



Hopper: A Journey into the American Dream

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A rollicking biography of Dennis Hopper, the actor, activist, artist, and wild man who died in May 2010. As unconventional a biography as Dennis was a man, Hopper charts his roller coaster life and career, through the lens of the landscape of American popular culture.

The chopper-riding hippie outlaw in Easy Rider. The prophetic madman in the jungle in Apocalypse Now. The terrifying psychopath in Blue Velvet. The kid gone wrong in Rebel Without a Cause. The actor taken under the wing of James Dean, a friendship that set Hopper on his path to becoming a star. A quintessentially American dreamer longing to be the next Orson Welles. The hell-raising director who revolutionized Hollywood.

A rebel, an icon, an addict plagued by demons, and an art collector who bought one of the first Andy Warhol soup cans, the roller-coaster life and career of Dennis Hopper is one of the great American stories. His cinematic adventure kicks off in the Dust Bowl with a boy from Dodge City, Kansas who dreams of going to Hollywood. Hopper's extraordinary journey takes him to superhero highs and plummeting lows, from the days of 60s rebellion to the drug-addled 70s to starring in one of the greatest Hollywood comebacks of all time.

Capturing the magic of Hopper and the madness of his American Dream, Hopper is a wild ride through Dennis's many lives, as unconventional a biography as Dennis was a man. Written in a rebel spirit and packed with insights from his fellow actors, artists, and friends, Hopper tells the story of a half-century of rebellion waged at the edge of American pop culture.

Hopper: A Journey into the American Dream Details

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From Reader Review Hopper: A Journey into the American Dream for online ebook

Shruts says

Fascinating guy, boring biography. Amazed I finished it. 3* only because Hopper was a unique icon.

Tom Folson: You Blew It, Man.

Michael Ritchie says

Terrible, pretentious, scattered biography of an actor, director, and cultural icon who deserved better. The author tries to go "gonzo," aping Tom Wolfe and Hunter Thompson, but failing. Almost unreadable.

Leenda dela Luna says

Quick read. Little disjointed - time hopping. Refers to some people by nicknames or "common info", instead of proper names, so I sometimes had no idea who was being discussed. But otherwise an interesting read.

Stella says

I shouldn't even count this as I didn't finish it.

Nope. Terribly written and the attempt at trying to establish this writer as "gonzo" or "counter culture" is just pathetic.

Monica says

Spectacularly poorly-written. Bordering on incoherent at times.

Douglas says

This chronicle of Dennis Hopper's life is exciting to read, in that the author captures the dizzy, coked, psychedelic mess of Hopper's mind. It is not a pretty picture, but well written.

Because he was an artist he could do whatever he wanted.

"We blew it."

We were Easy Riders, cool and hip and in touch with nature and creation. Not inhibited by any traditions of

the past.

But behind the Hollywood facade were spoiled, violent, drug crazed members of the same Hollywood elite families that they rebelled against.

Instead of creating great art that celebrated life, people like Hopper got bogged down in their personal demons and anger and their own groupie like attraction to "rebels" like James Dean.

I fell for this back in the flower power years. We weren't bad, we did want fun and peace and love. But we were as snowed by the Rock and Roll and Hollywood images as the people we rejected.

"I saw the best minds of my generation destroyed by madness". If you want to relive those troubled years, this book is for you.

Terry McCarty says

Tom Folsom's marketed-as-gonzo biography of actor/filmmaker/artist/art collector Dennis Hopper tries hard to imitate the fragmented, above-it-all prose styling of Nick Tosches' 1992 Dean Martin bio DINO. But Folsom's book has its genuinely insightful moments; the chapters on Hopper's mostly-unseen, disastrous THE LAST MOVIE (1971) are the highlight of HOPPER. But the definitive Dennis Hopper biography is yet to be written.

Jason says

Completely incoherent writing makes this biography impossible to follow. I have no idea how this author was published.

Jack says

The recent passing of counterculture icon Michael Parks (perhaps the most famous native of my hometown, by the way), a maverick film actor in the Dennis Hopper mode, brought this strange book back to mind.

This isn't your usual biography: It's a series of haphazard vignettes that track Hopper's life-voyage from rural Kansas to Hollywood, and the many points between and beyond. Enjoyable and entertaining here and there, but I would have preferred a mainstream bio based on deep research and presented in a more conventional fashion. The author's "hip" writing style -- similar to the type of journalism that often appeared in Creem, the defunct 1970s rock music magazine -- seems appropriate to the subject matter, but it quickly became tiresome for me.

Henry Cherry says

Not good.

Joshua Stewart says

An exceptionally well-written journey into one of the most insane legends to ever outlive his expectancy. If you didn't know better, you'd think half of this is fiction. Nobody can be this crazy, and SURELY nobody can bounce back from it.

Dennis Hopper did.

David Ward says

Hopper: A Journey Into the American Dream by Tom Folsom (IT Books 2013)(Biography) is the first biography of Dennis Hopper that I've run across, and I was excited to find it. After all, Dennis Hopper is an original Hollywood rebel and outlaw; the stories would have to be great. Alas! It was as though nobody from Hopper's camp cooperated with the author, because the stories are WEAK, brother. It could have and should have been so much more. My rating: 3/10, finished 1/13/14.

Melissa says

For a man who couldn't stop moving and talking, Hopper's life was summed up in far too few pages. Most of the book seems to be a brief report into the making of Dennis the wild man, and very little of Dennis the recovered artist. The author elaborated more on James Dean and Jack Nicholson in the 60's and 70's than anything post-rehab-Dennis did, other than his art collecting.

The book seemed like a brilliant walk down memory lane for his peers, but to readers who aren't familiar with all the 'players', it seemed to jump around a lot, and become a little confusing at times.

However, It was a quick and enjoyable read, that left me even more endeared to Dennis Hopper and the greatness he wanted to achieve. You can almost feel his overwhelming desire/desperation to be a great like Dean or Brando. For me, he was far greater.... We all fight our demons and, unfortunately, those with the most to offer, often seem to have the toughest battles of all.

This book is also testament to the longterm cost of bad parenting.

And shame on Henry Fonda and Marlon Brando for not recognizing his talent and shunning him for being "eccentric".

Stephen Naish says

This is a good read, but I feel it could have been way better. Tom Folsom's style is not his own, he tries, and fails to bring a Gonzo style to Hopper's narrative. Check out Peter Winkler's Hopper bio for a better, less distracting, and more informative read

Steven Pattison says

This was a poorly written biography of one of the most interesting character actors ever - this book was all over the place and was a poor attempt to emulate the 'gonzo' writing of Hunter S Thompson - Denis Hopper deserves a better book about his life than this.
