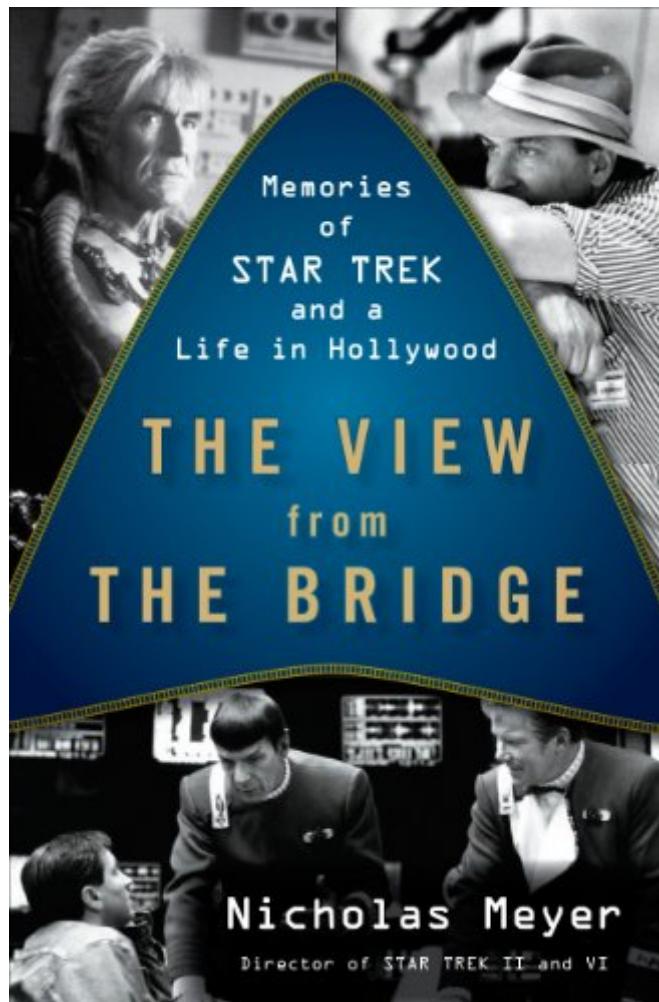


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The View From The Bridge: Memories Of Star Trek And A Life In Hollywood



Synopsis

"Essential reading for any Star Trek and movie fan." -trekmovie.com When Nicholas Meyer was asked to direct the troubled second Star Trek film, he was something less than a true believer. A bestselling author and successful director, he had never been a fan of the TV series. But as he began to ponder the appeal of Kirk, Spock, et al., he realized that their story was a classical nautical adventure yarn transplanted into space and-armed with that insight-set out on his mission: to revitalize Trek.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The View from the Bridge is the most interesting book about how movies get made I've ever read. Nicholas Meyer talks about the art and the commerce both, and shows how each influences the other. The way Nicholas Meyer became a screenwriter and movie director in the 1970s was similar to Michael Crichton. Meyer parlayed a screenplay based on his own bestselling detective-adventure novel about Sherlock Holmes and Sigmund Freud (The Seven-Per-Cent Solution: Being a Reprint from the Reminiscences of John H. Watson, M.D. (Norton Paperback)) into a chance to direct another of his screenplays (Time After Time) about the time-traveling H.G. Wells and Jack the

Ripper. After that Meyer began the tradition of making "good" even-numbered Star Trek movies by directing Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan. Even though Meyer makes it clear he understands making movies like Star Trek is a business (he never would have gotten into what he at first considered ludicrous space opera if not for the money), he never once in this book uses the word "franchise." His films are stories, and he wants audiences to relate to them as tales about real people (as William Shatner said, even on Star Trek everyone is human), not as interchangeable portions of a video game. The fact that the title of Meyer's memoir alludes to a play by Arthur Miller as well as the bridge of the starship Enterprise proves he means it when he says he intends his work to be art.

So here's the deal... this book is just like most athlete and entertainer autobiographies. It's a quick read with candid stories of moments only the fans love. Because of Meyer's extensive writing history, it's definitely a more cerebral read than your average celebrity memoir, but you can still read the entire thing in a one night setting, especially if you flip through to the movies that interest you the most. So yeah, it's not a bad book at all, but like most of these types of books, it's probably not worth buying until the price drops dramatically or you find a good deal on a used version. Meyer writes about his early life (which I admit, I skipped), and then dedicates most of the book to each of his life's projects. The cover advertises his most famous movies -- Star Trek II and VI -- and was admittedly the reason I bought it to begin with, but he does have some fun memories with other projects as well. Some of the efforts/chapters he covers: -- Time After Time. An underrated time travelling drama and Meyer's first big directorial debut. Probably the best part of this chapter is his stress in dealing with Hollywood as a new director. The Hollywood brass tried to push him around more than usual because of his rookie status but he stuck by his guns, and thought that his career was over because the bosses claimed his movie stunk. Of course, since when have the Hollywood execs ever known what a quality movie was and it's fun reading about the "egg on your face" reaction from the suits as the film started receiving great praise after initial screenings. -- Star Trek II. He confesses that he was a total amateur to the Star Trek world, but somehow managed to make what many consider the best Trek film ever made.

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