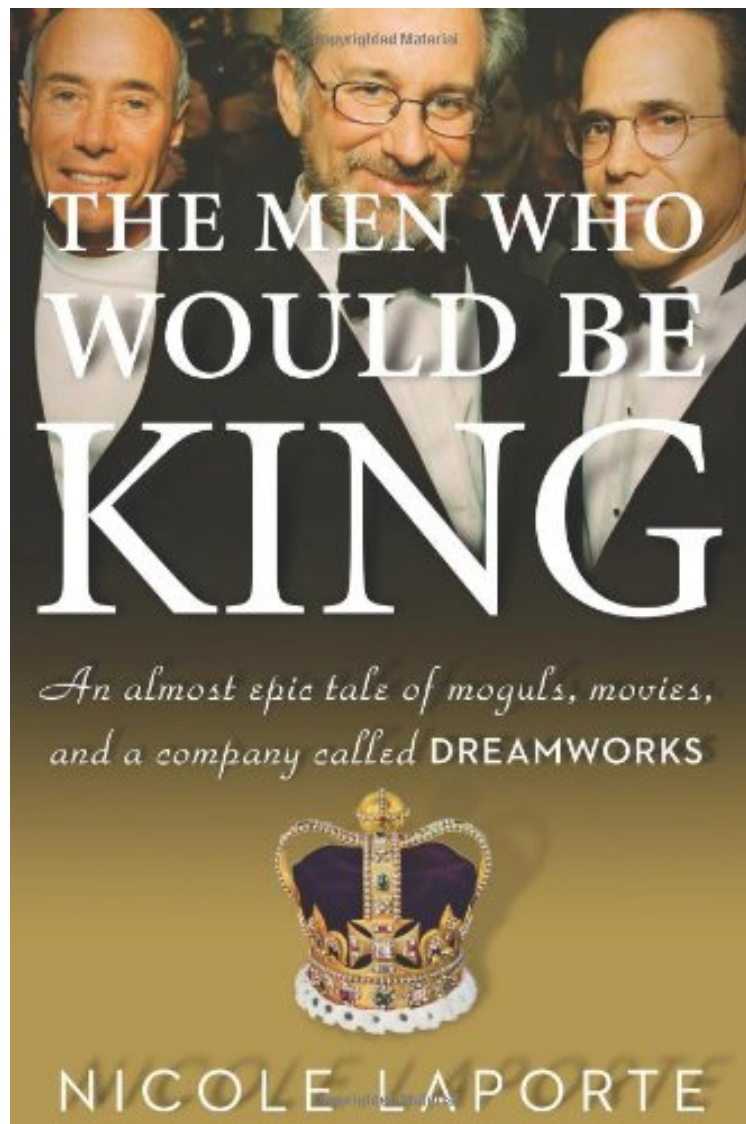


(Library ebook) The Men Who Would Be King: An Almost Epic Tale of Moguls, Movies, and a Company Called DreamWorks

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Nicole LaPorte

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Nicole LaPorte : The Men Who Would Be King: An Almost Epic Tale of Moguls, Movies, and a Company Called DreamWorks before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Men Who Would Be King: An Almost Epic Tale of Moguls, Movies, and a Company Called DreamWorks:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Hollywood Business 101By W. FrazierA very detailed, meticulously

time-lined narrative of the creation and life of Dreamworks. The author gives great background to the important players, deal makers, and production teams, and their agreements. Fascinating. Hollywood Business 101. The audio narration is very good (just a couple of names mispronounced). However, as there is so much information, it's a tough audio book to follow and may be a better hard copy read. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Wonderful! By misscoconuts Given the prologue, I expected a completely different book and was happily surprised. The book gives a very real understanding of three extremely successful men who decide to build a production company and I believe do just that, although given the end of the story, they expected different results - quickly. Dreamworks SKG is awe inspiring and so very interesting for anyone wanting an understanding of Hollywood or what makes overachievers tick. It doesn't delve too much into their earlier business lives and as such, made me search the kindle store for further information, although I found it sadly lacking. The one book I did find and would recommend with this book is "The Keys to the Kingdom" by Kim Masters. A real page turner, don't start without few hours free! 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Pretty good book ...albeit looking back By JB Vick Its a pretty solid account of how the company was formed and their ups and downs. The business has certainly changed since this came out but its useful background for making sense of whats happening today in the entertainment business. Spielberg is treated as royalty and Geffen is some mystery guy who pulls magic strings but it doesnt go into that....and it makes Katzenberg look like a hard working guy but even though things dont always go his way...he still makes hundreds of millions....Hollywood...land of opportunity..got to love it...

For sixty years, since the birth of United Artists, the studio landscape was unchanged. Then came Hollywoods Circus Maximus created by director Steven Spielberg, billionaire David Geffen, and Jeffrey Katzenberg, who gave the world The Lion King an entertainment empire called DreamWorks. Now Nicole LaPorte, who covered the company for Variety, goes behind the hype to reveal for the first time the delicious truth of what happened. Readers will feel they are part of the creative calamities of moviemaking as LaPortes fly-on-the-wall detail shows us Hollywoods bizarre rules of business. We see the clashes between the often otherworldly Spielbergs troops and Katzenbergs warriors, the debacles and disasters, but also the Oscar-winning triumphs, including Saving Private Ryan. We watch as the studio burns through billions, its rich owners get richer, and everybody else suffers. We see Geffen seducing investors like Microsofts Paul Allen, showing his steel against CAAs Michael Ovitz, and staging fireworks during negotiations with Paramount and Disney. Here is Hollywood, up close, glamorous, and gritty.

