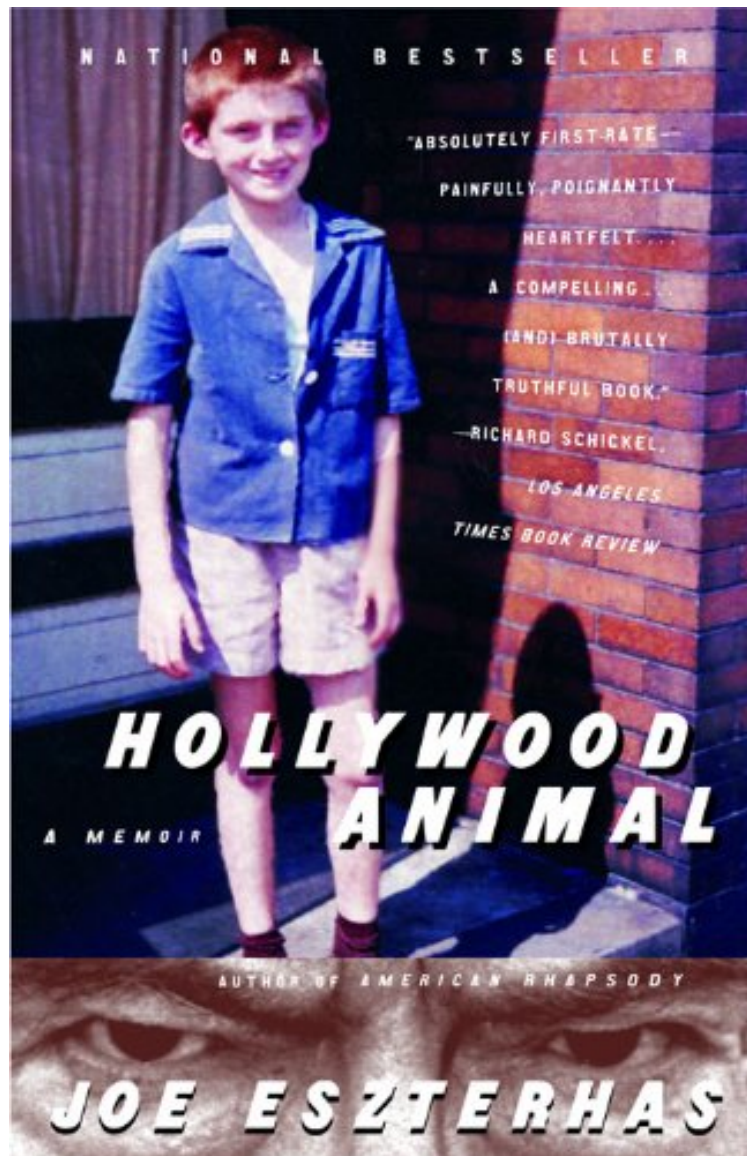


## Hollywood Animal

Joe Eszterhas

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**Joe Eszterhas : Hollywood Animal** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Hollywood Animal:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Exemplar of an Autobiography By A Customer This is a great book for anyone who loves frank tales about Hollywood and its creatures. It's 736 pages long but a very fast read, full of anecdotes and interwoven story lines. One thing that I look for in an autobiography is the personality of the author pulsing through the words on the page. Sometimes this means that the author doesn't come off too well -- read Joan Rivers' autobiography for a particularly unpleasant example -- but it makes for a much more involving read. Joe's

personality roars off the page. Joe Eszterhas' book paints a vivid, searingly honest portrait of a man who is smart, tough, talented, rude, brave, harsh, perceptive and surprisingly principled. He is a big family man who cruelly betrayed his first wife and paid a big price for that (literally and emotionally), only to start a new family with "the love of his life" -- Naomi (his wife's friend) who was dumped by her husband Bill (Joe's friend) for Sharon Stone. Yes, Bill is the guy that Sharon promised to marry and then dumped following all the Basic Instinct madness. Joe has written some great stuff and some sleazy stuff. He poured his guts into his stories and yet managed to not have his heart broken (he claims) when some of what he wrote was mangled by others. Of course, sometimes he did the mangling -- anybody see "Burn Hollywood Burn"? Jeez! I felt bad for Joe when after writing the wonderful "Music Box" script, Joe learned late in life and most ironically that his own father was an anti-Jewish hate monger in WWII. How could a father who was so supportive and loving to his own family turn out to be so heartless toward his Jewish neighbors? As a writer, I most appreciated Joe's insights into the writing and marketing aspects of his career. He's right about the unfair way that Hollywood treats most screenwriters. Not many writers (myself included) have the balls to fight for their due as Joe has done. Joe's battle with cancer, and the way it changed his life, is something I will not forget. As somebody who has lost a lot of loved ones to the effects of smoking (two of them Hollywood natives), I most appreciated his decision to speak out against the glamorizing of smoking through movies. One of the things that writers do is convey character through "plastic expressions" -- behaviorisms or actions that imply personality. Joe points out that smoking is easy shorthand to convey sophistication, and is the refuge of lazy, uncreative writers. Overall, this book is well worth the price because it is the kind of rich storytelling that you will want to read again at least once in your life. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. So much more than I bargained for....By A. Marbach I will be the first to admit that I bought this book because it was touted as "THE MUST READ Hollywood TELL-ALL." Then I started reading it...and at first I decided that this book was probably not going to be one I finished because it was just about Joe and the not-so-nice (animal) man that he is in Hollywood...But then I started to get wrapped up into his childhood, being an young immigrant in the USA and his experiences growing up and an immigrant and a child whose mother suffered from mental illness. This book is telling, but so much more than that - it is an honest view of a life lived hard and fast, in the not-so-honest world of Hollywood. You will get more information about Hollywood than you ever wanted to know...and throughout this book you will see Joe Eszterhas not as a "Hollywood person" or a writer but as a person- a person who readily admits he made mistakes in his professional and personal life...but a man who stuck up not only for himself but for the written word and his creative process. This book was so much more than I bargained for but I loved it all the same. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An epic book for an epic story By C.J.H.'Hollywood Animal' follows the story of Joe Eszterhas, from a child in Hungarian prison camps to being arguably the most famous, successful and powerful screenwriter of all time. It's a supercharged memoir of life, love, marriage, success, power games, betrayal and redemption. All the while interspersed with priceless anecdotes about the Hollywood elite. It's a long slog of a book, but well worth it.

Joe Eszterhas had everything Hollywood could offer. A combination of insider and rebel, he saw and participated in the fights, the deals, the backstabbing, and all the sex and drugs. But here, in his candid and heartwrenching memoir, we see the rest of the story: the inspiring account of the child of Hungarian immigrants who, against all odds, grows up to live the American Dream. Hollywood Animal reveals the trajectory of Eszterhas's life in gripping detail, from his childhood in a refugee camp, to his battle with a devastating cancer. It shows how a struggling journalist became the most successful screenwriter of all time, and how a man who had access to the most beautiful women in Hollywood ultimately chose to live with the love of his life in a small town in Ohio. Above all, it is the story of a father and a son, and the turbulent relationship that was an unending cycle of heartbreak. Hollywood Animal is an enthralling, provocative memoir: a moving celebration of the human spirit. From the Trade Paperback edition.