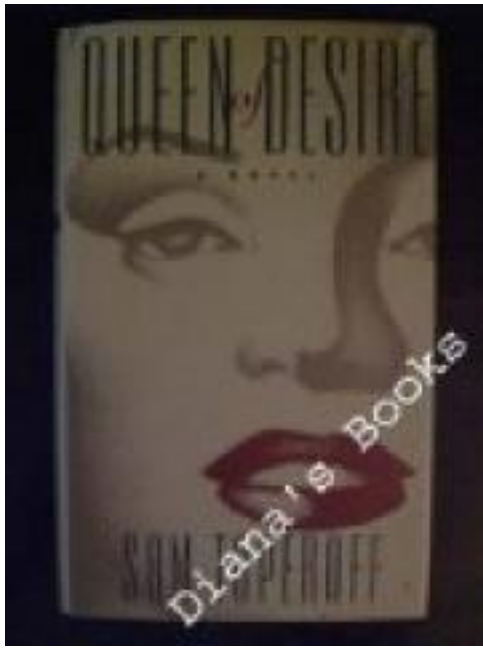


Queen of Desire



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As E. L. Doctorow has done with Dutch Schultz or Don DeLillo with Lee Harvey Oswald, Sam Toperoff has used both the freedoms and the discipline of fiction to transform a mythical figure into flesh and blood.

Toperoff creates thirteen crises in the life of Marilyn Monroe that take her from the precocious and abused ten-year-old Norma Jean Baker through an ill-fated teenage marriage to her emergence as the determined starlet who becomes America's own Venus. Toperoff's mastery is in how he uses the facts of Marilyn's life--her marriages to Joe DiMaggio and Arthur Miller, her relationships with Lee Strasberg, Simone Signoret, and Frank Lloyd Wright--to create a complex character who displays wit, guile, tenderness, and anxiety. Imagined dramas that take place in a surgeon's office, President Sukarno's hotel suite, the press box at Yankee Stadium, a house in Connecticut, and finally in Marilyn's bedroom when the Queen of Desire pours out her last words to an all-night talk-show host draw us closer to Marilyn than any biography ever could.

作者介绍:

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