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Marilyn Monroe: Hollywood Icon (Lives Cut Short)



Synopsis

This informative title highlights the life of Marilyn Monroe. Readers will learn about Monroe's background from her birth as Norma Jean through her unstable childhood in foster homes and orphanages to her marriage to James Dougherty at age 16. Monroe's early work is discussed, from her beginnings as a model with Blue Book Modeling Agency to her signing with Twentieth Century Fox Studios, and her becoming Marilyn Monroe, through early films such as *Love Happy* and *We're Not Married* to her superstar roles in *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*, *How to Marry a Millionaire*, *The Seven Year Itch*, *Some Like it Hot*, and *The Misfits*. Monroe's marriages to Joe DiMaggio and Arthur Miller are examined, as is her relationship with the Kennedy family. Monroe's descent into self-destructive behavior is covered, including her death by drug overdose at age 36. This book includes details of Monroe's life and covers the controversies surrounding her life and death. Aligned to Common Core Standards and correlated to state standards. Essential Library is an imprint of Abdo Publishing, a division of ABDO.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Gr 7-10-These books trace the lives of pop-culture notables from childhood to their sudden deaths, and the personal and professional triumphs and troubles in between. The opening chapters detail a specific performance by the celebrity. This career highpoint exemplifies the individual's qualities and abilities that were admired, generated sales, and attracted legions of fans. The chapters conclude with a statement that tells when the person died, piquing readers' interest to discover how the star

had gone from one of the brightest moments to such a tragic ending. The narrative history has an informative tone, balancing opinions and quotes from the subjects and insiders close to them, and critics' views, along with important facts and milestones. The books convey a sense of what made these performers legendary, how they influenced others, and why their legacies endure. The authors provide helpful context to the eras in which they lived, such as the common practice of prescribing sleeping pills and amphetamines. Large color, captioned photographs appear throughout, and sidebars supply helpful background material. These up-to-date biographies should find an audience in middle and high school collections. While the books maintain that the tragic ends do not diminish their subjects' accomplishments, the authors neither romanticize nor glamorize these lifestyles marred by substance abuse. -June Shimonishi, Torrance Public Library, CA

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The dependable Lives Cut Short series adds another four titles featuring celebrities who died prematurely. Each begins with a poignant quote from the late celeb, such as this from Marilyn Monroe: "You believe lies so you eventually learn to trust no one but yourself." The books use many other first-person quotes as well as comments from people who knew the subject. Freed from the risk of libel, the authors generally treat their biographees with a mix of admiration for their achievements and honesty about the mistakes they made. Marilyn Monroe depicts a life filled with struggle, and speaks honestly about the circumstances of her death. Given the subject, it's a bit macabre to say it, but this is one series worth continuing. Grades 7-10. --Susan Dove Lempke

A+++

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