



My Life and My Films

Jean Renoir

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Here is the autobiography of the little boy with golden curls in the paintings of his father, Pierre Auguste Renoir—the boy who became the director many consider the greatest in history. François Truffaut called him “an infallible filmmaker . . . Renoir has succeeded in creating the most alive films in the history of cinema, films which still breathe forty years after they were made.” In this book, Jean Renoir(1894-1979)presents his world, from his father’s Montemarte studio to his own travels in Paris, Hollywood, and India. Here are tantalizing secrets about his greatest films—*The Rules of the Game*, *The Grand Illusion*, *The River*, *A Day in the Country*, *La Bête Humaine*, *Toni*. But most of all, Renoir shows us himself: a man of dazzling simplicity, immense creativity, and profound humanity.

My Life and My Films Details

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From Reader Review My Life and My Films for online ebook

David says

When I read a new book, I tend to rush through it in order to jump on the next book that is on my shelf. However with *My Life and My Films*, I read the book with patience and appreciation because not only does Jean Renoir give a detailed account of his films, he also shares life lessons; hence the title on the cover.

On the very last page in the last paragraph in four words, Jean Renoir sums up his reasons to become an artist and at the same time gives his reasons for life. But in the sake of context, I have decided to omit these last four words and instead I've decided on a different quote that will, more or less give you an impression of who he was as a person.

In the matter of his profession, he writes:

"I have spent my life experimenting with different styles, but it all comes down to this: my different attempts to arrive at the inward truth, which for me is the only one that matters."

In terms of life, I found this paragraph especially to be very touching:

"The shape of [the] country is constantly changing. That is why, for our peace of mind, we must try to escape from the spell of memories. Our salvation lies in plunging resolutely into the hell of the new world, a world horizontally divided, a world without passion or nostalgia...We must never let ourselves be separated from the beloved, because after a long absence she will have become another person."

Jean Renoir writes with an open heart. The book is bold and his words reveal his inner self without cowardice - though he repeatedly claims to be one. By the end of the book, I came to the conclusion that Jean Renoir was an artist, but most importantly a human being.

Ali says

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Antonius Block says

This chronological collection of vignettes from Renoir's life is something of an autobiography, balancing anecdotes, personal theories, and life wisdom throughout. There is little analysis of his work here, but the sizable amount of background information, along with stories that reveal Renoir's sensibility, make this a worthwhile and at times enlightening read.

Stephanie says

Renoir's account of his childhood, his politics, and his movie-making feeds a hungry nostalgia. I count this as an alone-on-a-deserted-island book--full of stories about real people and stories about stories: from his initiation to the theaters on the Boulevard of Crime, to his work with the "born actor" Jean Gabin, all the way to his unwilling abstinence from film-making in his final years in Hollywood. It's easy to side with Renoir's positions--that the external is a better starting point for art than the internal; that Chaplin's tramp offers perhaps the only tenable way to exist in our insane human world: meek acceptance. It's a dear book.

Arthur Hoyle says

A warm memoir from the master of French humanist cinema. Contains a touching portrait of his father, the painter Auguste Renoir.

Islam says

Alex Peterson says

you have to love renoir to love movies.

Aeisele says

I wish I was born a hundred years about, mainly so I could've met this man. I love his films, and it seems to me we'd have been of one mind about lots of things. At least that's how he writes, and that's how me makes movies.

Anna P says

Amintirile lui Renoir din copilarie sunt dominate de figura tatalui- Pierre Auguste Renoir si a unei fete de saisprezece ani care-i servea ca model pentru unele picturi si-i tinea companie micului Jean. Gabrielle este si cea careia ii este dedicata cartea, deoarece regizorul sustine ca ea i-a facut cunostinta cu lumea teatrului, l-a invatat sa vada chipurile prin masti si sa aiba oroare de cliseu. Urmeaza primele sale intalniri cu cinematograful, fascinatia sa pentru un actor numit Charlot, intalnirea cu Catherine Hessling care-i va fi si sotie, deceptiile dar si bucuriile pe care i le-a oferit lumea cinematografiei.

Louis Pz says

A memoir, a guide to film making, a philosophy, a missiosn statement. Recommended even to those who are not fans of his films.

Kimberly Willson - St. Clair says

There is a great chicken recipe in either this book or the one about his father, Auguste....The greatest film auteur (in my book) talks about spontaneity and capturing real life on film.

Patrick says

This is a memoir, not an autobiography - Renoir makes no attempt to provide a complete story of his life, and mentions many people who were surely important in his life (his wives, his son) mostly in passing. Appropriately for the son of Pierre-Auguste Renoir, it is impressionistic, focusing on certain moments in his life that were striking to him when he looked back on his life. If you are a fan of his films, Renoir gives you insight into the choices he made about subject matter and directing, and you get the sense why his best movies have so much life in them. It is the small moments he describes that are powerful, particularly the closing image, when, as a dying old man, he calls out again what he used to say as a child running behind his beloved governess, now deceased: Attends-moi, Gabrielle! (Wait for me, Gabrielle!)
