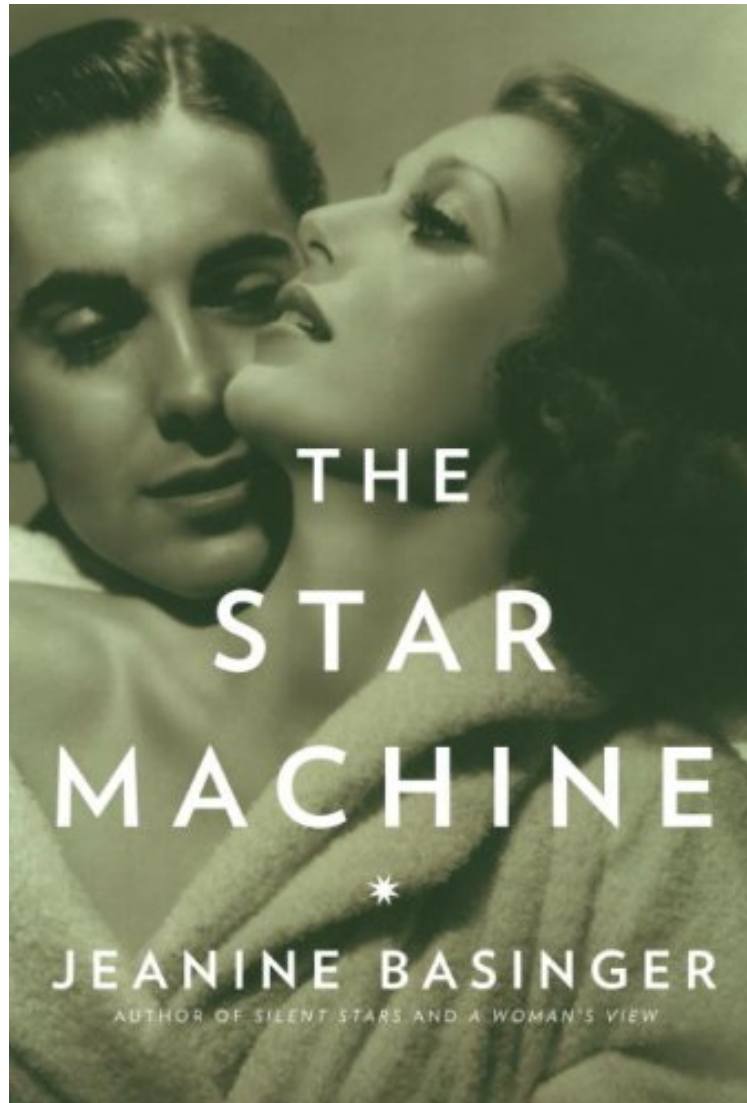


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The Star Machine

Jeanine Basinger

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Jeanine Basinger : The Star Machine before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Star Machine:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. lively, fun informativeBy Zangikulike all Basinger books, positively stuffed with info, this one on the old Hollywood studio system and how it sucked in, chewed up and spit out the "stars" it manufactured, including Typrone Power, Errol Flynn, Deanna Durbin, Irene Dunne, Charles Boyer, William Powell and others. lots of good photos, fashion, trivia as well as serious biography and considerable attention to social politics, audience demographics, etc. altho rigorously researched, the book is also chatty fun. too much on Lana Turner, who is sooooo much less interesting than the others but who is always heavily favored by Basinger.2 of 2

people found the following review helpful. AwesomeBy Ashley J.H. OsborneOne of my more favorite film history books. I had never done much research on this subject until I got to graduate school and had to write an essay on the actual business of Hollywood in the 1930s-50s. This book is so easy to read, packed full of information, and intensely interesting. I feel like an expert on the subject even though I'm truly still only a novice.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. " It was amazing to me what individuals had to put up with ...By Anna MaeVery insightful and well researched. I learned a lot that I didn't know before about how Hollywood worked during the "Golden Years!" It was amazing to me what individuals had to put up with to become stars. They must have really wanted it and were willing to pay the price. The fact remains they left us with a legacy of wonderful movies and movie history which we'll never see the likes of again.

From one of our most distinguished film scholars, comes a rich, penetrating, amusing book about the golden age of movies and how the studios worked to manufacture stars. With revelatory insights and delightful asides, Jeanine Basinger shows us how the studio "star machinery" worked when it worked, how it failed when it didn't, and how irrelevant it could sometimes be. She gives us case studies focusing on big stars groomed into the system: the "awesomely beautiful" (and disillusioned) Tyrone Power; the seductive, disobedient Lana Turner; and a dazzling cast of others. She anatomizes their careers, showing how their fame happened, and what happened to them as a result. Deeply engrossing, full of energy, wit, and wisdom, *The Star Machine* is destined to become a classic of the film canon. From the Trade Paperback edition.