



Marilyn Monroe: Biography of America's Sex Symbol

Sara M.

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ABOUT THE BOOK

Her name is synonymous with Hollywood beauty. During Marilyn Monroe's own lifetime, her reputation as a fragile but charismatic beauty took the world by storm. Even many decades after her death in 1962 at the tragic young age of 36, Monroe's reputation and popularity have not wavered for a second.

In every generation since her death, Monroe's face has rivaled those of contemporary sex symbols as shorthand for beauty, sex appeal, charisma and seemingly effortless charm. With her halo of blonde hair, large, expressive eyes, dazzling smile, curvaceous figure and breathy high-pitched voice, Monroe seemed to stand for everything that was fun-loving, carefree and flirtatious about life. Despite her role as an over-the-top sex symbol, she managed to appeal to both men and women; men wanted to woo her, while women wanted to be her best friend.

EXCERPT FROM THE BOOK

In 1953, Monroe starred in *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*, a role that gave her the chance to show off her singing and dancing talents, but also made her co-stars realize that the beautiful blonde suffered from plenty of insecurity and stage fright behind the scenes. However, when Monroe performed for thousands of American Marines overseas, it helped to control her stage fright. Her next big film role, *There's No Business Like Show Business*, was poorly received by critics and fans. Unlike her role in *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*, this movie saw a return to a focus on Monroe's sex appeal instead of her personality, and the crowds disapproved. In 1954, Monroe had a chance to redeem herself with Billy Wilder's romantic drama, *The Seven Year Itch*, which was very positively reviewed. This movie contained one of Monroe's most iconic scenes, where she wears a flowing white dress and stands above a subway grate, letting the air lift her skirt. As her popularity waxed and waned, Monroe worked hard to improve her acting, taking lessons and seeking mentorship from her colleagues.

In 1955, Monroe met playwright Arthur Miller and began a romance with him. In 1956, Monroe finally had a chance to be taken seriously as an actress, with a poignant, challenging role as a careworn and naive showgirl in *Bus Stop*. Following the critical acclaim for this role, Monroe, now married to Miller, went on to star in other iconic and popular movies. These films included *Some Like It Hot*, one of her most beloved roles of all time. However, despite the fact that Monroe was now beginning to gain the love and respect she had yearned for so long, her life was not going well. Her behavior on set was becoming increasingly erratic, and she would often be chastised for being late or not following directions well. Perhaps due to her many failed pregnancies during this time, Monroe became increasingly depressed and began to rely more and more on psychiatric medications...

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CHAPTER OUTLINE

Biography of Marilyn Monroe
+ Introduction

- + Background
- + Awards and Honors
- + Personal Life
- + ...and much more

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