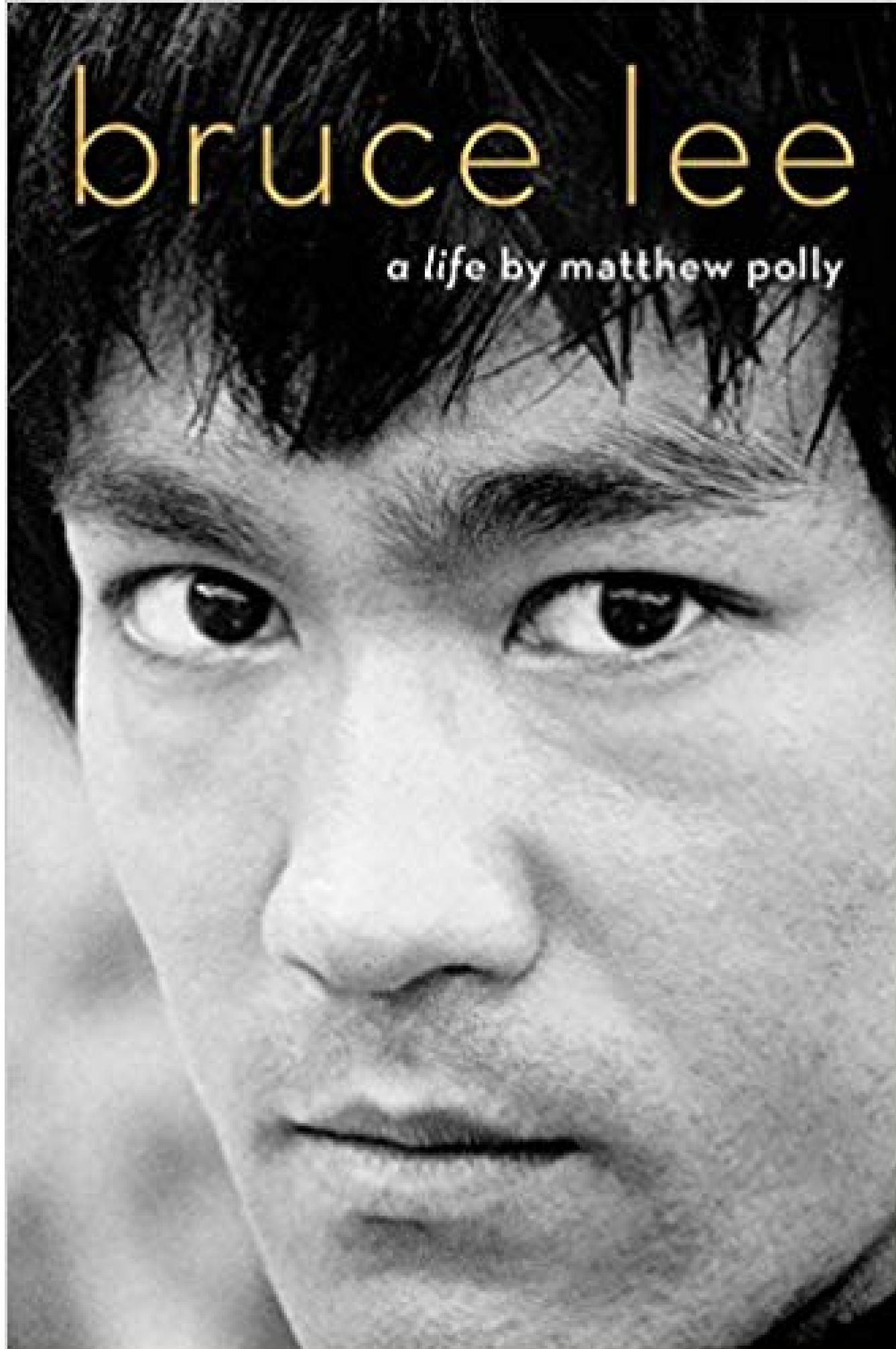


bruce lee

a life by matthew polly



Matthew Polly

Bruce Lee: A Life



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“ Polly explores Lee and a definitive one at that...The New York Times Book Review The most authoritative biography—” —Interesting narrative threads proliferate, offering dozens of rarely seen photographs— Polly reduces the myths encircling Bruce Lee and argues that, contrary to public opinion, he was an ambitious actor who was simply enthusiastic about the martial arts—Forty-five years after Bruce Lee’s unexpected death at age group thirty-two, journalist and bestselling writer Matthew Polly has created the definitive account of Lee’s existence. It’s his challenges juggling a sky-rocketing career with his duties as a father and husband; incredibly, there has under no circumstances been an authoritative biography of Lee. Following a decade of study that included conducting several hundred interviews with Lee’ This is an honest, revealing appearance at an extraordinary yet imperfect guy whose personal tale was even more enjoyable and inspiring than any fictional function he played onscreen. The first noteworthy treatment of its subject—s early the child years superstar in Hong Kong cinema; his actor father’ and his shocking end that even today is still shrouded in mystery. his beginnings as a fighting techniques teacher, eventually becoming personal instructor to celebrities like James Coburn and Steve McQueen; his struggles as an Asian-American actor in Hollywood and frustration viewing role after function he auditioned for go to a white actors in eyes makeup; not really a kung-fu guru who simply so happened to make a couple of movies. s also among the only accounts; s struggles with opium addiction and how that turned Bruce into a troublemaking teenager who was kicked out of high school and eventually delivered to America to shape up; of film legend Bruce Lee, who made martial arts a worldwide phenomenon, bridged the divide between Eastern and Western cultures, and smashed long-kept stereotypes of Asians and Asian-Americans. his eventual triumph as a respected man; s family, friends, business associates, and also the actress in whose bed Lee died, Polly has constructed a complicated, humane portrait of the icon.



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Incredible Work of Art I've been a Bruce Lee scholar as far back as I can remember. At various points in my existence, he's played different roles: Childhood Hero, Martial Guru, Zen Mystic, Punk Rock Non Conformist, American Icon. As a kid of the 70's/80's whose sole passions were Comic Books, Celebrity Wars, Rocky Balboa and Bruce Lee, I've a deep reverence for mythology. As a martial practitioner of 33 years who's studied a fair amount of combative sciences, I have an equal have to rationalize and demythologize.. Best biography up to now. Captivated by his image, I sought out as many photos and tales as I possibly could, getting my repair mostly through publications and campfire lore. Polly is not any slouch! My insufficient usage of his movies at that time (this was pre house cinema and smart cell phones), if you ask me, reinforced his mythical position. Looking back again, I'm inclined to trust that was the genesis of my obsessive prolonged seek out him. In the ensuing