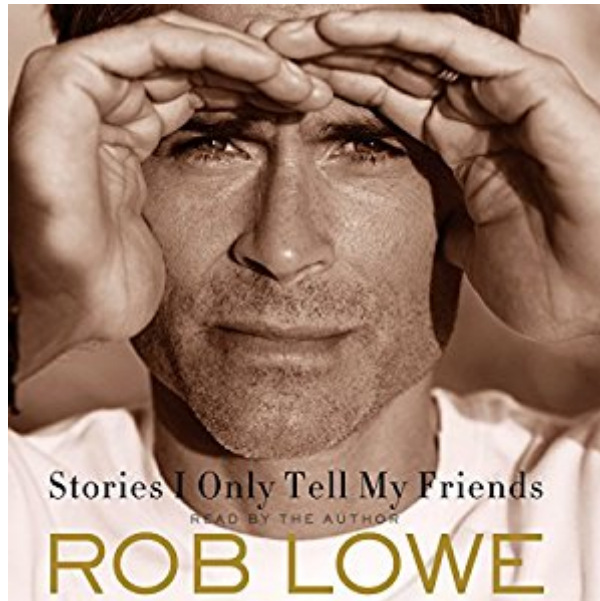




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Stories I Only Tell My Friends: An Autobiography



Synopsis

A wryly funny and surprisingly moving account of an extraordinary life lived almost entirely in the public eye. A teen idol at 15, an international icon and founder of the Brat Pack at 20, and one of Hollywood's top stars to this day, Rob Lowe chronicles his experiences as a painfully misunderstood child actor in Ohio who was uprooted to the wild counterculture of mid-70s Malibu, where he embarked on his unrelenting pursuit of a career in Hollywood. The Outsiders placed Lowe at the birth of the modern youth movement in the entertainment industry. During his time on The West Wing, he witnessed the surreal nexus of show business and politics, both on the set and in the actual White House. And in between are deft and humorous stories of the wild excesses that marked the 80s, leading to his quest for family and sobriety. Never mean-spirited or salacious, Lowe delivers unexpected glimpses into his successes, disappointments, relationships, and one-of-a-kind encounters with people who shaped our world over the last 25 years. These stories are as entertaining as they are unforgettable.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

To be honest, my main reason for buying this book was that I was a huge "Outsiders" fan back in the early 80's. I always felt Rob was the best looking Greaser in the cast & as the years passed, also felt he was the best looking of the Brat Pack. I certainly didn't expect his book to be more than a compilation of stories about his life in Hollywood but it is more than that. He discusses his parent's divorce, his mother's depression, their financial struggles & his love for his wife & sons. He also gives Outsiders fans a great behind-the-scenes look into the making of that film. He is very candid &

exposes himself as a flawed human being like the rest of us. He does discuss other Hollywood pals & tells some great stories but he doesn't make their celebrity the focal point of these tales or his book. A must read for those who loved the movie the Outsiders and anyone who is a fan of Rob's.

As several other reviewers have mentioned, I ordered this book for my Kindle after seeing Rob on "Oprah!" last week. I'm almost finished with it (2 more chapters to go) and have enjoyed every word. Those readers looking for salacious, mean-spirited gossip won't find it here. But Rob does talk a great deal about the famous folk he's been involved with over the years: JFK Jr., the Sheens, Daryl Hannah, Princess Stephanie of Monaco, and of course his fellow members of the Brat Pack. His fondness for many of them shines through, and he describes the relationships in such a way that I felt I'd had an honest little glimpse of each one. As a movie and TV buff for most of my life, I loved the behind-the-scenes glimpses of Rob's various projects, particularly "The Outsiders" and "The West Wing." Others may pick up this book with different expectations, but I've found it well worth the investment of time and money. Thanks, Rob, for the interesting peek inside your various worlds: son and brother, fledgling actor, Brat Packer, Hollywood superstar, and finally, devoted husband and brother.

STORIES I ONLY TELL MY FRIENDS by Rob Lowe is a memoir of Rob Lowe life from childhood thru to right after he finished his work on The West Wing. He writes about his unconventional family, his early drive to act, the celebrities he has stumbled across along with the ones he has developed close relationships with, and many of the wild experiences he has felt lucky to have in his life. I enjoyed reading about how Rob Lowe grew up. His family was a mess, especially his mother, and while he doesn't say it straight that acting was a way to escape his family and lose himself in focusing on his craft, it is certainly implied. As many of the better celebrity memoirs are, Lowe make a point of saying that no matter how hard you work at acting and how good you are, there is always some luck involved. Lowe worked hard and made sure as he had as many opportunities for luck as possible. He also writes in awe of many of his experiences, as if he still can't believe some of the things that have happened to him. I think my favorite was he was working with James Cameron to act in a movie that Lowe wrote and was to direct (it never came to be). But really, there are so many great stories and made me smile and laugh throughout the whole book. A fun book; I think anyone who reads STORIES I ONLY TELL MY FRIENDS will have a new appreciation for who Rob Lowe really is and smile because of it.

Actually I read Lowe's sequel to this book, Love Life, first, and it turns out that I enjoyed it more than this one because it was just a bit more fun--the stories were told with a light touch. This book was for someone who has followed Lowe's career, seen him in his movies and TV programs, and is interested in all the behind-the-scenes activities. There isn't much that I found funny in this book. If I could sum up this book, it would be "My childhood wasn't ideal. I hated it when my parents divorced. I learned early on that acting was enjoyable and a way of getting the attention I missed when I was a child. However, I fell into substance abuse and sexual promiscuity while pursuing my career, got into trouble over a sex tape, decided to go into rehab which was the best thing I ever did and I was thrilled to be able to do. I no sooner came clean than I got together with my old girlfriend, decided to marry her, and had two sons. I also had some high and low points with my career. I even got to meet President Clinton." He doesn't make me cry. He doesn't tell any stories that wake me up or have me say, "Wow" even though his life is on the line at times. I found myself longing for both more lightness and more substance. More funny stories. More times when he felt despair. Surely there must have been a moment in rehab when he felt bad. Part of the reason I bought the book was because I love Michael J. Fox and supposedly Lowe was supposed to tell a funny story about him. But I don't recall any such story. If I could have given it 3.5 stars, I would have. I ended up liking him and feeling that he redeemed himself after all his escapades. I'm not the kind of person who wants salacious stuff. But I just felt a bit let down. Not a book I'd pick up again. I'll donate it.

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