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Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- Illustrations -- Acknowledgments -- Introduction -- 1. Oh, "Doll Divine": Mary Pickford, Masquerade, and the Pedophilic Gaze -- 2. Cosseting the Nation; or, How to Conquer Fear Itself with Shirley Temple -- 3. "The Little Girl with the Big Voice": Deanna Durbin and Sonic Womanliness -- 4. Velvet's Cherry: Elizabeth Taylor and Virginal English Girlhood -- 5. Perilous Transition: Jennifer Jones as Melodrama's Hysterical Adolescent -- 6. "Chi-Chi Cinderella": Audrey Hepburn as Couture Countermodel -- Conclusion -- Notes -- Selected Bibliography -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	In <i>Precocious Charms</i> , Gaylyn Studlar examines how Hollywood presented female stars as young girls or girls on the verge of becoming women. Child stars are part of this study but so too are adult actresses who created motion picture masquerades of youthfulness. Studlar details how Mary Pickford, Shirley Temple, Deanna Durbin, Elizabeth Taylor, Jennifer Jones, and Audrey Hepburn performed girlhood in their films. She charts the multifaceted processes that linked their juvenated star personas to a wide variety of cultural influences, ranging from Victorian sentimental art to New Look fashion, from nineteenth-century

children's literature to post-World War II sexology, and from grand opera to 1930's radio comedy. By moving beyond the general category of "woman," *Precocious Charms* leads to a new understanding of the complex pleasures Hollywood created for its audience during the half century when film stars were a major influence on America's cultural imagination.