years, furthermore to viewing his adult filmography repeatedly (with near religious fervor), I read every biography, watched every documentary and meticulously dissected whatever I could find on the man. Polly come up with this book 45 years after the loss of life of Lee by constructing his life though interviews with eyesight witnesses and produces a accurate account of Lee's existence. But following honeymoon period(admittedly, a long one), stagnation set in, and I grew a bit disillusioned. What bothered me in particular was this: Bruce Lee's story, if you ask me, had become, to quotation Tarantino, "a casino game of present and tell. The sheer wealth of details this opus provides (the majority of which I'm completely comfortable saying will be unknown to even the most die hard of enthusiasts) is half of what truly makes it the monumental achievement it is. Paradoxically, the more I discovered, the less I experienced I knew.Among the residual benefits of being truly a seeker, may be the compulsive want to complete gaps. Compared to that end, I made the beat between the beats the concentrate of my Lee studies. It's a level of intimacy seldom achieved in writing, aside from a bio.Matthew Polly will an incredible job of research and bringing to life the true man. What drove his insatiable need to be regarded as the very best? Who have been his heroes? How did he handle embarrassing moments in his lifestyle? Boy, do he., etc. Some of these questions I found answers to. Some I'll never understand. Upon reflection though, this quest to comprehend my idol was similarly driven by the need to understand aspects of myself and, ultimately, liberate me from the grips of hero worship. Essentially, it was a gateway for me to arrive into my own. It can and excellent work of simply stating that which was (in line with the authors analysis). With that, he succeeds in demythologizing the god, and celebrating the legend. For those who've heard the Frank Sinatra/Vic Damone rumor of Lee's impromptu Gung Fu demonstration on the bodyguards --the true story is finally exposed. To be reasonable, I got spent a helluva lot of period with that dude, and, while I was grateful for his motivation and indebted to him for beginning me on my martial route, I needed period with the other guy (or the dude pretending to end up being the various other dude). Enter Matthew Polly. With this masterpiece of design, Matt Polly proves himself to be a true compound matter expert whose keen attention to detail reveals how much of a labor of love this task was to him. And I was skeptical. Yes, there is new information in right here, and not everything is flattering, but. Despite the fact this publication reveals a Bruce Lee it doesn't always match the hype we are able to end up being thankful to Polly that he required upon this huge task 45 years after Lee's death to finally make this epic bio that no one had ever performed through countless interviews of individuals who knew Lee. How granular was he likely to get? Yet another: what was the timeline of July 20th, 1973 and what were the contributing factors that resulted in Lee's loss of life? Ever the gentleman, he replied back and stated his purpose in no unclear conditions: his objective was to write the most complete biography on Bruce Lee, and hoped to present the man, as can be, warts

