

1924-2014

# Lauren Bacall

THOSE EYES! THAT VOICE! THE TIMELESS BEAUTY OF STAGE AND SCREEN LEAVES BEHIND A 6-DECADE LEGACY OF MOVIES, MEN AND MOXIE



**N**o one could give “The Look” like Lauren Bacall. Plucked off the cover of *Harper’s Bazaar* in 1943, the girl born Betty Joan Perske

quickly transformed from a self-described “frightened” daughter of Jewish immigrants into a sultry screen icon. “I was so nervous,” Bacall told *PEOPLE* in 2007 of making her film debut in 1944’s *To Have and Have Not*, where she developed her signature gaze simply by “trying to hold my head still because I was shaking.” But with one memorable invitation to whistle, the then-19-year-old seduced both audiences and her leading man, Humphrey Bogart. “The looks, the wit, that voice that could be warm or cut glass,” says legendary talk show host Dick Cavett. “Bacall, for me, had it all.”

During her six decades in the spotlight, the bold beauty seamlessly transitioned from model to movie star to a real-life love story so spellbinding that even today, “Bogie and Bacall” remains shorthand for grand romance. At 89, the screen legend known as “Betty” to friends and family apparently suffered a fatal stroke on Aug. 12 in the New York City apartment she had called home for more than 50 years. “Lauren was a dear friend, mentor and wonderful actress,” says Nicole Kidman, who became close with Bacall on the set of 2003’s *Dogville*. “I will miss her tremendously.”

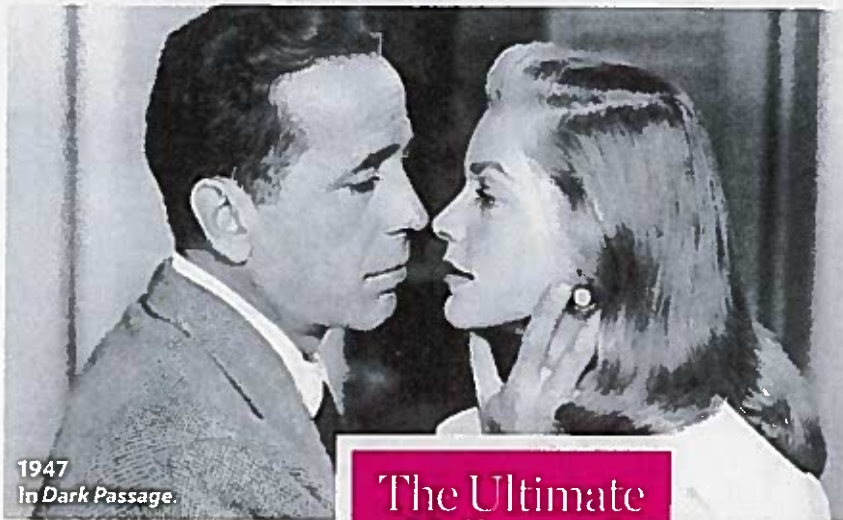
Though she would eventually amass an impressive collection of accolades, Bacall was the first to admit, “I put my career in second place throughout both my marriages.” The *How to Marry a Millionaire* actress wed Bogart in 1945

but raised their son Stephen, 65, and daughter Leslie, 62, on her own after Bogart died of esophageal cancer in 1957. She was briefly engaged to Frank Sinatra (“He behaved like a complete s---,” she later said) before marrying actor Jason Robards. They had a son, Sam, 52, but the tempestuous marriage

ended in 1969 amid Robards’s alcoholism and infidelity. “They are all off-center people—trouble and troubled,” Bacall said of the men in her life. “I suppose I must like all of that. No one simple ever thought I was great.”

Bacall spent her final years with her papillon Sophie (“my partner”), attending parties and Democratic fund-raisers held in the historic Dakota, a building with as storied a past as the actress who lived there. “This bygone place has the same view it did [in the 1900s],” says Bacall’s longtime neighbor Jane Rosenthal. “It’s a very special place. And now a gaslight has burned out.”

By Patrick Gomez. Reported by Mary Green, Elizabeth Leonard and Gabrielle Olya



1947  
In *Dark Passage*.

## The Ultimate Hollywood Romance

“Everyone could see their love right there on celluloid.” Stephen Bogart has said of his parents, who scorched the screen together four times, including in *The Big Sleep*, *Dark Passage* and *Key Largo*. “He was the great love of her life, and she his.”



Ca. 1949  
At a press event in New York.



1951  
With Stephen.



1953  
With Marilyn Monroe.



**GOLDEN GIRL**  
Bacall won two Tony Awards, a Golden Globe (for *The Mirror Has Two Faces*, with Barbra Streisand, far left) in 1997 and an honorary Academy Award in 2009. Bogie, she said, “was my great luck.”

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: PHOTOESTD; POPREFACTO/GETTY IMAGES; PHOTOEST; REUTERS/LANDOV; NY DAILY NEWS/GETTY IMAGES

**+** **TABLET BONUS!** A gallery of photos from Bacall’s life.