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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

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 you're 99! Thoroughly enjoyable book.

Whether you're an actress or an accountant or a mom, we all wonder if we're living our best life. If we are being completely authentic. Would life be better if _____? Lisa Jakub's story is both personal and universal. We all just want to live the best life and be happy. No matter what that looks like.

Lisa Jakub starting acting at age 4. She was in movies like Mrs. Doubtfire and Independence Day. When she was 22, she made the decision to leave it all behind. While the transition from child actor to regular person who gets recognized sometimes was not easy, it was what she needed to do. She had a very different childhood than most, but she doesn't regret her experience. The book does not contain sordid details (unless you count the teamsters teaching a preschooler how to play craps). It is in need of an editor, however, due to the number of missing or incorrect words. I recommend *You Look Like That Girl* to fans of Lisa Jakub and people who enjoy autobiographies.

I really enjoyed this memoir! It's well written and thoughtful, and for those of us who aren't involved in show business it's extremely informative about what the LA film world is like. It's a peek behind the curtain, and much of what is revealed is pretty unappealing. Jakub is generous in her treatment of everyone in her life (except sometimes herself). Highly recommend!

Famous enough to be recognized often but not named, Lisa retired from acting at an age when many of us have yet to decide on a career path. Most of us didn't have ours carved out for us before we were in kindergarten, and don't reconsider a successful career at such a young age. It seems to me, after reading Lisa's book, that the life of an actor is fairly different from what the average person thinks it's like. All actors do not simply "have it made" and their lives are not always as glamorous as some of us imagine they are. Moreover, not all actors' lives are full of raunchy, tabloid-worthy exploits and perpetual highs. Lisa's story is not like those, which is a bit unusual for an actor's memoir, and it's a very pleasant and refreshing read. This is a book about a young woman finding

herself. Who dared to leave the "good life" of an actor, which many of us think we would like for ourselves, but it's clear after reading that many of us wouldn't like it as much as we think we would. Anyone aspiring for a career in the spotlight should read it, just so they know what they're getting into, but it's still a great read for the rest of us who aren't. Not every good story is full of sex and drugs and violence and vices. This one isn't, and it's thoroughly enjoyable. Lisa knows how to tell a story, and I'm looking forward to her next one.

Lisa Jakub's candid story of her life growing up under the lights of Hollywood is an enjoyable. She opens up about the unique and sometimes unforgiving life as an actress. Through her words you may find yourself chuckling with her at quirky times and crying at the less-than-favorable times. This is a great book!

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