and all. I had heard this type o' stuff before. My intent, at the time, was to qualify him as a biographer. Two years and 650 pages (actually 2,000+ which he whittled down) later on, I'm thrilled to state that Matthew Polly has done the impossible. That's, he's chronicled and captured the intricacies of a complex man who's been deified in every items martial and worshipped by many as a superhuman power that's beyond understanding. It's challenging to overstate how hard Matt's journey will need to have been wading through 45 years of mist and mire to attain the person behind the curtain. That his vanity may have strongly contributed to his loss of life is also unfortunate for if what Polly says is true that Lee had surgery to remove sweat glands, then that could have played a factor in Polly's belief that Lee passed away of the results of temperature stroke. He handles the wide-ranging life like he's written a ton of these before. That's just how much of an influence he had on me. Where to start? You're showing me everything, but informing me nothing". Equally as important are the revelations gleaned from the connective cells that Polly seamlessly weaves into tales and anecdotes that a lot of fans are familiar with, offering a broader perspective to those tales and giving them their proper context. Certainly, many folks will be amazed by the items missing from the stories they thought they knew. Additionally, the first 80 web pages spend a significant period of time tracing Lee's lineage and exploring his adolescent film career and lifestyle in Hong Kong (the first piece of writing to accurately do so) prior to returning to the US in 1959. Great read. I often mused about composing and creating a 'definitive' bio that shown him as a three dimensional human being - not the superhuman comic reserve personality resurrected from the ashes, ipso facto. Later, Polly gives us the first proper information on Lee's small known "Northern Leg, Southern Fist" script treatment. Most fans understand that Lee was a fairly great pencil artist, but are they aware of what specific artwork he admired and could have harbored a desire to go after himself? Was it going to be a regurgitation of the same ol', same ol'? The answers are all organized, hour by hour, and supported by those involved with distinctly quantifiable ways. All this and much more is normally relayed to the reader in a deeply resonant and visceral way that defies category. Indeed, the psychological connection is so riveting that, when reading each web page, one feels they are there, alongside Lee, in his mind, experiencing his very thoughts and feelings. Who was simply the man? There is a distinct difference between a subject matter expert and a substance matter expert. Subject material experts memorize other people's information, while substance matter professionals understand the skeleton and mechanics of the subject and impart what they discovered, not really what they memorized. Total disclosure: I had reached out to Matt a couple of years prior to the release of his book. Like a lot of us, Matt's lifestyle was forever transformed by Bruce Lee. And that human being accomplishes things which are unreal. Like so many astonishing talents, he resided hard, fast and short, burning up his life's candle at both ends. Etc. Many thanks Matt, for giving us this much needed, prolonged overdue gift. In a very real method, you've produced the book I wish I'd written. Most Comprehensive Bruce Lee Bio To Date The author, Matthew Polly, certainly did the requisite legwork to understand this story right. To build up, codify and collate such a prodigious quantity of datum would take an applied effort of several years, before the real writing could actually start. rather it's inspiring since it actually makes Bruce Lee a human being.. I would not actually see him in action til' a year later on, in Game of Loss of life 1978 (the opening 4 minutes and final 11 moments of this film's influence on me is related to Saul's transformation to Paul). Which must have been a labor of like. The book is an enjoyable read, that confirms much of what I suspected all along, and reaffirms Bruce Lee's rightful place in fighting techinques and movie producing lore. Lee was a mover and a shaker, with an ambition and dream too big to be denied! His contribution changed two sectors, creating

