

# [PDF] Hollywood Diva: A Biography Of Jeanette MacDonald

Edward Baron Turk - pdf download free book

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**Books Details:**

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**Description:**

**From Library Journal** This is the most comprehensive biography of MacDonald to emerge since Lee Edward Stern's *Jeanette MacDonald* (o.p.) and James Robert Parish's *The Jeanette MacDonald Story* (LJ 9/15/76). In addition to documenting her monumental Hollywood years with MGM, Turk (French/film studies, MIT) captures the operetta queen's forays into radio and television, her associations with Ernst Lubitsch, Maurice Chevalier, and?most famously?Nelson Eddy, and her

marriage of 28 years to Gene Raymond (who died this year). MacDonald's straddling of "low" and "high" art, her ambivalence toward her "practical" movie career, and her quest to fill the spotlight as a serious operatic singer are poignant. In his afterword, the clearly adoring Turk offers an insightful, engaging cultural analysis of the MacDonald-Eddy phenomenon, broaching the "sexual politics" of the duo's sentimental, sanitized romantic films. An homage that is never salacious, always sincere, and perhaps a little "safe."?Jayne Plymale, Stamford, CT

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**From Kirkus Reviews** In a dazzling blend of entertainment and scholarship, America's top prewar musical film star is convincingly rethroned as "an exemplary part of our American heritage." Film scholar Turk (French and Film Studies/MIT) carries honey-haired MacDonald from her hometown Philadelphia musical training and early operas to her eventual Broadway success and to discovery in 1929 by Paramount's Ernst Lubitsch ("I have found the queen!" he cried on their first meeting). Royalty she did become: Paired with Maurice Chevalier and others in pre-Code films including *The Love Parade*, she metamorphosed into the "Lingerie Queen of the Talkies," who radiated erotic longing in song. By the late 1930s at MGM, she was film's number-one female moneymaker, with movies including *San Francisco* (which Clark Gable nearly refused to make with her) and various hits with baritone Nelson Eddy. Throughout her roles, the "Iron Butterfly's" refusal to go horizontal for advancement, her battles with studio heads, and her stable 27-year marriage to actor Gene Raymond, she showed herself to be an unusually poised and morally confident woman. But films were hardly all she wanted. From the late 1930s through the 1950s, she brought her lyric soprano voice and classical works to wildly receptive small-town America, hoping to prove herself "a bona fide concert singer, not a picture player on parade" and to show that "an appreciation of an elite art did not require elite birth." Turk convinces readers of MacDonald's status as a democratizing force for music and as a commando of sophisticated eroticism. A joyful, enlightening analysis of a now-misunderstood star who answered immigrant American desires for a shared national culture. (60 b&w photos, not seen) -- *Copyright ©1998, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.* --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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