



Bette Davis: More Than a Woman

James Spada

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"This is a truly riveting read," wrote Liz Smith about this book, "chock-full of meticulous detail, juicy anecdotes, and profound insight." "Irresistible," wrote Publisher's Weekly. "Bursting with film lore, gossip, countless affairs and family secrets." "Meaty and meticulously researched," wrote Edna Buchanan for the Miami Herald, "James Spada writes about Davis's remarkable life and art with equal insight." Best-selling author **James Spada** has written the definitive biography of one of America's greatest actresses, Bette Davis. Bette Davis participated in over 100 roles as an actress, including the films, *What Ever Happened to Baby Jane?*, *Jezebel*, *Dark Victory*, and *Dangerous*. She won two Academy Awards, was the first person to accrue 11 Academy Award nominations, and became the first woman to receive a Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Film Institute. But, who was this actress?

Based on three years of research and over 150 interviews with close family, friends, and co-workers, this Hollywood legend biography reveals for the first time the devastating effect on Bette of her father's desertion; her oddly close relationship with her mother; her massive self-doubts and numerous, tempestuous marriages and extramarital affairs. Spada exposes the disturbing cover-up of the facts surrounding the sudden death of Bette's second husband, Arthur Farnsworth; the truth about her relationship with her daughter B.D., who wrote a scathing *Mommie Dearest* style memoir, and the disturbing possible reason for her adopted daughter Margot's mental retardation. And perhaps best of all, you will get an intimate glimpse into Bette and her working relationships with numerous other Hollywood legends. This film star biography explores her feuds with Joan Crawford, Miriam Hopkins, Helen Hayes and Lillian Gish; her affairs with William Wyler and other directors, her impossible behavior on sets created by her insecurities; the "fire and music" she was able to bring to every role; and her fights against sexism for the control of her creative destiny. By turns inspiring, shocking, and poignant, *Bette Davis: More Than a Woman* is a captivating film star biography you won't soon forget.

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