pivotal influences to martial arts training and a new genre of films that ultimately became section of our tradition. Still, it turns out that Bruce Lee was just a man in the end, albeit a remarkable, innovative and influential man. He succeeded. But he achieved true greatness, and he were able to do it mostly "his way". If you've read every credible article and reserve on Bruce Lee, this will tie everything collectively nicely. A must-go through for serious Bruce Lee supporters! enough said. Best biography to date. What held him up during the night? To some degree its a little bit disappointing as the man will not always live up to the legend constructed around him. There exists a degree of sadness scanning this book as the Bruce Lee story actually reminded me of a Bible verse where Jesus said "What will it profit a guy to gain the globe but eliminate his soul". And in a few ways that seems to be the unfortunate story of Bruce Lee. Who worked his method finally to the top where he wanted millions of dollars and even told some movie suppliers they could not longer afford him, after that suddenly he dies in the house of his mistress before he can reap this all in. In doing this, he doesn't just write the definitive Bruce Lee biography, rather, he produces a work of intimate beauty really worthy of it's subject matter. What was the tone was he choosing? The gospels were created in a similar time period, within 40 years of the life span of Jesus. Originally, I took satisfaction in the 'facts' I'd gleaned, content material in the basic beats of his story as well as what I came across 'off script'. Strangely, as students of the New Testament Gospels, I was also struck by a odd thought a few days when i finished this reserve. People should think about them accurate to. Time will not change what eyewitnesses remember Bruce Lee: A INDIVIDUAL and a Legend Wonder if I'm a Bruce Lee fan? Look at the attached image of my dining area wall; Ray B A Through Well Research work As a lover of Lee's films since seeing "Enter the Dragon" 44 years back I usually was fascinated by Bruce Lee. I approached this book very skeptically, understanding a number of other functions that throw reality apart in order to capitalize on glamorization. Having simply completed it, hardly ever once did I feel that was the case with this reserve. In my center of hearts, my need to understand Bruce Lee was transformative. What was his focus going to be?.. A great book which has a lot of years of research in it to make it very accurate. Not because it makes him out to be always a superhuman doing superhuman points and having ingenious thoughts;. On several occasion, he's intimated that writing this reserve was his method of paying back that debt to his childhood idol. I laughed and also shed a tear (the beginning is quite moving), but primarily I grew to like the legend of Bruce Lee even more. Hands-down 100% the best biography I've ever read I've go through a silly amount of biographies as a former history student, both for my schooling and for my very own personal learning. I am not exaggerating when I say that Bruce Lee: A Lifestyle is the BEST biography I've ever go through. Polly masterfully paints the world where Lee was born and then continued to form for himself, weaving in a more substantial history to explain the cultural dynamics of the time. The whole book reads less like a biography and more like an engrossing fictional work but without adding to the bloat because even the most beautiful and dramatic moments are accurate. Polly's interviews cover an enormous selection of Lee's contemporaries, all of whom add their own personal opinions to a biography that is unbiased and objective. That is a significant feat considering this is Polly's 1st biography, which astounded me when I read the afterword. Equivalent parts character study, experience tale and forensic dissection, Polly's tome is usually a meditation on our personal 20th century Dorian Gray. A personal story I was impressed regarding the level of fine detail the writer has garnered about Bruce's life. The reserve is well-researched and thoroughly cited. Polly's writing is definitely easy-flowing and enjoyable. A must read for Bruce Lee fans I've been a Bruce Lee fan since I was a kid and there is a lot in here I never knew. My preliminary introduction to Lee at the tender age of 6,

was through a movie still. However most movies about him and any written material seem a bit too good to be true. Immortal Dragon. These two approaches have got governed my philosophy and sights on nearly precisely what grabs my attention..enough said! A mortal with unique skills and a shining present for mankind. His Legacy is certainly infinite. Jeet Kune Perform today, JKD tomorrow, THE INTERCEPTING FIST FOREVER. Polly doesn't glaze over the shortcomings of Lee, his errors and his flaws, but doesn't allow that honesty ruin the greatness of what Lee achieved in both life and death. I have read many books about Bruce which is the first to get into such personal detail. Great read. Moreover, we're given a traditional overview of Hong Kong itself and the sociable environment that the youthful Bruce Lee arrived up in (the info here's paramount to understanding his 'origin'). This is by far the most inspiring Bruce Lee tale I've ever come across.



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