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Third Floor Back; and Kaaren Verne, in the clutches of the Nazi agents, adequate, quite adequate.

No. The fact is the story is full of tall fishes, red herrings, and overgrown situations. Mr. Bogart is apparently a city thug, a gangster of the kindly kind, who has friends as well as enemies, all of whom know him as Gloves Donohue. But Mr. Donohue is fond of cheese-cakes, and his fondness leads him to ask questions about the death of an old man who made the best cheese-cakes in New York. (Actually, the audience know all along who killed the old baker—they see Mr. Lorre do it very efficiently). When his questions lead him to a night club, it's no surprise to find the beautiful Kaaren Verne singing there under the eye and the thumb of the persuasive Mr. Lorre; and only a slight surprise to find Gloves Donohue careless enough to leave one of his gloves behind with the corpse he found ahead of the police. After that, however, we are surprised a number of times; for instance when Gloves Donohue and his friend attend a full meeting of all the Nazi agents in New York (dozens of them, all as guttural as you like), by the simple expedient of knocking a couple of newcomers on the head, dumping them round the corner, and walking in, heiling cheerfully, with their passes . . . and for instance when Mr. Lorre looks surprised at the tough treatment handed out to him by Boss Veidt at the end. Surely, Peter, you knew he'd shoot you as quick as look at you? No, apparently not. But he does. And when Gloves has disposed of Conrad, and his thugs have disposed of all the other Nazis, there remains only the shouting, and good old Gloves is free to pursue his happy tribute-strewn pathway round the night-clubs and the racecourses. . . .

Well, that's how Hollywood deals with the Fifth Column menace all through one night in New York City.

IN THIS OUR LIFE

(Warner Bros.)



IF the title of this film is what I think it is, a misquotation from *As You Like It*, I can think of no choice more incongruous; the life described, in the Forest of Arden was exempt from public haunt, and enabled the Duke and his followers to find good in everything; the life of the Timberlake family as shown in the Warner Bros. film *In This Our Life*, looked about as near hell as anything I've ever seen on the screen.

The situation is that Olivia de Havilland and Bette Davis are presented as sisters, the first married to a young doctor (Dennis Morgan), the second engaged to a young lawyer (George Brent). But Bette Davis, the bad sister, runs off with the young doctor husband, makes him unhappy, drives him to drink and finally to suicide; Olivia de Havilland, the good sister, has meanwhile picked up her broken pieces and decided with George Brent, to make the most of what's left. But then the bad sister returns home and begins to queer as many pitches as possible.

The thesis seems to be that all the people who took after the mother's side of the family were no good, selfish, money-grabbers; and that all on the

other side were nice, soft people, full of integrity and good intentions. I don't think families work out that way; and I think in this case the whole idea was utter and unrelieved hokey. In fact, the film's only excuse for existence seems to me to be the superlative acting of Bette Davis—but it's not being sentimental to remind her producers that she doesn't necessarily have to portray nasty, neurotic types to prove she's a good actress.

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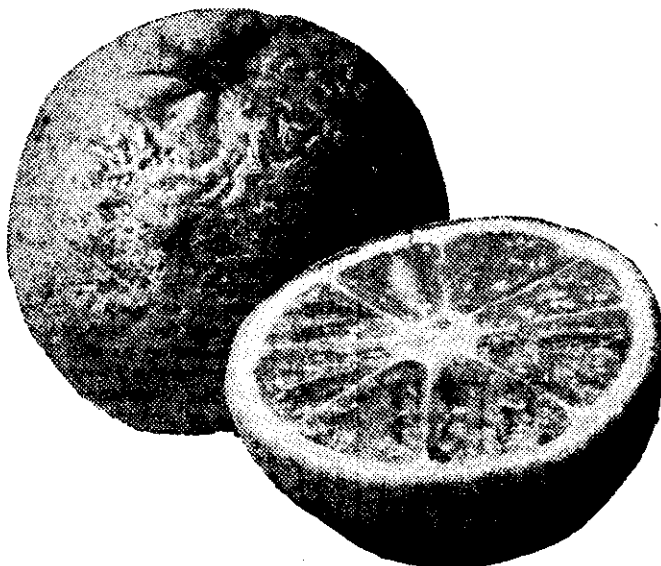
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This summer—eat all the fruit and vegetable salads you can . . . try new ideas . . . don't waste a green leaf . . . Eat green vegetables and fresh fruit and keep well.

FOR A HEALTHIER NATION