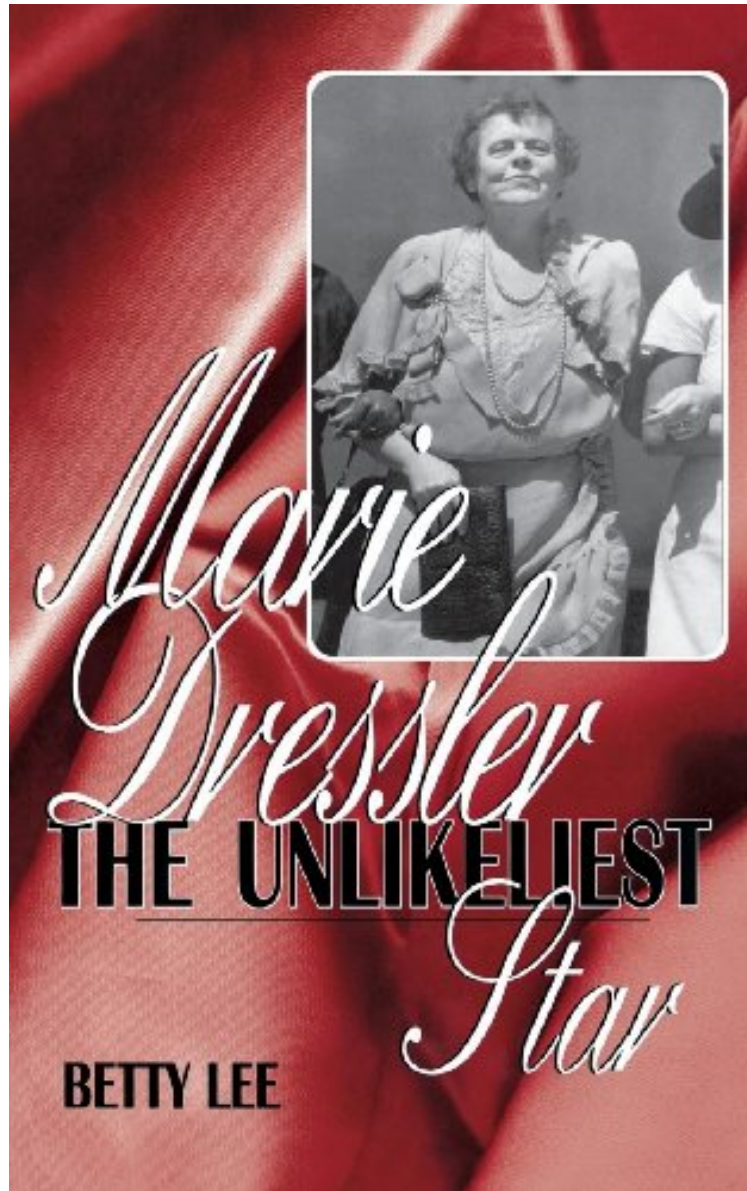


(Mobile pdf) Marie Dressler: The Unlikeliest Star

Marie Dressler: The Unlikeliest Star

Von Betty Lee

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Von Betty Lee : Marie Dressler: The Unlikeliest Star before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Marie Dressler: The Unlikeliest Star:

Kundenrezensionen Hilfreichste Kundenrezensionen 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich.
Insufficient research mars commendable effort Von Ein Kunde The problem with this book becomes regrettably clear if

one also reads Matthew Kennedy's biography of the wonderful Marie Dressler. Lee, despite her obvious effort, is not as assiduous a researcher as one would desire. Films she has not seen in fact exist for viewing; aspects of Dressler's personal life Lee implies are lost to history are in fact recoverable; Lee cannot ascertain what became of Dressler's faithful maid while Kennedy tracks her neatly to the end of her life; etc. Furthermore, Lee makes a welcome attempt to situate Dressler within theatrical history -- which was most of her career -- but appears to have essentially boned up on the subject before writing the book. Bringing turn-of-the-century theatre to life is challenging given that virtually all we have left are photographs, reviews, and sketchy comments, but people immersed in the subject by nature have accomplished this in various books in a way that Lee cannot quite match. The main value of Lee's book is her access to the diary of Dressler's longtime companion and her thorough coverage of Dressler's battle with cancer. Otherwise, however, Kennedy's book is much more thorough and gives more of a sense of what made Dressler such a phenomenon.

