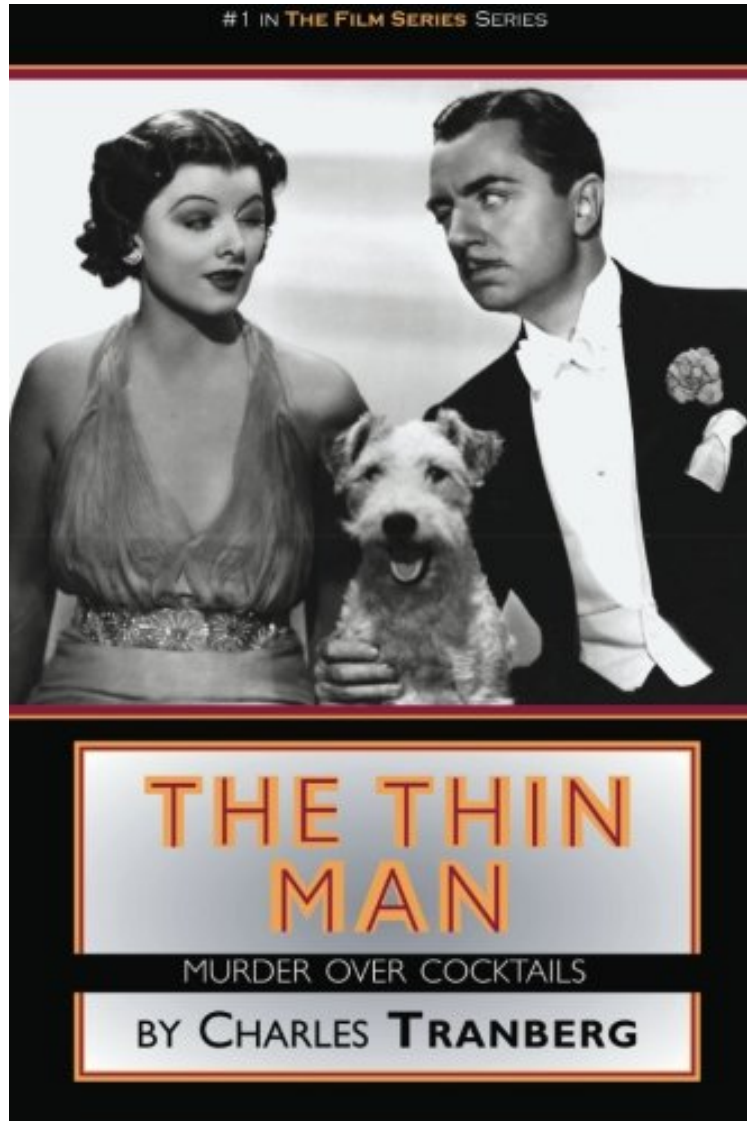


[Free read ebook] The Thin Man: Murder Over Cocktails (Film Series)

The Thin Man: Murder Over Cocktails (Film Series)

Charles Tranberg

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Charles Tranberg : The Thin Man: Murder Over Cocktails (Film Series) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Thin Man: Murder Over Cocktails (Film Series):

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. A Welcome Addition to a Film LibraryBy S. WynnCharles Tranberg, author of the highly-praised "I Love the Illusion: The Life and Career of Agnes Moorehead", has turned his attention to the Thin Man film series and offers a sterling effort with "The Thin Man: Murder Over Cocktails." It's a well-written and researched work and considering the paucity of material and interviewees available, it's a valiant effort, too. In writing a book about Nick and Nora's screen adventures, Tranberg has to compete with the sad reality

