

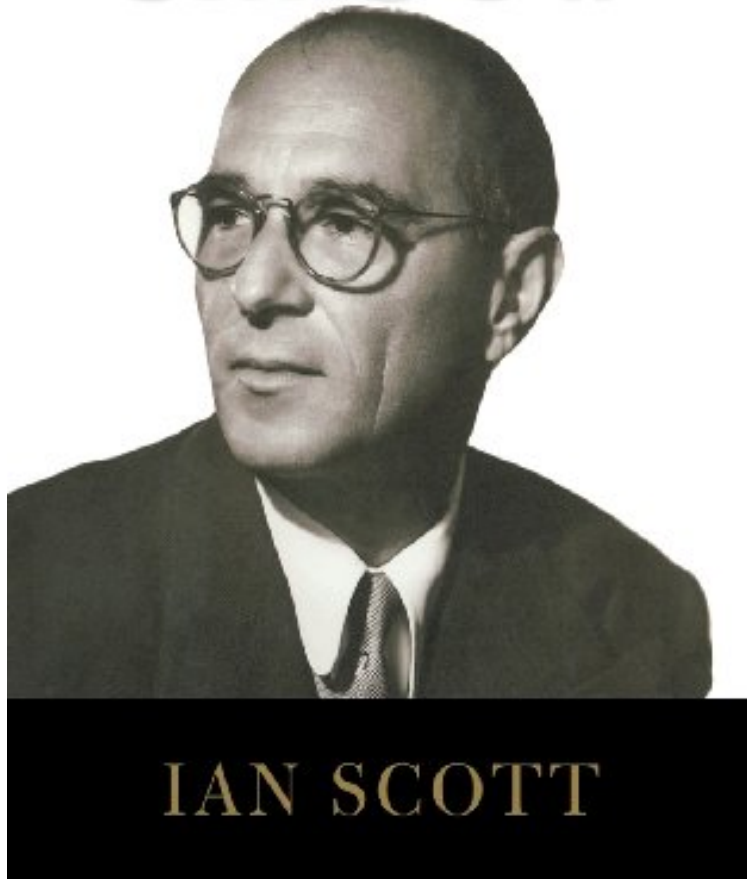
[Ebook pdf] In Capra's Shadow: The Life and Career of Screenwriter Robert Riskin

In Capra's Shadow: The Life and Career of Screenwriter Robert Riskin

Ian Scott

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IN CAPRA'S *The Life & Career of Screenwriter Robert Riskin* SHADOW



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Ian Scott : In Capra's Shadow: The Life and Career of Screenwriter Robert Riskin before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised In Capra's Shadow: The Life and Career of Screenwriter Robert Riskin:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. New Insights Of a Great Screenwriter By E. Hunter Hale And study of director Frank Capra's work must include a study of screenwriter Robert Riskin who played a major part in many of Capra's major films of the 1930s and of Capra's MEET JOHN DOE. This book helps give a better understanding of why the partnership between Capra and Riskin brought out the best from both artist. It also lets the reader understand the important achievements that Riskin played in other fields of the motion picture. A well written and researched book that sheds light on one the most important screenwriters of screen history. 7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. A biography which magically captures the life of one of Hollywood's greatest screenwriters By Jo Swerling Robert Riskin was my father's best friend. I grew up in the milieu of 30's Hollywood, so I can attest to the accuracy of Dr. Scott's research and the quality of his telling of it. The book is a fascinating chronicle of the "Golden Years of Hollywood", as seen through the life of one of it's greatest writing talents. My thanks to Dr. Scott for his kindness in his references to my father, and for giving me such an enjoyable stroll down memory lane.

Because screenwriter Robert Riskin spent most of his career collaborating with legendary Hollywood director Frank Capra, Riskin's own unique contributions to film have been largely overshadowed. With five Academy Award nominations to his credit for the monumental films *Lady for a Day*, *Mr. Deeds Goes to Town*, *You Can't Take It with You*, *Here Comes the Groom*, and *It Happened One Night* (for which he won the Oscar), Riskin is often imitated but rarely equaled. In *Capra's Shadow: The Life and Career of Screenwriter Robert Riskin* is the first detailed critical examination of the Hollywood pioneer's life and work. In addition to being one of the great screenwriters of the classic Hollywood era, Riskin was also a producer and director, founding his own film company and playing a crucial role in the foundation of the Screen Writers Guild. During World War II, Riskin was one of the major forces behind propaganda filmmaking. He worked in the Office of War Information and oversaw the distribution and later, production of films and documentaries in foreign theaters. He was interested in showing the rest of the world more than just an idealized version of America; he looked for films that emphasized the spiritual and cultural vibrancy within the U.S., making charity, faith, and generosity of spirit his propaganda tools. His efforts also laid the groundwork for a system of distribution channels that would result in the dominance of American cinema in Europe in the postwar years. Riskin's postwar work included his production of the 1947 film *Magic Town*, the tale of a marketing executive who discovers the perfect American small town and uses it for polling. What Riskin created onscreen is not simply a community stuck in an antiquarian past; rather, the town of Grandview observes its own traditions while at the same time confronting the possibilities of the modern world and the challenges of postwar America. Author Ian Scott provides a unique perspective on Riskin and the ways in which his brilliant, pithy style was realized in Capra's enduring films. Riskin's impact on cinema extended far beyond these films as he helped spread Hollywood cinema abroad and articulated his vision of a changing America.

"Scott makes a strong case for remembering Riskin as a talented man of strong social conscience. This detailed yet highly readable study is recommended for all cinema collections." *Library Journal* "Scott's book is important, valuable, readable, and short. Like Riskin's, Scott's writing is sharp, brief, and very much to the point." *Creative Screenwriting* "Ian Scott, like Robert Riskin, knows exactly how much to say and how much to write." Bernard F. Dick, author of *Hal Wallis: Producer to the Stars* About the Author Ian Scott, lecturer in American studies at the University of Manchester, is the author of *American Politics in Hollywood Film*.