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Stanley Kubrick And Me: Thirty Years At His Side

Emilio D'Alessandro, with Filippo Ulivieri

STANLEY KUBRICK and me

THIRTY YEARS AT HIS SIDE



Synopsis

This intimate portrait by his former personal assistant and confidante reveals the man behind the legendary filmmaker - for the first time. Stanley Kubrick, the director of a string of timeless movies from *Lolita* and *Dr. Strangelove* to *A Clockwork Orange*, *2001: A Space Odyssey*, *Full Metal Jacket*, and others, has always been depicted by the media as the Howard Hughes of filmmakers, a weird artist obsessed with his work and privacy to the point of madness. But who was he really? Emilio D'Alessandro lets us see. A former Formula Ford driver who was a minicab chauffeur in London during the Swinging Sixties, he took a job driving a giant phallus through the city that became his introduction to the director. Honest, reliable, and ready to take on any task, Emilio found his way into Kubrick's neurotic, obsessive heart. He became his personal assistant, his right-hand man and confidant, working for him from *A Clockwork Orange* until Kubrick's death in 1999. Emilio was the silent guy in the room when the script for *The Shining* was discussed. He still has the coat Jack Nicholson used in the movie. He was an extra on the set of *Eyes Wide Shut*, Kubrick's last movie. He knew all the actors and producers Kubrick worked with; he observed firsthand Kubrick's working methods, down to the smallest detail. Making no claim of expertise in cinematography, but with plenty of anecdotes, he offers a completely fresh perspective on the artist and a warm, affecting portrait of a generous, kind, caring man who was a perfectionist in work and life.

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Customer Reviews

I've always admired Kubrick as an artist. This is the first time I could (start to) understand him as Stanley, a human. This is a magnificent book for anyone interested in the personality of genius,

cinema, Stanley's films, or a sincere and heartfelt memoir. My only complaint is the very best - I wish for more. Having read almost every book on the man, this is my favorite and the most essential.

If you are interested in Stanley Kubrick, buy this book. It's that simple. As other reviewers have noted, this is not a book about film making. Emilio D'Alessandro was effectively Kubrick's personal assistant for thirty years. An Italian ex-racing driver (!), he freely admits he knows nothing about film, and, indeed, had never viewed even a single Kubrick film from beginning to end until after having worked with the man on a daily basis for decades. (Also, one very tiny quibble: the photos in the book are mostly small and rather fuzzily reproduced.) What this is, really, is a joint biography of two families, the D'Alessandros and the Kubricks. Sensitively written (with the participation of Filippo Ulivieri) the book transports you into Kubrick's working household, and a portrait of the great director built up through a thousand details of daily life and casual interactions between the director and others. There are no boardroom power meetings here, and no premiers, There is just the man. Workaholic, driven, and hugely intelligent, yes. But also anxious, kind, decent, and someone who enjoyed being constantly with his family (including a herd of beloved pets). Stanley Kubrick pulled off the near miracle of turning epic film-making into a home business. Emilio D'Alessandro was with Stanley Kubrick right up to the director's death in 1999, and it is perhaps the highest tribute to this affecting account, that by the time you reach that event you will feel every bit of the emotional desolation it caused to those who had truly known him.

This compelling, fascinating, beautifully written memoir paints a richly detailed portrait of Stanley Kubrick, a uniquely brilliant artist and a deeply complex human being. A mass of contradictions and, at times, jaw-dropping eccentricity, Kubrick comes to life as never before in this intimate account by Emilio D'Alessandro, his trusted personal assistant and friend for 30 years. And though at times I wondered how Emilio could have dealt with all that was asked and expected of him by Kubrick without having a nervous breakdown or physical collapse (something which ultimately does nearly happen), I also found myself surprisingly moved to tears by the affection and respect these two men held for each other as so beautifully expressed in this one-of-a-kind, minutely observed book. If you're a fan of Kubrick's films and want to know more about the day to day life of the man behind them, then this is the book for you!

My headline isn't referring to Kubrick, it refers instead to Emilio D'Alessandro, the guy who was the

only assistant Kubrick completely trusted for the last 20 years or so of his life. Kubrick couldn't handle the unpredictability and messiness of the world outside his door, so D'Alessandro took care of that and a whole lot more for the legendary director. The author is careful to keep certain things about Kubrick confidential - and yet, you probably will learn more about the reclusive filmmaker here than anywhere else. Ultimately, a kind of love story that's absorbing, informative and very touching towards the end.

This book starts a little slow, but definitely gets better as I kept reading it. The long working relationship and friendship of these two completely different men is amusing and honest. It gives a history of Kubrick that gives the reader and fan of his work a real insight into how his films were created, his personality with family, friends, and the people he worked with. Also his deep love for animals, and respect he had for other directors. Emilio his longtime friend and employee does a great job of sharing his life with an extremely talented man, who although was high maintenance, really cared for those around him who he trusted and loved. The book gives a much needed insight of Stanley Kubrick the man and director.

A must read for anybody who loves Stanley Kubrick's films. He has been my favorite director for many years and I have watched all his films many times. They of course get better and better with each viewing. This book gave me an insight on the type of person Kubrick was and how misunderstood he was. The friendship between him and Emilio is beautiful and is worth the read for that alone. Even people who aren't a fan of his films can get a lot out of this book! Highly recommended!

An honest, in depth memoir that reveals a lot about Stanley Kubrick's life through the eyes of his key assistant and driver. There are some emotional moments, and moments of frustration and tension. This is definitely worth a read if you're a fan of Kubrick.

Really, a unique look at one of the world's premier directors. Kubrick's "right hand" man for 28 years writes his personal story. Instead of the usual biography we get an intimate look into Kubrick's life and insights that no one else was privy to. I have read several books on Kubrick's movies but this one is absolutely one of a kind. It was originally written in Italian and the translation is wonderfully conversational. A must for any Kubrick admirer.

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