



Beyond the Latin Lover: Marcello Mastroianni, Masculinity, and Italian Cinema

Jacqueline Reich

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Marcello Mastroianni is considered by many to be the epitome of the Latin lover, the consummate symbol of Italian masculinity. In *Beyond the Latin Lover*, Jacqueline Reich unmaskes the reality behind the myth. In her investigation of many of Mastroianni's most famous characters in Italian cinema, she reveals that beneath the image of hyper-masculinity lies the figure of the *inetto*, the Italian schlemiel at odds with and out of place in a rapidly changing world. Diverse roles throughout his career—the impotent man, the cuckold, and the unruly woman's victim, among others—present an anti-hero caught in traditional but increasingly unsteady modes of masculinity. Far from being a study of just one Italian film star, however, Reich's work demonstrates that Mastroianni's *inetto* is a reflection of the unstable political, social, and sexual climate of post-war Italy and its constantly shifting gender roles.

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