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THE BAD AND THE BEAUTIFUL

All is not gold.

B/W. 1953. SP Charles Schnee. B/O story by George Bradshaw. DIR Vincente Minnelli. PROD John Houseman. MGM. STARS Lana Turner, Kirk Douglas, Walter Pidgeon, Dick Powell, Barry Sullivan, Gloria Grahame, Gilbert Roland, Leo G. Carroll.

A superslick, creamily handsome and entertaining saga of a Hollywood heel, a director, how he got there and the victims along the way. Rather oddly, although Kirk Douglas plays this ruthless chap with fierce, jawjutting authority, we seldom get beneath the skin. Likewise the others here, for the most part, although a colorful assortment of film folk parade in and out, under the wise direction of Vincente Minnelli. The shrewdly cynical tone of Charles Schnee's script permeates the drama, leaving questions unanswered. Why, for instance, does he hoist Lana Turner to stardom then shed her?