Kurzbeschreibung" She was homely, overweight, and over the hill, but there was a time when Marie Dressler outdrew such cinema sex symbols as Garbo, Dietrich, and Harlow. To movie audiences suffering the hardships of the Great Depression, she was Everywoman, and in the early 1930s her charming mixture of pathos and comedy packed movie theaters everywhere. In the early days of the century, Dressler was constantly in the headlines. She took up the cause of the "ponies" in the chorus lines, earning them better pay and benefits. She played in productions organized to raise money for the women's suffrage movement. And during World War I she claimed she sold more liberty bonds than any other individual in the United States. Dressler was an astute observer of public mood and taste. When she was lucky enough to find work in the newly minted Hollywood talkies, she grabbed the brass ring with fierce enthusiasm, even making three films in the year before her death, when she was so sick she had to rest between scenes on a sofa just out of camera range. The two-hundred-pound actress's remarkable stage presence captivated audiences even though her roles were not Hollywood beauties. She played tough, practical characters such as the old wharf rat in Anna Christie (1930), the waterfront innkeeper in Min and Bill (1931) -- for which she won the Academy Award for best actress -- the aging housekeeper in Emma (1932), and the title role in Tugboat Annie (1933). She spoke honestly to her audiences, and troubled people in the comforting darkness of the Depression-era movie theaters embraced her as one of themselves..deMarie Dressler was overweight and older than 60 when she made the most spectacular comeback of her roller-coaster career, outshining Greta Garbo in the 1930 film Anna Christie. Marie Dressler (1869-1934) was no beauty, but her perfect comic timing and Everywoman appeal to theater- and movie-goers ensured a popularity that began in vaudeville and climaxed with Min and Bill, Tugboat Annie, and her legendary delivery of the classic closing line in Dinner at Eight. Toronto journalist Betty Lee's meticulously researched biography gives a thorough account of Dressler's life and appreciative evocation of her art.Pressestimmen"Restores its subject to her rightful place as one of the major entertainers on stage and screen from the late 1800s through the early 1930s." -- "Classic Images""Lee succeeds in presenting a thoroughly enjoyable biography, one that brings into focus a picture of one of the most popular stars of early American cinema.... a long overdue contribution to the history of movie greats." -- "Film and History""In the late '20s Dressler lived one of the greatest Hollywood comeback stories, becoming the 'queen of homespun humor'.... By 1932 she had become one of the most popular performers in America." -- "Kirkus s""We need not expect a more definitive biography of Marie Dressler." -- "Letters in Canada""Drawing largely on Dressler's unpublished memoirs and a recently discovered manuscript by her personal assistant, Lee has also contributed her own research and brings to life a resilient woman with a unique talent." -- "Past Times Newsletter""Manages to walk that near impossible line between gossip and scholarship." -- "Publishers Weekly""Lee brings Dressler to life as a ebullient, bombastic, outrageous, but loveable woman." -- "Quill Quire, Canada""For decades, the world has been waiting for a thorough biography of the great Marie Dressler. Betty Lee rises to the challenge by illuminating the life and times of this most beloved actress." -- "Silents Majority""Restores its subject to her rightful place as one of the major entertainers on stage and screen from the late 1800s through the early 1930s." -- Classic Images"Lee succeeds in presenting a thoroughly enjoyable biography, one that brings into focus a picture of one of the most popular stars of early American cinema.... a long overdue contribution to the history of movie greats." -- Film and History"In the late '20s Dressler lived one of the greatest Hollywood comeback stories, becoming the 'queen of homespun humor'.... 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