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# Blockbuster book rips lid off

# GENE TIERNEY'S TRAGIC SECRETS

● Her turbulent romances

● The baby born blind and deaf

● Her battle with mental illness



A BLOCKBUSTER new biography about the charmed but tragic life of screen legend Gene Tierney is hitting the bookstores – and GLOBE has a sneak preview of her heart-breaking story.

“Gene’s story is one of the most amazing of all Hollywood stars,” says Michelle Vogel, who wrote *Gene Tierney: A Biography* with the participation of Tierney’s first husband, fashion designer Oleg Cassini, and her daughter Christina Cassini.

The book covers the actress’s meteoric rise to fame, turbulent love life, battle with mental illness, her early retirement from Hollywood – and lots more.

The glamorous star’s credits are impressive. She is best known for her role in 1944’s *Laura*, in which she played beautiful murder victim Laura Hunt. The following year, she was nominated for a Best Actress Oscar for her portrayal of evil murderer Ellen Brent in *Leave Her to Heaven*.

In 1946, she appeared in two



Tierney married fashion designer Oleg Cassini (left) in 1941. At right, the tragic beauty at her sultry best in a 1952 publicity pic



Sadly, Tierney had to put deaf and blind daughter Daria in a home

mega-successful films – *The Razor’s Edge* and the gothic thriller *Dragonwyck*. Then, in 1947 she played the strong-willed widow who finds true love with a phantom seaman in *The Ghost and Mrs. Muir* – and she worked steadily until her tragic breakdown in 1955.

“Gene was born in 1920, grew up in upstate New York, and her final two years of schooling were at a prestigious private school in Switzerland,” Vogel says. “She had one of the easiest entries into showbiz. At 17 years old, she visited Hollywood, and while touring Warner Brothers studio, she was offered a screen test that resulted in the studio offering her a contract of \$150 a week. “Gene’s father was against it, and she turned it down. But back in New York, she started auditioning on Broadway, and within weeks found work on the stage.” Spotted by a Hollywood talent scout, Tierney was offered a \$350-a-week contract