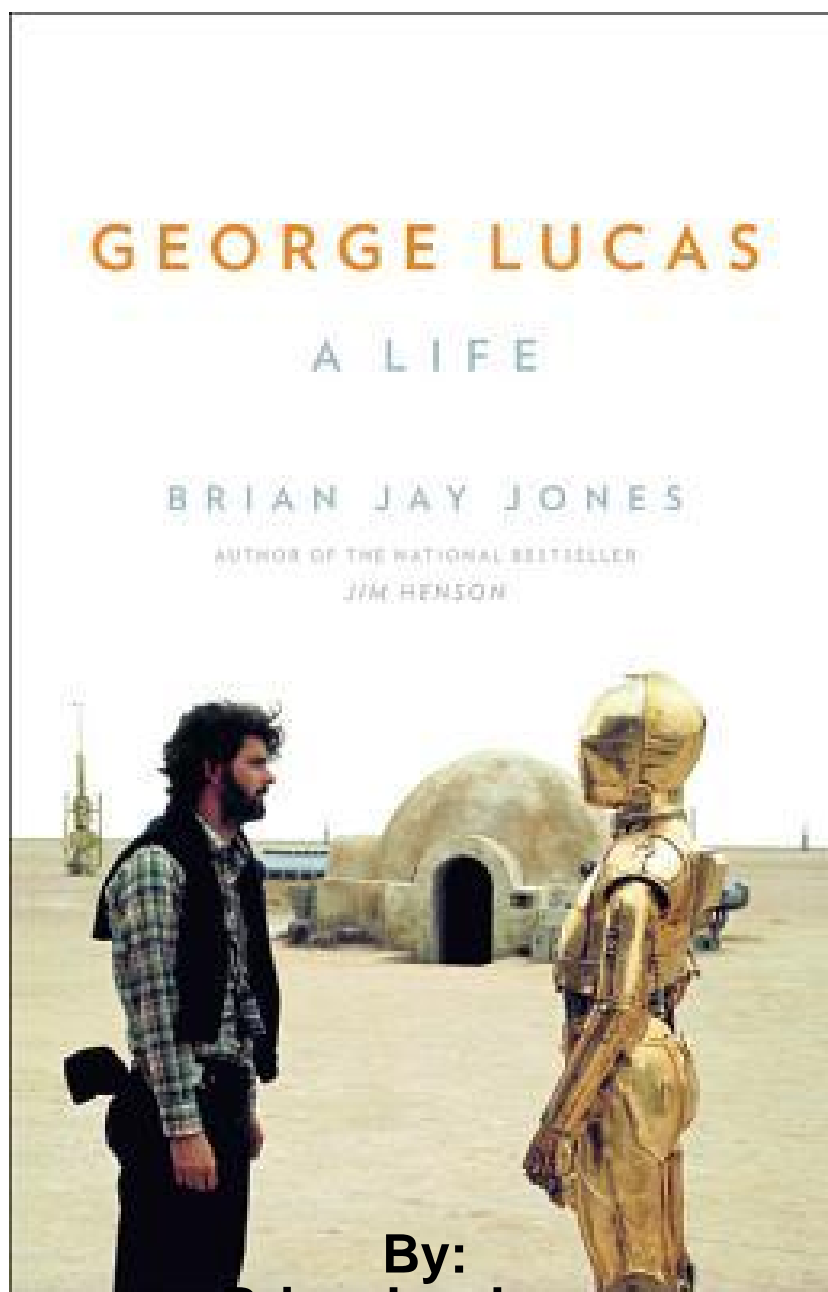

George Lucas: A Life Book PDF Download



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What people Say:

Jake

Here's something I never thought I'd say: George Lucas is a complicated man. A riddle wrapped in an enigma, wearing a flannel button-down.

He's a man blessed with vision but cursed with poor communication skills, a shrewd businessman who was never in it for the money, a passionate director who went twenty-two years without directing a movie, a logical cool-headed micromanager who found himself nevertheless genuinely hurt when his ardent fans turned on him.

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. But let's be honest, you know where to find those if you need them. Though there is plenty of neat facts about the making of the series (Did you know that Christopher Walken was initially a front-runner for the role of Han Solo? Did you know the novelization had been in bookstores for half a year before the movie premiered? Did you know it only premiered in 36 theaters?), it's a top-rate account of the man. His early life in Northern California, his desire to make artistic "tone poems" rather than blockbusters, his aversion to the studio system that birthed ILM, THX, and Pixar. His early adoption of computer generated imagery and digital filming. His friendship with Francis Ford Coppola and Steven Spielberg. His decision to relinquish control of his empire and let the whole thing go. It's also an account of how much movies and movie-making have changed since this kid and his friends came out of film school all those decades ago and changed it in a generation. It all works together to make a thorough, entertaining, and highly readable account of a man who (in Spielberg's words) has "done more for the collective consciousness of this planet than [he] will ever know."