From Booklist The rise and then the crash and burn of DreamWorks, created by three of the biggest egos in Hollywood Steven Spielberg, Jeffrey Katzenberg, and David Geffen is a gripping saga of changing economic times. Wary of corporate inroads and catalyzed by Katzenbergs troubled departure from Disney, the three had independently come to a point where they wanted to run their own show. In 1994, without even a name for their venture, they announced the formation of a company that would break the mold on corporate ownership of entertainment-making, respecting creativity above all else. Spielberg was coddled and cosseted as the ultimate artiste. Katzenberg, who headed the animation division at Disney, was motivated as much by vengeance against CEO Michael Eisner when he set about luring away Disneys animators. Billionaire Geffen was looked on as the businessman who would bring together disparate parts of the company. What followed was a clash of multiple cultures and visions, within and outside of DreamWorks. LaPorte, a former film industry reporter for Variety, offers a deliciously detailed look at the trials, triumphs, and fumbles of DreamWorks from the complicated story behind Shrek, a CGI pioneer, to the courting of stars Nicole Kidman and George Clooney and soothing of Russell Crowe. This unauthorized chronicle of DreamWorks will no doubt seal LaPortes status as persona non grata in Hollywood, but readers will love it. --Vanessa Bush "Want to know how business really works in LaLa Land? Read this book" --Liz Smith, wowOwow.com "LaPorte's lengthy narrative is the definitive history of the studio, an achievement of dispassionate reporting in the genre of corporate decline-and-fall...Hollywood, with its penchant for sunny publicity and an obsession for secrecy, is a notoriously difficult business in which to uncover the truth...Most reporters are not up to the task. LaPorte is... The Men Who Would Be King will be required reading for anyone interested in the story of DreamWorks." --L.A. Times "A thrilling ride... The bumbling and infighting are just too good, and sad, to resist... We're privy to some serious dirt. LaPorte has clearly done her homework... The sheer scope and depth of The Men Who Would Be King impresses. No hissy fit escapes LaPorte's gaze. Every time Geffen has a meltdown or A-list stars like Russell Crowe throw tantrums, LaPorte is there to capture it." --Boston Globe "Daily Beast contributor and former Variety reporter LaPorte penetrates the mysterious inner workings of DreamWorks. . . . LaPorte marshals an awesome body of research to vividly depict DreamWorks confused identity, the personality conflicts and ego clashes that raged behind the companys friendly, low-key exterior . . . Behind-the-scenes glimpses at the productions of such signature DreamWorks films as American Beauty and Gladiator are wonderfully diverting Hollywood dirt, but the heart of the story is simple human ambition. Stories of Katzenbergs toxic and litigious relationship with former boss and Disney honcho Michael Eisner, Geffens mission to destroy agent Michael Ovitz and the rivalry between DreamWorks Animation and Disneys Pixar are fascinating for their insights into the ways petty personal issues are expressed in

multibillion-dollar transactions. In Hollywood, it seems, business is always personal. A gripping account of money, ambition and the movies . . . same as it ever was." Kirkus "Nicole LaPorte has found a big story this is the great part that is even bigger than first appears, the story of DreamWorks being the story of modern Hollywood, which is the dream life of the world. She has climbed into the engine room with pen and notebook and been careful to record the details and dirt, then turned all that into music, the result being a gutsy saga filled with larger than life characters and incident. Read this book only if you want to know what makes our country, as Leonard Cohen sang, the cradle of the best and the worst." Rich Cohen, author of *Tough Jews: Fathers, Sons, and Gangster Dreams* and *Lake Effect* "Power, grandiosity, arrogance, and incomprehensible ego. Its Hollywood, of course, and Nicole LaPorte's exhaustive non-fiction narrative of DreamWorks and the bizarre triumvirate of Spielberg, Geffen, and Katzenberg is stunning. The book reads like a novel and the reporting is impeccable. If you pick up one book about Hollywood, make it this one." Buzz Bissinger, author of *Friday Night Lights* and former coproducer of *NYPD Blue* "Here is the brilliant, brutal, misguided, narcissistic history of DreamWorks in all its glory, with David Geffen, Jeffrey Katzenberg, and Steven Spielberg working unscripted, without handlers or publicists dimming the lights to a rosy glow. Nicole LaPorte has written a lively, cunning studio history that should be required reading for all students of modern Hollywood." Mimi Swartz, author of *Power Failure: The Inside Story of the Collapse of Enron* "This book has all the right elements: deep-dish research, attitude to burn, page-turning readability, and a great subject. It belongs up there with the classics of Hollywood reportage." Peter Biskind, author of *Easy Riders, Raging Bulls: How the Sex-Drugs-and-Rock 'n' Roll Generation Saved Hollywood* and *Star: How Warren Beatty Seduced America* "Nicole LaPorte may never be able to eat lunch in Hollywood again, but her potential loss is our gain: *The Men Who Would Be King* is a riveting and honest portrayal of three of the most powerful men in the entertainment industry. I couldn't put it down and neither will you." William Cohan, author of *House of Cards*