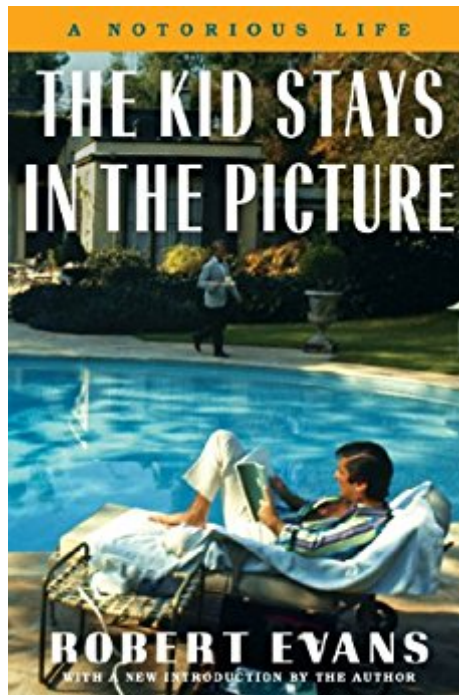




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The Kid Stays In The Picture: A Notorious Life



Synopsis

Robert Evans's The Kid Stays in the Picture is universally recognized as the greatest, most outrageous, and most unforgettable show business memoir ever written. The basis of an award-winning documentary film, it remains the gold standard of Hollywood storytelling. With black-and-white photographs from the author's archive and a new introduction by the legendary actor, producer, and Hollywood studio chief Robert Evans, The Kid Stays in the Picture is driven by a voice as charming and irresistible as any great novel. An extraordinary raconteur, Evans spares no one, least of all himself. Filled with starring roles for everyone from Ava Gardner to Marlon Brando to Sharon Stone, The Kid Stays in the Picture: A Notorious Life is sharp, witty, and self-aggrandizing, and self-lacerating in equal measure. This is a must-read for fans of American cinema and classics of the canon, including The Odd Couple, Rosemary's Baby, Love Story, The Godfather, and Chinatown.

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Customer Reviews

Robert Evans is one of those larger than life characters that the film business produces, a man who insisted upon writing this screenplay in the form of a memoir in which he was the hero of his own life. As you read the text of the scenario, you can't help but wonder how much of this saga is true, half true, or completely invented. I suspect that even the author could not tell you. Nevertheless it makes for a terrific movie. The film's hero, of course, chooses to leave out or minimize some of less sympathetic but well publicized acts of real life, and glamorize others. It is typical of such self-serving stories in which the Hollywood hero admits to being a thoroughly rotten but sexy human being--blame it here on cocaine--that he must also try to convince us that despite his horrendous behavior to everyone around him, he was always the perfect loving father. I wonder what his son thinks. There is no doubt that when Evans first ran Paramount in the early Bludhorn years he took a chance on many scripts and directors that no one else would touch, and he deservedly takes credit for their great success. However, if you look at a lifetime's batting average, the projects that were truly his, the score is very low. In life unlike the movies, Evans was no more or less a hero or genius than so many others whose inflated egos we meet on these pages. If you'd like another view, perhaps a truer one of what it was really like back then, read Peter Biskind's "Raging Bulls," etc. about the same bunch. Not a very likable group of guys, by and large, and surely not as talented as they all thought they were then, as time has shown, but there's no arguing that once upon a time Evans and his pals did make some very good films along with all the messes they made of things ...people as well as films.

This book was quite an experience. First, there was my curiosity about the man, then admiration for his talent and work ethic, followed by dismay at his offhand dismissal of several wives and many girlfriends, all the while experiencing boredom with frequent behind-the-scenes manipulations and deal-making in the picture business. There was very little info about his personal relationships with women; perhaps he was incapable of sustaining any of them. However, he had no trouble sharing info about his friendships with the men in his life. I found this to be a book from a complex character. One might call him an insecure, quasi-narcissist who pulls few punches when describing his shortcomings. Whether the reader loves or despises him, this man stands unique among men.

I liked this book more than I thought I would. Bob Evans was a major player in iconic films of my generation. His whining about not getting the money he deserved got annoying as the book went on. His story is a cautionary tale about being careful if you get what you want because in his case it cost him relationships and his health. But it was an interesting story of his rise to the top.

A truly fascinating read. A complex, irreverent and at times deeply touching memoir. Mr. Evans spills his guts and tells it like it is. He lived many lives and they are all explored at depth in this riveting book. A brilliant man and also a true vulgarian, yet his wit is such you stop minding the endless vulgarity after a while. Hey, people really do talk like that so don't let that turn you off. I almost did reading a sample of his work but something compelled me to buy the book anyway and I'm very glad I did. I would have missed one of the most fascinating memoirs I ever read and it would have been my loss. I'm always busy but I found myself looking forward to reading it every night till my eyes got tired and sleep overcame me. His book is filled with a gallery of stars but he stands in a class by himself. There's a true nobility in his character and a sense of humility behind the bravado. As you watch him rising through the ashes time and time again, you're filled with wonder at his fortitude. He's a character straight out of Tennessee Williams play, the highs, the lows, the incredible stamina and wit that had me laughing outloud throughout the book.

If you are into Hollywood and looking for interesting inside stories, this is a good book to read. It is not only about the ups and downs of Robert Evans' life, from New York to Hollywood and through the squandering of several millions of dollars, but also about the cut-throat machinations of the film studios' CEO's and their other top executives. It also provides several personal stories of Evans' associations with Hollywood stars. In parts, it skips around chronologically and on occasion it's hard to follow. It's also a little mystifying that within Evans' life story, he does not mention Sumner Redstone, owner of Viacom and to whom he gave a glowing tribute in his "Second Dedication". You would think that someone whom he had known for forty years and whom he considered to be one of his most loyal friends would certainly be a major player in his life. However, I kept looking for it and it never appeared. All in all, it's an enjoyable book - not great but, if you are a theater goer and enjoy movies, it's an interesting book to read.

I took a flyer and read this almost always fascinating memoir of an actor who rose to the top of the Hollywood Heap. This handsome & obviously very charming & magnetic hustler counted among his close friends Jack (Irish) Nicholson, Henry Kissinger & Warren Beatty, while bedding many Hollywood Beauties --- and marrying Ali McGraw, to boot. I had to accustom myself to a somewhat annoying adolescent tone that pervades the reminiscences --- but almost everyone in the tome seems to be a teenager in an adult's body. But, he did save Paramount from bankruptcy, produce "The Godfather", "Love Story", "Rosemary's Baby", "Chinatown" & "Harold & Maude" amongst many

other important films. There is never a dull moment in the 40 years covered in this book. He seems to be the last one to ever make any money from all this work, but nevertheless lives in a classic mansion, drives a Jaguar and dines at the finest watering holes around the world with his multitudes of admirers. Not bad for a Jewish boy from the rag trade.

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