One final thought: Reading this book, I was reminded of an old saying that goes

Marcia, George's first wife, hangs over this story like a specter. Since their 1983 divorce, she has been a notorious recluse, so Jones had to go on second-hand information for her. All sources say

that she was a master editor and had a strong grasp on the more "human" elements of George's earlier works. She wasn't around to edit or otherwise influence his works after

Dominic

I read Brian Jay Jones' biography of Jim Henson when it first came out and found myself captivated. Jones conveyed Henson's passion for his work and his joie de vivre. When I saw that Jones had written a book about George Lucas, I was cautiously optimistic. I was interested to see what somebody with Jones' talent could do with one of the most influential filmmakers in history. On the other hand, I wondered if the world really needed another biography of George Lucas.

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After reading the book, I've concluded that the world probably didn't need another biography of Lucas. Jones doesn't bring anything new to our understanding of Lucas. In other words, if you're an obsessive Star Wars/Lucas fan, have read previous Lucas biographies, and/or follow Lucas-related news, you probably won't learn anything new in this book. On the other hand, if you don't know much about Lucas and want to learn more, Jones' book is a good place to start. This book is a useful single-volume account of George Lucas' life.

To be sure, there are already enough books about the making of the original Star Wars films to fill a small library. Dale Pollock's "Skywalking" is still widely considered the most authoritative biography of Lucas' life up through the mid-1980s. J.W. Rinzler's "Making of..." books are the definitive account of the making of the Star Wars films. There aren't as many sources covering the later stages of Lucas' career, including the Prequels and sale of Lucasfilm to Disney. Jones' book does cover this period of Lucas' life, but not in nearly the same amount of detail as the original trilogy era. So it's admittedly hard for a biography to find anything new to say about Lucas, and Jones doesn't really succeed in doing so.

Where Jones does succeed is in synthesizing the existing sources and knowledge about Lucas into a readable single volume. Unlike most books about George Lucas, Jones' "George Lucas" is very much a biography of the man and not just an account of the making of Star Wars. The book covers everything from Lucas' parents to "Strange Magic," the last movie Lucas produced (as of early 2017).

Jones also has a gift for presenting Lucas as a human being, which is no small feat considering the extent to which the man who has been mythologized over the decades (in no small part due to Lucas' own efforts). Jones' Lucas is the same introvert familiar to Star Wars fans, but also a loving father and a helpless romantic. One of the most interesting parts of Jones' account is Lucas' relationship with Mellody Hobson. Jones conveys the romance in a way that seldom comes out in other sources.

That said, I can't help but be a bit disappointed by Jones' book, largely because my expectations were so high after reading Jones' Henson biography. When Jones described the art of puppetry in his Henson biography, I gained a newfound appreciation for the art form. By contrast, Jones doesn't seem to have as much passion for Lucas or Star Wars. I never felt excited when reading about Lucas' innovations in filmmaking or digital art.

Ultimately, I feel like this book might have been written a bit too early. It can't stand the test of time as a single-volume biography of Lucas if only because Lucas himself is still alive and his story is not yet over (he vows to make more movies, including Indiana Jones 5). Then again, perhaps I'm not the target audience. This book should prove very useful to new Lucas fans, those who only tuned in to the Star Wars franchise with the release of "The Force Awakens." And, as an introduction to Lucas' life, Jones' book works well.

[Note: I received a copy of this book from the publisher in exchange for an honest review.]

Ricky

This book was a good exploration of George Lucas life and career. Most of the book dealt with his Star Wars era since that makes the bulk of his story. Some times used to cover Indiana Jones and others but not as much as Star Wars. This book is good but some issues with incorrect facts for example the book stated that "Avatar" was the highest grossing film of 2010 but its considered to be 2009. This was one of the few mistakes that it had but overall the book was entertaining and showcases the i

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W. Whalin

Fascinating Insights Into the Life of George Lucas

Well-written biographies are revealing and filled with valuable lessons for the reader. Brian Jay Jones has crafted an excellent biography GEORGE LUCAS. I listened to the audiobook version and heard it cover to cover. While today, George Lucas is on the Forbes list as one of the wealthiest people in the U.S. (a billionaire in fact), he came from a humble background. Growing up in Modesto, California and the son of a business man who owned a stati

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Cindy

Fascinating book and one of the best biographies I've read lately. It is well written and pulls no punches. George Lucas is a complicated man and, whether you love him or not, there's no denying his passion. From American Graffiti and Willow to Indiana Jones and Star Wars, Lucas touched souls and changed our viewing experience. When the technology wasn't there, the Lucas companies developed new technologies to help power his visions and dreams. The behind the

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Shout out to Goodreads giveaways, the publisher and the author for my copy. I love it!