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You Look Like That Girl: A Child Actor Stops Pretending And Finally Grows Up



Synopsis

At the age of twenty-two, Lisa Jakub had what she was supposed to want: she was a working actor in Los Angeles. She had more than forty movies and TV shows to her name, she had been in blockbusters like Mrs. Doubtfire and Independence Day, she walked the red carpet and lived in the house she bought when she was fifteen. But something was missing. Passion. Purpose. Happiness. Lisa had been working since the age of four, after a man approached her parents at a farmer's market and asked her to audition for a commercial. That chance encounter dictated the next eighteen years of her unusual-- and frequently awkward--life. She met Princess Diana... and almost fell on her while attempting to curtsy. She filmed in exciting locations... and her high school asked her not to come back. She went to fancy parties... and got kind of kidnapped that one time. Success was complicated. Making movies, traveling the world, and meeting intriguing people was fun for a while, but Lisa eventually realized she was living a life based on momentum and definitions of success that were not her own. She battled severe anxiety and panic attacks while feeling like she was living someone else's dream. Not wanting to become a child actor stereotype, Lisa retired from acting and left L.A. in search of a path that felt more authentic to her. In this funny and insightful book, Lisa chronicles the adventures of growing up in the film industry and her difficult decision to leave behind the only life she had ever known, to examine her priorities, and write the script for her own life. She explores the universal question we all ask ourselves: what do I want to be when I grow up?

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Customer Reviews

Too often, 'celebrity' memoirs are about the celebrity - and read like a chronicle of name-dropping and sound bytes of someone's celebrity life - in other words - it's hard to get behind the person of the persona. Moreover, for many celebrity memoirs, the writing isn't even an issue; it's an afterthought. Refreshingly, in *You Look Like That Girl* - the writing is super - well-crafted and engaging and most of all: real. I remembered Lisa Jakub as the older daughter in the iconic movie, *Mrs. Doubtfire* (she was Liddie). But that is the tip of the ice-berg on this actress/author's body of work...before she recognized a need for balance, sanity and identity and quietly left Hollywood to find it. This is a wonderful behind-the-face memoir wherein you meet a real person, with insights beyond her years but in keeping with a precocious child-actress experience. Entertaining, interesting and most of all: honest.

What an incredible book. Lisa's account of her 18-year-long career is honest, funny, witty and humble. While the book does chronicle her adventures of working with some of the biggest names in Hollywood, attending red carpet events, and traveling to exotic locations, the real underlying message of the book is that we each need to live our lives in a way that gives us meaning and purpose and happiness. In a world where the path of most childhood actors is drugs and disaster, Lisa managed to carve herself a different path. Her story will have you laughing out loud while simultaneously wanting to pass her a Kleenex through the pages of the book. Her story is refreshing. Her story is worth reading.

This was probably one of the most bleeding transparent and open books I've ever read. It is so good and was amazing to hear about Jakub's transition from Hollywood to Happiness. I read this during the heightened tensions of the current political system and amongst all the problems going on in the United States. Jakub's book was a welcomed break from that and made for a pleasant read. What I took away from her book is that happiness is a decision, a choice and not something to keep waiting on. She posts great things on Twitter and Instagram and this book is definitely worth your time! (I listened to her with Audible but liked the book so much I'm now reading it via Kindle)

Lisa Jakub's memoir of her time in Hollywood as a child actor is beautifully written and full of insights and depth. There's a lot about the inner workings of Hollywood in the book, and it reveals how difficult it can be to form meaningful relationships in an industry that makes it nearly impossible to form deep roots. At the same time, Hollywood is almost a character in the book, and it forms the perfect setting for the sometimes bizarre interactions that happen in a place where so many people come to fulfill their dreams. Part of the fun in reading the book is the inclusion of the many well known actors, directors, and producers, but it never feels like mere name dropping on the part of the author. She formed meaningful, though often sadly fleeting, relationships with the individuals that many of us see on the big screen or in the tabloids and gossip magazines that too often dehumanize them. It's easy to forget that such stars are real people, and this memoir is a vivid reminder of that fact. My two favorite aspects of *You Look Like That Girl* are the author's wonderful sense of humor, which elevates the narrative even in the sadder moments, and the strong sense of the memoir being not just a narrative but a journey from a place of uncertainty to a place of more security in terms of identity. It's about growing up, but in a setting that most of us will find foreign and fascinating. *You Look Like That Girl* is beautifully written and goes by all too quickly, and I hope to read more by the author.

This is a terrific memoir. I love all kinds of memoirs. It doesn't matter if I've heard of the person who is writing it. If the blurb evinces my interest, I'll give the sample a try. If I like the sample, I'll download the book. I read the book in one sitting. Ms. Jakub is one fabulous writer. Her life story is a little unusual -- in that she started working in showbiz when she was under five. She didn't become super-star famous. Mostly people recognized her from *Mrs. Doubtfire*. But her writing is so fantastic, it doesn't matter that she isn't a mega star to justify writing a memoir so young, it doesn't matter that there are no scandals or sensational stories in the book, which so many celebrity memoirs include. Hers is a life story that -- in a way -- anyone can identify with. It's the human condition. We're dealt certain cards at birth. Our childhood is what it is. Some good things happen, some not-so-good things. She writes so deftly, so perfectly, of how the things she wanted in life slowly changed and how finally she went after a different dream in spite of her fears and discomfort. So well done. I loved how she went back to college at 29, too. It's never too late, even if your 99! Thoroughly enjoyable book.

Lisa Jakub is a skilled writer. I'm glad she found her words and shared her experiences with us. She

gave us an honest look at her life as an actor and admitted to all of the feelings, good and bad, that she felt. I've always had a difficult time understanding why some actors are so awkward in real life and now I understand. It was nice to see Hollywood from her perspective. I have a better appreciation for that world and how unglamorous it can be. She talks about being an older college student at 29. I'm a 50 year-old college student so I could relate. I'm finally graduating in a couple of months and I felt encouragement to continue to go after what I want after reading about her fears and accomplishments. We're all in this together! Thank you, Lisa Jakub! Your story has changed me and I am grateful.

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