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Goddess: The Secret Lives of Marilyn Monroe

By Anthony Summers

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***New York Times* Bestseller: The definitive biography based on over six hundred interviews with people who knew Marilyn Monroe both professionally and intimately.**

Marilyn Monroe, born in obscurity and deprivation, became an actress and legend of the twentieth century, romantically linked to famous men from Joe DiMaggio to Arthur Miller to John F. Kennedy. But her tragic death at a young age, under suspicious circumstances, left behind a mystery that remains unsolved to this day.

Anthony Summers interviewed more than six hundred people, laying bare the truths—sometimes funny, often sad—about this brilliant, troubled woman. The first to gain access to the files of Monroe's last psychiatrist, Summers uses the documents to explain her tangled psyche and her dangerous addiction to medications. He establishes, after years of mere rumor, that President Kennedy and his brother Robert were both intimately involved with Monroe in life—and in covering up the circumstances of her death.

Written by a Pulitzer Prize nominee who has authored works on JFK, J. Edgar Hoover, and the 9/11 attacks, this investigation of an iconic star's brief life and early death is "remarkable. . . . The ghost of Marilyn Monroe cries out in these pages" (*The New York Times*).

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

Summers claims to have interviewed more than 600 people in the course of writing this book, and the effort shows in this exhaustive and exhausting biography. Overall, the book is well written. Of the new material presented, the most provocative is Summers's assertion that Monroe's corpse was first discovered by Robert Kennedy and Peter Lawford. The reason for the confusion of facts about her death, says Summers, is that a coverup was conducted to hide Monroe's sexual involvement with both John and Robert Kennedy. Since Joe DiMaggio and Arthur Miller declined to be interviewed, this is not the definitive Monroe biography. Still, libraries that do not already have a surfeit of books on Monroe should find this a popular addition. Literary Guild and Doubleday Book Club featured alternates. John Smothers, Monmouth Cty. Lib., Freehold, N.J. Copyright 1985 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Review

"A remarkable performance . . . The ghost of Marilyn Monroe cries out in these pages." —*The New York Times*

"Convincing evidence of a crude but effective cover-up which was designed to protect Robert Kennedy." —*The Times Literary Supplement*

"I knew and admired Marilyn's husband Arthur Miller. . . . [Marilyn] was a classic example of borderline personality disorder, filled with despair, terror, and rage . . . an eternal damaged child. . . . She was a genius, a sorceress who could stimulate the world's sexuality and still seem innocent, turn on a light and become 'Marilyn Monroe.' And she has become eternal. This is the most believable, useful book of all the books about her." —Harvey Wasserman, former professor of psychiatry, Yale University College of Medicine

About the Author

Anthony Summers is the bestselling author of eight works of nonfiction. His investigative books include *Not in Your Lifetime*, the critically acclaimed account of the assassination of John F. Kennedy; *Official and Confidential: The Secret Life of J. Edgar Hoover*; *Goddess*, a biography of Marilyn Monroe; and most recently *The Eleventh Day*, on the 9/11 attacks—a finalist for the 2012 Pulitzer Prize for History.

Users Review

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