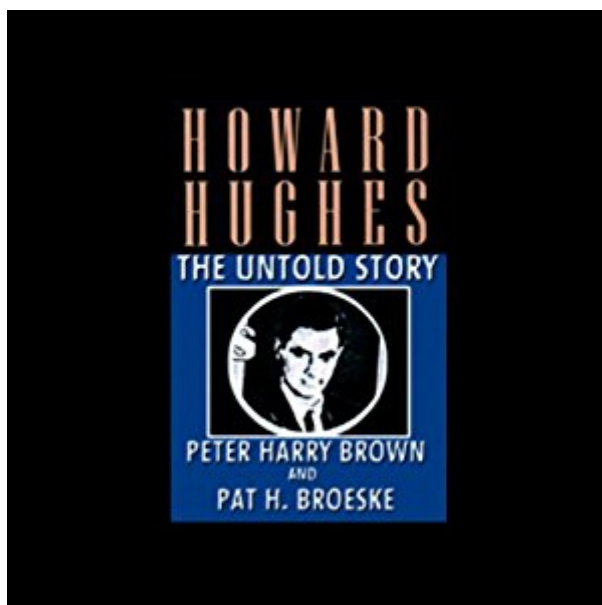


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Howard Hughes: The Untold Story



Synopsis

Drawing on hundreds of interviews and recently revealed documents, a personal biography of the enigmatic billionaire spans seven decades in the life of the pioneer aviator and Hollywood mogul, including his secretive life, numerous love affairs, bizarre behavior, and descent into madness. Tour.

--This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Review of: "Howard Hughes: The Untold Story," Hardcover 3/1/1996 by Peter Harry Brown. Broeske and Brown have created an excellent biography. Many people came across Howard Hughes (HH) as an icon from Scorsese's 2004 movie "The Aviator." Being slightly older I remembered the Hughes legacy from his involvement by lending his name to the Hughes Glomar Explorer (HGE) / K-129 Scandal where the HGE was commissioned to be built for the CIA (thus government owned) in order for that agency to covertly attempt the recovery of the Soviet K-129 Submarine in 1974 from the bottom of the ocean after it sank in 1968. This mission was known as "Project Azorian." I found out about it (like almost everyone else at the time) when the Case of Phillippi v. CIA, 546 F.2d 1009 (D.C. Cir. 1976) was filed and subsequently The Agency refused to "confirm or deny the existence" of any records or information concerning the operation. Regardless, back to the biography. Howard Hughes' life is examined in great detail. The world came to know Hughes as "the brilliant inventor and shrewd businessman who pioneered commercial aviation, became the only individual ever to personally own a movie studio, led Trans

World Airlines to become the preeminent international air carrier, womanized his way across the tabloid headlines of the 1920s and '30s, and descended into frightful paranoia and drug addiction in his old age." Authors Brown and Broeske however add much more detail about Howard's parents and background to portray him as a true human being in three-dimensions. The authors focus on Hughes' actual and perceived psychological disorders (most likely OCD, etc.); his passions for innovation in aviation and other enterprises prior to, during, and after WWII to include science and medicine; his excessive womanizing; his involvement in politics (Donald Nixon Scandal); etc. This biography reads quickly as the reader will be unlikely to put it down. If the movie "The Aviator" is of interest to you then read this biography to fill in the gaps particularly about the later years' of HH's life to include the memoir hoax of Clifford Irving and how HH's estate was distributed after his death (he was ruled to have died intestate, but there were many wills that surfaced). In short, this biography is a great read and incredibly detailed. Although it may hover around his eccentricities it pays homage to an incredible figure of the Twentieth Century; one that is probably still undervalued and under appreciated. Five stars for an incredible life story.

After watching The Aviator I wanted to know more about Hughes and this seemed to be the most reputable volume. Very well written and researched, this bio tells you all you need to know about the man and the truth and the details are much more outlandish than even Hollywood can portray. All areas of Hughes' life are examined in detail but the focus here leans more toward his mental/emotional problems and his pathological womanizing. Hughes remains one of the most fascinating and brilliant figures of the 20th Century but by the end of the book I grew weary of the minutiae of his madness and ended up glossing over many sections which became increasingly depressing variations on a theme: A fearless innovator and adventurer whose wild excesses were unrestrained by financial limits but who was imprisoned, crippled, and ultimately destroyed by physical and mental illness. Readers looking for sensational voyeurism will likely be more satisfied than history buffs. KINDLE READERS: This edition has an awkward font that can't be changed and creates occasional display errors. No "time left" shown for chapters and individual chapters can only be accessed through hotlinks in the Table of Contents instead of the Go To menu. Pretty lame, considering the above average price.

If you're looking for Howard the Business Man, keep looking. You won't find an exhaustive analysis of Hughes' financial ventures here, nor does this work detail Howard the Aviator (Charles Barton's Howard and

his Flying Boat is currently the single best work available on Howard Hughes (his aviation achievements). Sure the book does cover these areas, as it follows the full sweep of the man's near-mythical life from his restrictive rearing by a hypochondriacal mother, to his stunningly inglorious demise in 1976 but the main focus of Brown and Broeske's The Untold Story is Howard the Lady-Killer, the handsome, wealthy rock star with a visionary mind and balls of brass. Through the maze of Hughes's love life, a fascinating, intimate portrait emerges of a man who could be supremely charming and charitable, manipulative and callous. Yet, the book never loses sight of the central villain: Hughes's obsessive-compulsive disorder, the symptoms of which were made worse by numerous head injuries. In the light of this condition, much of Hughes's seemingly strange behavior is understood. Brown and Broeske do go some length to maintain an air of respect for the man, making impressive use of secondary sources to dutifully dispel some of the erroneous rumors hovering around Howard Hughes, elevating The Untold Story above the dreadful tabloid biographies that plague the market. It's likely there will always be an air of mystery around Howard Hughes, but The Untold Story does an admirable job in presenting a coherent insight into an extraordinary figure.

I always found Howard Hughes to be a fascinating personality and innovator so I wanted to learn more about him especially after seeing "The Aviator". Peter Brown through documentation, interviews and research really gives a true account of the genius of Howard Hughes. Mr. Brown also gives great insight into the possible reasons for Mr. Hughes's eccentricities and mental illness. Mr. Brown's "The Untold Story" avoids the tabloid sensationalism of the Mr. Hughes's exploits but instead provides a fair and objective portrait of one of America's greatest aviation visionaries. I highly recommend this book for anyone looking to read a really great biography of an American icon.

A truly brilliant and extraordinary man and the author does an amazing job portraying the life he lived. One can't help but be amazed, surprised, and sad all at the same time for the story that was his life. If only he had had friends strong enough to get him the help he needed maybe things would have been different.

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