Nicknamed the “Boy Wonder,” Irving G. Thalberg was running Universal Pictures at the age of twenty, and he cofounded Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer at twenty-four. Between 1924 and 1936, he supervised 400 memorable movies, making stars of Lon Chaney, Jean Harlow, Clark Gable, Joan Crawford, John Gilbert, and Greta Garbo. By the time of his death at thirty-seven, Thalberg had lifted film to the level of fine art. In this groundbreaking book, Mark A. Vieira draws on newly discovered interviews and production records; the unpublished autobiography of Thalberg’s wife, superstar Norma Shearer; and a treasure trove of unseen images to vividly recount the making of Ben-Hur, The Big Parade, Tarzan the Ape Man, Grand Hotel, Mutiny on the Bounty, A Night at the Opera, and scores of other classics. Hollywood Dreams Made Real is a fresh portrait of the prime architect of the studio system and an enchanting tour of the magical world he created.

My Personal Review:
This book was thoroughly researched and is full of wonderful photos, many rare. Anyone who is a fan of Pre-codes and early 1930s films will absolutely love this book. Thalberg was a very powerful man at MGM, and this book shows you the man behind the films. Loads of information on Norma Shearer (Thalbergs wife), Crawford, Barrymore, Garbo, etc. Great information on Grand Hotel, The Divorcee, etc.
You will not be disappointed.

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