphrasing Doris Kearns Goodwin, Kennedy saw the world as a never ending battleground and he could plot and make use of people without compunction. There are several examples throughout the book where he betrayed trusted friends and business partners primarily for financial gain. Some of these betrayals led to tragic circumstances including, Fred Thomson and Guy Currier, whose premature deaths were attributed in part to JK's underhanded business dealings. Even his gang of trusted business confidants (Derr, Sullivan, Scollard and others), who handled many of his most discreet business affairs, were not immune to his betrayal if it somehow benefited JK. The author's description of Kennedy's constant stock manipulation, insider trading and balance sheet inflation is mind-boggling. These actions, although clearly unethical, were not considered generally illegal during the twenties. It's ironic that Kennedy, under the Roosevelt administration, would be appointed to chair the SEC and be instrumental in closing out these financial loopholes. Although, these actions came well after he had amassed a net worth of 15 million dollars by 1931. His financial good fortune is astounding, when one considers he sold the vast majority of these stock holdings just months prior to the 1929 crash. He said it was time to sell when the shoe shine boys were offering him stock tips. Another bit of good fortune was receiving permits from the Roosevelt admin. to import alcohol during prohibition. He used these permits to establish Somerset Liquor Corp., which stockpiled liquor in the U.S. just prior to the repeal of Prohibition. This allowed his company to get the jump on others in satisfying the American thirst and gaining millions in profits. The stories go on and on concerning his various relations with presidents, kings and celebrities. The author also shines new light on the scandals surrounding Alexander Pantages and Eunice Pringle as well as the demise of Thomas Ince under mysterious circumstances. Another portion of the book, woven around his relationship with Gloria Swanson, is the making and fate of the epic film Queen Kelly. The film and its respective fallout are legendary in movie buff history. The author has provided vivid insights into this chapter of film making. The book continues through JK's appointment as Secretary of the Maritime Commission and appointment as Ambassador to England. As Maritime Commissioner, he was instrumental in building a first class merchant marine fleet carrying the troops and war material which turned the momentum against Nazi Germany. As a Fortune magazine reported, JK was 22 years of quick profit taking and 14 months of public service. Last but not least, are the visual rewards from the generous amount of photos spread throughout the book. It provides the reader with ample visual milestones throughout this glamorous period in American history.

Joseph P. Kennedy's reputation as a savvy businessman, diplomat, and sly political patriarch is well-documented. But his years as a Hollywood mogul have never been fully explored until now. In Joseph P. Kennedy Presents, Cari Beauchamp brilliantly explores this unknown chapter in Kennedy's biography. Between 1926 and 1930, Kennedy positioned himself as a major Hollywood player. In two short years, he was running three studios simultaneously and then, in a bold move, he merged his studios with David Sarnoff to form the legendary RKO Studio. Beauchamp also tells the story of Kennedy's affair with Gloria Swanson; how he masterminded the mergers that created the blueprint for contemporary Hollywood; and made the fortune that became the foundation of his empire. From the Trade Paperback edition.

From Publishers Weekly Former New York Times journalist Beauchamp offers a fascinating inside look at the reign of moviemaking king Joseph P. Kennedy, who held sway over the industry from 1926 to 1930. Kennedy was responsible

for creating some of the most renowned movies; he plucked iconic stars from obscurity and transformed the business forever. Pam Ward delivers a solid performance, presenting Beauchamp's findings with a straightforward, journalistic tone. Neither over the top nor monotonous, Ward relates the material with an ear for old Hollywood-speak without sounding forced or mechanical. The result is an entertaining and incredibly informative listening experience. A Knopf hardcover (s, Dec. 1). (Feb.) Copyright copy; Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. Idquo;An exceptional work of film scholarship, packed with information no one had uncovered before that reads like a juicy novel.rdqquo; mdash;Vanity Fairnbsp;ldquo;Beauchamp serves up with gusto many measures of gossipy history and historical gossip. . . . One hell of a story.rdqquo; mdash;San Francisco Chronicleldquo;Fascinating. . . . The intellect, the intuition, the gumption, the gall, the vision, and the restless ambition of the founding father are meticulously documented.rdqquo; mdash;The Boston Globenbsp;ldquo;Cari Beauchamp deserves great credit for bringing Joseph P. Kennedy into sharp focus with a wealth of detail. . . . Beauchamp has succeeded not only in finding a new way of telling the story, but one which adds to it much we didnrsquo;t know before. rdquo; mdash;Michael Korda, The Daily Beast ldquo;Smart. . . . Beauchamp suggests that nothing in Kennedysquo;s long career of banking, stock manipulation, and New Dealing prepared him for presidential politics the way his time in the picture business did.rdqquo; mdash;New York Times Book nbsp;ldquo;[A] crackling page-turner. . . . Beauchamp demonstrates again and again, that apart from [Kennedysquo;s] abiding love and concern for his nine children (and perhaps a few others including Marion Davies), the bottom line was everything.rdqquo; mdash;Los Angeles Timesnbsp;ldquo;Rarely has [Kennedysquo;s Hollywood years] been documented in such meticulous detail. . . . Well-written and researched, Beauchamprsqo;s book is a probing examination of the man in the industry during perhaps its most fascinating period.rdqquo; mdash;Chicago Sun-Times nbsp;ldquo;Beauchamprsqo;s research is phenomenal and would have daunted any other author. . . . A masterpiece of backstage capitalism.rdqquo; mdash;Cineaste nbsp;ldquo;Cari Beauchamp has dug deep into my mot...About the AuthorCari Beauchamp is the author of Without Lying Down: Frances Marion and the Powerful Women of Early Hollywood and other film histories. She has written for The New York Times, Vanity Fair, and Variety and lives in Los Angeles, California.