

# Picture OF THE MONTH

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer presents

**GREGORY PECK**  
**AVA GARDNER**  
**MELVYN DOUGLAS**

WALTER HUSTON • ETHEL BARRYMORE  
FRANK MORGAN • AGNES MOOREHEAD

in **'THE GREAT SINNER'**

Screen Play by Ladislav Fodor and Christopher Isherwood. Story by Ladislav Fodor and Rene Fucloep-Miller

Directed by ROBERT SIODMAK

Produced by GOTTFRIED REINHARDT



Customarily in this column we devote the last paragraph or so to plaudits for those whose artistry contributed to a Picture of the Month. But, this month, the acting and script-writing and direction that went into M-G-M's romantic drama, "The Great Sinner," are so astonishingly good that we must pay our tribute here and now.

Gregory Peck, in our opinion, has never done a more magnificent piece of acting. His role demands tenderness, romance, rage, elegance, brutality—and he handles it all with unbelievable dramatic skill. And playing opposite him, in an unusual romantic situation, is lovely Ava Gardner, who proves that her ability is in every way comparable to her beauty.

Together they vividly portray the ecstasy and terror of sweethearts who are caught up in the irresistible, frenzied grip of gambling for enormous stakes. It is Ava's love, Gregory's life, that finally hang on the fatal turn of the wheel.

The cast, every one of them, contributes to the brilliance and hypnotic fascination of the story. Melvyn Douglas as a steely-cold king of the casino does a masterful job. Walter Huston as the old general and Frank Morgan as the kindly professor give depth and dimension to their portrayals. Their lives tremble at the smile or frown of Lady Fortune. Ethel Barrymore proves indisputably that she is one of the screen's First Ladies.

Acclaim for the direction goes to Robert Siodmak, who need bow to no one as a master of suspense and adventure. As producer of "The Great Sinner" Gottfried Reinhardt earns unstinting praise. For the script, credit Messrs. Ladislav Fodor and Christopher Isherwood.

If we have been lavish with adjectives it is because "The Great Sinner" has been lavish with talent and imagination. This, and we mean it from the bottom of our heart, is great entertainment.

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# Woman's Home COMPANION

MAY 1949

EDWARD ANTHONY, publisher

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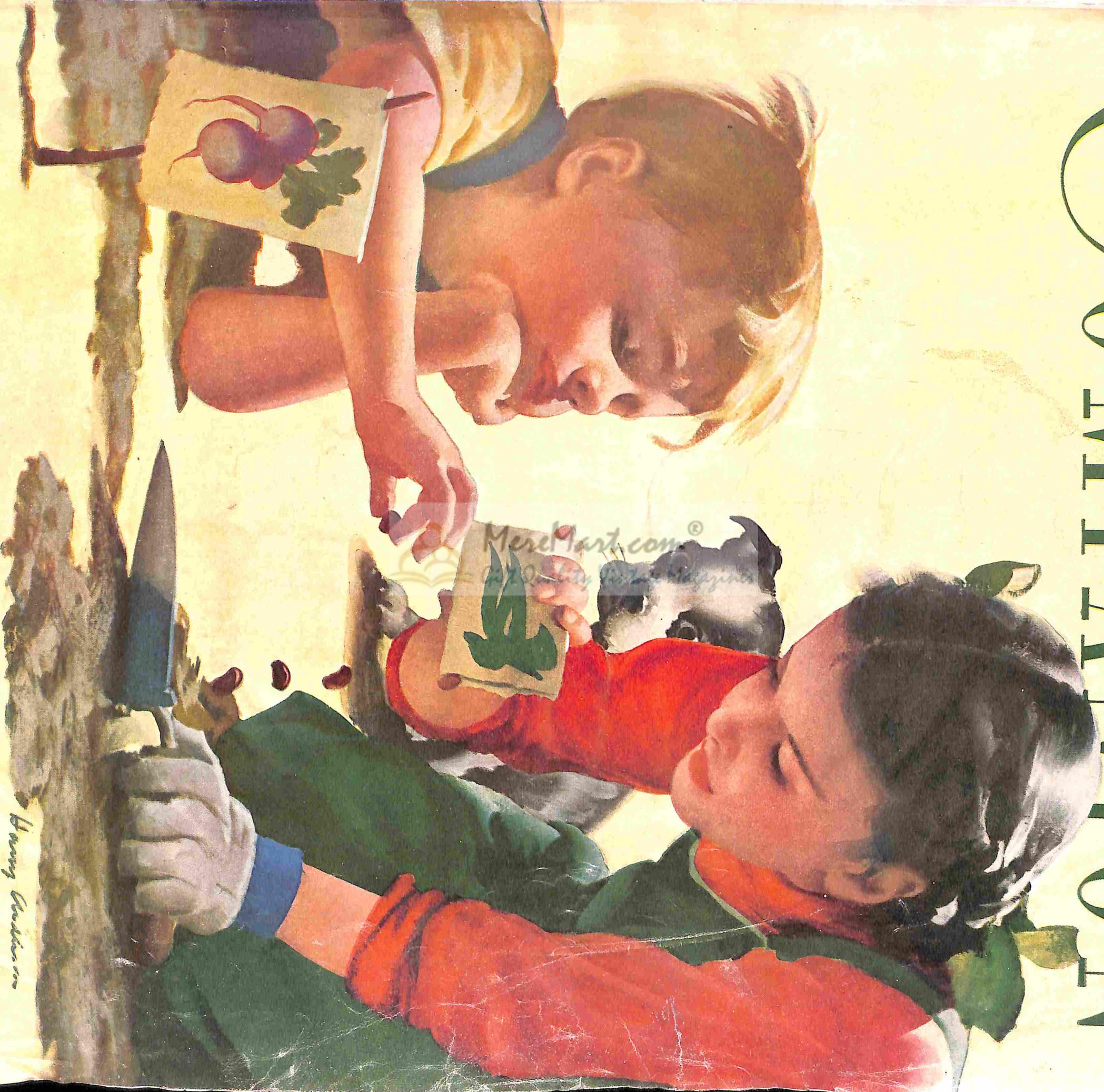
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