

## Hollywood Diva: A Biography of Jeanette MacDonald



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## HOLLYWOOD DIVA: A BIOGRAPHY OF JEANETTE MACDONALD

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University of California Press, 2000. Book Condition: New. Brand New, Unread Copy in Perfect Condition. A+ Customer Service! Summary: Based in large part on the author's exclusive access to MacDonald's private papers, including her unpublished memoir, this biography transports us to a time when lavish musical films were major cultural events and a worldwide public eagerly awaited each new chance to fall under the singer's spell. Edward Baron Turk shows how MacDonald brilliantly earned her Hollywood nickname of "Iron Butterfly" and why she deserves a privileged position in the history of music and motion pictures. MacDonald's uncommon courage, Turk suggests, makes her a woman for our times. Onscreen the actress portrayed strong characters in pursuit of deep emotional fulfillment, often in defiance of social orthodoxy, while offscreen she personified energy, discipline, and practical intellect. Drawing on interviews with individuals who knew her and on MacDonald's own words, Turk brings to life the intricate relations between the star and her legendary costars Maurice Chevalier, Clark Gable, and, above all, baritone Nelson Eddy. He reveals the deep crushes she inspired in movie giants Ernst Lubitsch and Louis B. Mayer and the extraordinary love story she shared with her husband of twenty-seven years, actor Gene Raymond. More than simply another star biography, Turk's detailed account of MacDonald's fearless efforts to break down distinctions between mass-consumed entertainment and high art offers fresh perspectives on the complexity of cultural taste in twentieth-century America.



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