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# Glenn Ford: A Life (Wisconsin Film Studies)



## Synopsis

Glenn Ford—star of such now-classic films as *Gilda*, *Blackboard Jungle*, *The Big Heat*, *3:10 to Yuma*, and *The Rounders*—had rugged good looks, a long and successful career, and a glamorous Hollywood life. Yet the man who could be accessible and charming on screen retreated to a deeply private world he created behind closed doors. *Glenn Ford: A Life* chronicles the volatile life, relationships, and career of the renowned actor, beginning with his move from Canada to California and his initial discovery of theater. It follows Ford's career in diverse media—from film to television to radio—and shows how Ford shifted effortlessly between genres, playing major roles in dramas, noir, westerns, and romances. This biography by Glenn Ford's son, Peter Ford, offers an intimate view of a star's private and public life. Included are exclusive interviews with family, friends, and professional associates, and snippets from the Ford family collection of diaries, letters, audiotapes, unpublished interviews, and rare candid photos. This biography tells a cautionary tale of Glenn Ford's relentless infidelities and long, slow fade-out, but it also embraces his talent-driven career. The result is an authentic Hollywood story that isn't afraid to reveal the truth. Best Books for General Audiences, selected by the American Association of School Librarians Best Books for General Audiences, selected by the Public Library Reviewers

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## Customer Reviews

I grew up in a small town in Western Australia. Going to the pictures (the flicks) was a great reward for any in our family. During the 50's there were some of the best actors around but I zoned in on Glenn Ford. I wrote to him once when I was 13, and got an answer back many years later - didn't matter, I got something back! I am an avid reader and have read many biographies, and I have waited many a season for this book on Glenn Ford. When it arrived, I ensured there was nothing to do for the day, now was I to read it in one sitting, or flavour it, one chapter at a time? I devoured it! And then started all over again. Peter, many, many thanks to you for this book. I shall treasure it all my days, and enjoy it over and again. It is so well written, it is so easy to sit down read, enjoy and imagine it all happening. What a writer you are! I love it! One thing - I enjoyed the picture "From Here to Eternity" but for me there was something missing - that tantalizing sexual wow factor between two people. A good movie, but no wow factor really for me. That wow factor would have been there in triple, with Glenn Ford and Rita Hayworth! Now I have to visualise that movie all over again!!!! People, buy this book, buy buy buy! Wonderful read Peter, many thanks again.

Ford's son did a fantastic job of sharing his and his family's life story, hitting all the high marks. I just wish this book, like ninety-nine-point-nine per cent of all Hollywood bios, would give us more insight of what it was like during the actual making of a filmÃfÃcÃ â Ã Â| the actor's thoughtsÃfÃcÃ â Ã Â| how they may or may not have made changes to a character to fit a profileÃfÃcÃ â Ã Â| etc. Otherwise, Peter Ford did a spectacular job allowing us into his home as a child. Glenn Ford, like his contemporaries, were the actors I grew up watching and never fail to catch a film on tv. Gilda, the Big Heat, The RoundersÃfÃcÃ â Ã Â| all hits!!! And, should you ever want to learn how to ride a horse, just what how effortlessly Ford rides. He was born to the saddle. I can why he and Randolph Scott and Joel McCrea just wanted to make westernsÃfÃcÃ â Ã Â|.

Good actor. But not particularly good person.

"Glenn Ford A Life" is a behind the scenes story of Hollywood film making and the private family

struggles of two mega movie stars and their only child Peter who writes with hindsight his views of life with famous actors in Beverly Hills. The book is entertaining and extremely informative. His documentation is amazing regarding the films, directors, actors, and writers during the period when Hollywood studios had a strangle hold on its participants. Glenn Ford was a handsome talented man who played romantic leads with glamorous ladies like Rita Hayworth in "Gilda", and he married the fabulous tap dancer Eleanor Powell whom Fred Astaire said was the best dancer he ever worked with. The Fords lived next door to Charlie Chaplin who accidently ran over and killed Peter's German Shepard dog named Bill. This is a tiny example of the fascinating events retold by Peter. There are many splendid intimate tales and photos of famous actors with whom Glenn worked including his good drinking buddy William Holden, plus details of many romantic adventures with famous leading ladies including Joan Crawford , Glenn loved to act and to ride horses. He played cowboys, military personnel, teachers, gamblers, and always gave a superlative performance which is covered in this book. For any "Movie Buff", there is a complete Filmography, Bibliography, and Index . ASIN

This book was fascinating to read, but tougher to take it all in as Glenn Ford self-destructed as time went by. You couldn't help but feel for Eleanor Powell and her son Peter as they went back and forth into the lives of Glenn Ford. The book shows us that life is never what we think it is. It gets past us so quickly and before you know it, it's gone. The decisions we make during our time on earth will either comfort us at the end of life, or give us a feeling of total frustration and desperation. The examples of that are well brought home in this book. It also proves that fame and fortune do not bring us happiness. Recommended.

This was a fascinating read, due to all of the personal life of Glenn Ford that I never knew about. Once you started reading it was hard to put down.

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