

America does not have royalty. It has the Academy Awards. For nine decades, perfectly coiffed starlets, debonair leading men, and producers with gold in their eyes have chased the elusive Oscar. What began as an industry banquet in 1929 has now exploded into a hallowed ceremony, complete with red carpets, sealed envelopes, and little gold men. But don't be fooled by the pomp: the Oscars, more than anything, are a battlefield, where the history of Hollywood—and of America itself—unfolds in dramas large and small. The road to the Oscars may be golden, but it's paved in blood, sweat, and broken hearts.

In *Oscar Wars*, Michael Schulman takes a fresh look at the remarkable, sprawling history of the Academy Awards and the personal dramas—some iconic, others never-before-revealed—that have played out on the stage and off-camera. Rather than cataloguing every single Oscar night, each chapter takes a deep dive into a particular year, conflict, or category that tells a larger story of cultural upheaval, from Louis B. Mayer to *Moonlight*. Schulman examines how the red carpet runs through contested turf, and the victors aren't always as clear as the names drawn from the envelopes. Caught in the crossfire are people: their thwarted ambitions, their artistic epiphanies, their messy collaborations, their dreams fulfilled or dashed.

Featuring a star-studded cast of some of the most powerful Hollywood players of today and yesterday, as well as outsiders who stormed the palace gates, this captivating history is a collection of revelatory tales, each representing a turning point for the Academy, for the movies, or for the culture at large.

**MICHAEL SCHULMAN** is the author of the *New York Times* bestseller *Her Again: Becoming Meryl Streep* and a staff writer at the *New Yorker*, where he has been a contributor since 2006. His work has also appeared in the *New York Times* and *Vanity Fair*, among other publications. He lives in New York City.

READ BY CHARLIE THURSTON

 Harper Audio

Running Time: Approx. 21 Hours • Unabridged

Copyright © 2023 by Michael Schulman. © & © 2023 HarperCollins Publishers. Jacket design by Joanne O'Neill. Jacket illustration by Agata Nowicka. Jacket images, clockwise from top right: Gloria Swanson, Halle Berry, Jack Nicholson, Bette Davis, Orson Welles, Gwyneth Paltrow, Sidney Poitier, Quentin Tarantino, Kirk Douglas, and Steven Spielberg. [www.harperaudio.com](http://www.harperaudio.com)

PLAYAWAY®

Playaway pre-loaded audiobooks are the best way to listen, unplugged and uninterrupted.

WWW.PLAYAWAY.COM  
© 2023 Playaway. Patented. All rights reserved.  
Designed in Ohio. Made in China.



LIGHT

PLAYAWAY®

## OSCAR WARS



A HISTORY OF  
HOLLYWOOD  
IN GOLD, SWEAT,  
AND TEARS

—  
MICHAEL  
SCHULMAN

 Harper Audio

PLAYAWAY®  
THE ALL-IN-ONE AUDIOBOOK

