



# **Jackie Coogan: The World's Boy King: A Biography of Hollywood's Legendary Child Star (The Scarecrow Filmmakers Series)**

*Diana Serra Cary*

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Discovered by Charlie Chaplin in 1919, four-year-old Jackie Coogan soared to overnight stardom for his title role in the silent masterpiece, *The Kid*. A string of successes followed, including Peck's *Bad Boy*, *Oliver Twist*, and *A Boy of Flanders*, earning Coogan a fortune of four million dollars. Dubbed 'The Millionaire Kid' by the press, he later had to sue his parents in a futile attempt to recover his squandered fortune. His later years were marked with penury and the cruel diminishment of his childhood fame. As an adult, he found work in character roles and gained unexpected but fleeting fame as 'Uncle Fester' in the series *The Addams Family*. He continued to make guest appearances on television until his death in 1984. In *Jackie Coogan: The World's Boy King*, Diana Serra Cary reveals the little-known and even less understood private life of this famous child star and his dysfunctional family. She looks at the highs and lows of an actor who reached the height of fame before ten and whose subsequent career took an inevitable fall. Cary also examines the conduct of Coogan's parents, whose behavior served as an unfortunate model for countless others who sought fame and fortune through their children's success. The author, a major child star (the former *Baby Peggy*), employs her own hard-won insight to explore the career and family woes of another in this fascinating account about one of the greatest child stars of all time. Includes more than 30 photos.

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