that the internet has made books like this largely superfluous. However, I'm glad that there's even a Thin Man book available in this day and age. "Murder Over Cocktails" is informative, but isn't always focused on the film series itself. That's because there just isn't all that much Thin Man information around. The set up in "Murder Over Cocktails" is simple: Tranberg lays out a brief plot synopsis, adds some memorable quotes from the film, includes a precious handful of anecdotes about the behind-the-scenes goings on, many of which have appeared in Jon Tuska's "The Detective In Hollywood" and Myrna Loy's autobiography, "Being and Becoming." The rest of the chapter is a rundown of blurbs from various press sources of the day, which extolled each movie's virtues, as well as the supporting players' career highlights. In fact, so much space is dedicated to actor biographies that I found occasionally myself impatiently flipping ahead in the dim hope that I'd find something else--anything--on the movies themselves. The index wasn't any help--there isn't one! Curse you, Bear Manor Press! However, these actor and technician profiles may prove to be the best thing about Murder Over Cocktails. And while it is nice to be able to get the full sweep of a performer's career at one's fingertips, I'd prefer that there was more about the films, even if it were just photos, extended dialogue, or publicity materials. It's also unfortunate that Tranberg didn't dedicate some time on the actual era in which these films were made, instead of merely listing the personnel's film credits. Was Nick Charles the ideal American male? Was Nora the feminine ideal? What about those other Sleuthing Couples? The book includes a decent selection of photos, some of which I hadn't seen before, and instead of an index, the back of the book has a supporting actor portrait gallery, which varies in quality; some actors' photos are from much later in their career; Sam Levene's (Lt. Abrams in the second and fourth films) picture looks like it was taken in 1971 rather than 1941. Despite my own (mild) disappointment with Murder Over Cocktails, I wouldn't hesitate to recommend the book to someone just getting interested in The Thin Man movies, as it would serve as a good primer in learning about the actors and behind-the-scenes technicians involved. And there's something to be said about any book getting published about the Thin Man films. This volume is dubbed "#1 in the Film Series Series. Redundant title aside, I hope there are more volumes in this new series, as it would be great to have future volumes cover the Andy Hardy, Blondie, Bowery Boys, and Charlie Chan films. For the longtime fan there's nothing here we haven't already read before, but I guess I'll have to accept the fact that there's a finite amount of Thin Man information out there!

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.
The Thin Man film
By Rosemarie T Werner
Thank you for interesting behind the scenes of Thin Man movies. All the information on the stars and supporting cast plus everyone else involved in making the pictures gives one much insight in what it takes to make certain movies stand out.

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Excellent
By JCNA
great book about a great series. Lots of behind the scenes stories. The exhaustively researched bios on all involved actors, producers and directors has me creating a must see list of more movies. The bios are cross referenced and very thorough. The only thing I wish that there were some more behind the scenes photos instead of the stock studio shots.

The Thin Man films are one of the most highly regarded and successful series of films from Hollywood's classic era. This book looks at the people who populated the films, including full chapter profiles of its stars, William Powell and Myrna Loy, whose chemistry together was a huge reason for the success of the films. As Nick and Nora Charles they knocked the stereotypes of on-screen marriage out of the park and replaced the stiff and formal with fun and sexy. But not to be forgotten are the great character actors who added their own special magic to each and every film. Each chapter includes profiles of these actors as well as the creative teams behind the films. The book offers up detailed synopses of each of the films as well as behind-the-scenes anecdotes and trivia. If you love The Thin Man then this is the book for you! Praise for Charles Tranberg's other books: "By virtue of its amazing output and longevity, Moorehead's career, not to mention life, would be almost impossible to contain in a single volume, but Tranberg is in command of his subject, deftly covering the wide expanse of Agnes Moorehead's world." Laura Wagner, *Classic Images*, review of *I Love the Illusion: The Life and Career of Agnes Moorehead*. "This is a fond look at one of the most durable and under-appreciated stars in Hollywood history." Tom Clegett, *The Santa Fe New Mexican*, review of *Fred MacMurray: A Biography*.

From the Publisher
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About the Author
Charles Tranberg has written four books on Classic Hollywood and contributed articles to *CLASSIC IMAGES* and *FILMS OF THE GOLDEN AGE*. He lives in Madison, Wisconsin.