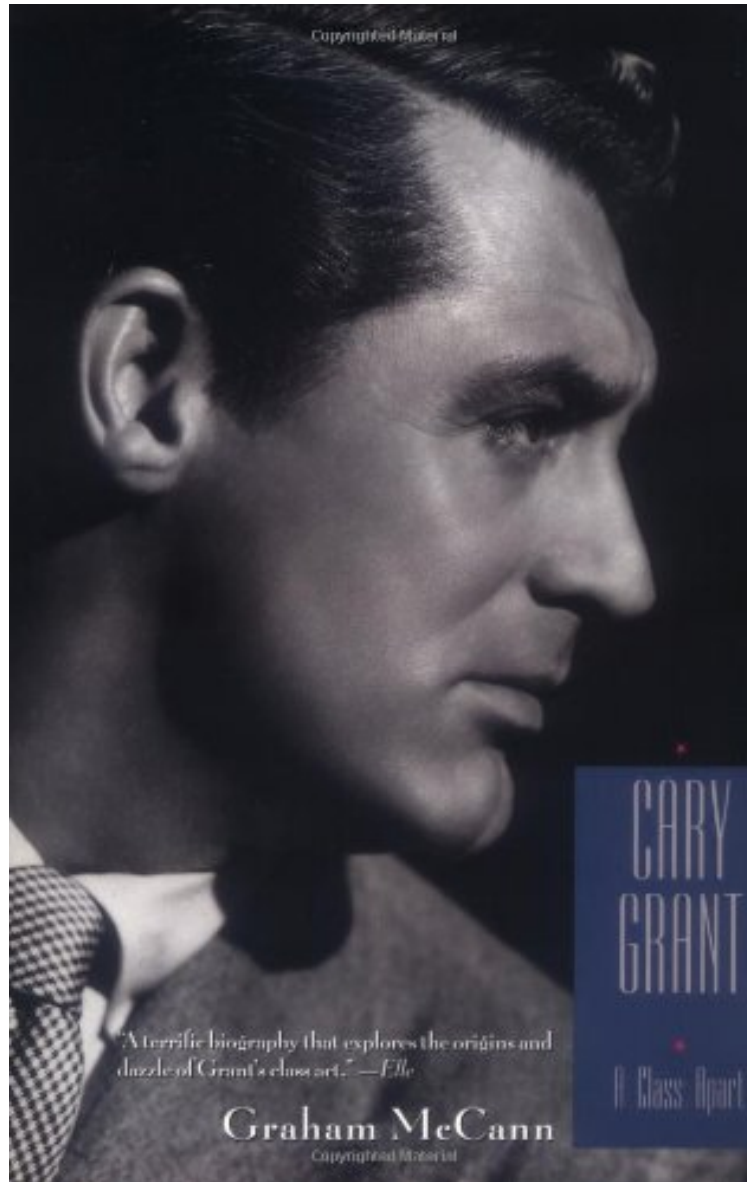


(Library ebook) Cary Grant

Cary Grant

Graham McCann

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Graham McCann : Cary Grant before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Cary Grant:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy GrannyluGreat Read!!!0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy AnnReally good.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. There has never been another like him.By JansailI like anything about Cary Grant. He was a very interesting person, but more so

later in life.

More than a biography, this is a savvy portrait of how Archie Leach, born to a poor working-class family in Bristol, England became Cary Grant, one of Hollywood's most irresistible and admired celebrities of all time.

.com Writing with the low-key stylishness his subject deserves, British academic Graham McCann pays tribute to the working-class Englishman who became "a democratic symbol of gentlemanly grace" to moviegoers worldwide. Aptly subtitled "A Class Apart," the book sympathetically depicts Archie Leach--born into poverty, his mother committed to an asylum when he was nine--reinventing himself as Cary Grant, whose debonair screen persona showed no signs of these difficult origins. A decorous account of Grant's private life (McCann dismisses talk of bisexuality as mere rumor) accompanies cogent descriptions of his performances. From Library Journal "Everybody wants to be Cary Grant. Even I want to be Cary Grant," said Archie Leach, better known as Hollywood star Cary Grant. A professor at Kings College, Cambridge, and author of biographies on Marilyn Monroe, Woody Allen, and James Dean and Marlon Brando, McCann discovers how that wish came to be at least partially fulfilled. He traces the life of Leach from his 1904 birth in working-class Bristol, England, to his death as Cary Grant on the international lecture circuit in 1986. McCann charts Archie Leach's humble vaudeville beginnings, the invention of Cary Grant in Hollywood, and Leach/Grant's rise to international fame. He explores personal issues such as Grant's relationship with his mother, his sexuality, his use of LSD, and his World War II spy activities. Though there have been more than ten biographies of Cary Grant, McCann's adds sensitivity, scholarship, and insight to that list. This excellent work will appeal to general readers browsing biography and film collections of both academic and public libraries. ?Lisa N. Johnston, Sweet Briar Coll. Lib., Va. Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist "Everybody wants to be Cary Grant," Cary Grant once said. "Even I want to be Cary Grant." "Cary Grant" was a brilliantly realized invention, embodying grace, charm, and elegance for moviegoers over the course of four decades. McCann's biography shows how working-class Archie Leach transformed himself into Cary Grant. Unlike many self-made successes, Grant never renounced his humble origins but incorporated them into his persona. As a result, he became, McCann says, a "democratic gentleman," at ease in any element, who shone in both serious dramas and screwball comedies and, unlike most male stars, appealed equally to men and women. In laying out the facts and events of Grant's life and career, from the British music hall through Hollywood eminence to 20 years of retirement, McCann relies almost entirely on previously published works (there are nearly 70 pages of notes) and skeptically reports more sensational biographers' allegations of Grant's homosexuality. McCann's outstanding achievement is his analysis of Grant's singular and lasting appeal as a classy but classless star. Gordon Flagg