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# I Am Jackie Chan: My Life In Action



## Synopsis

"I am standing in the sky on the roof of a glass and steel office tower in Rotterdam, Holland. There are twenty-one floors of air between me and the concrete pavement below. I am about to do what I do best. I am about to jump." If you're a fan of action-adventure movies--with the accent on action--then you no doubt love watching Jackie Chan risk his life to create sensational cinema. As one of the biggest stars to burst into U.S. theaters, Jackie has put America's hottest heroes to shame, wowing audiences with the breathless, death-defying stunts that are the highlight of such movies as *Rumble in the Bronx*, *Supercop*, *Operation: Condor*, and his newest blockbuster *Rush Hour*. But who really is this boyishly handsome, lightning-fast Charlie Chaplin of martial arts movie-making? And what possessed him to make a career out of putting his life on the line to keep us on the edge of our seats?" I remember a frightened seven-year-old walking into the dim and musty halls of the China Drama Academy, clutching his father's hand. Inside, he sees paradise--young boys and girls leaping and tumbling and flashing the steel of ancient weapons. 'How long do you want to stay here, Jackie?' 'Forever!' answered the boy, his eyes bright and wide. And he let go of his father's hand to clutch at the Master's hem. . . . In *I Am Jackie Chan*, Chan tells the fascinating, harrowing, ultimately triumphant story of his life: How the rebellious son of refugees in tumultuous 1950s Hong Kong became the disciplined disciple of a Chinese Opera Master. How the "paradise" that young Jackie so eagerly embraced proved to be, in reality, a ruthlessly competitive place whose fierce master wielded the legal authority to train his students even to death. How the dying art of Chinese opera led Jackie to the movie business--and how he made the leap from stuntman to superstar. How he broke into the Hollywood big time by breaking almost every bone in his body. Finally, after years of plunging off skyscrapers and living to tell the tale, Jackie Chan proves--with this witty, poignant, and often astonishing memoir--that it's always been a tale well worth telling. Jackie has written this book with Jeff Yang, the founder of *A Magazine* and the author of *Eastern Standard: A Guide To Asian Influence in American Culture*.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Since his first role in 1962 at the age of 8, Jackie Chan has appeared in more than 70 movies. For more than 20 years, he has been the biggest star in Asia, but in the West he remained a secret, his movies passed around on tape and his fame growing by word of mouth alone. In the '90s, with the success of crossover movies like Rush Hour and the support of a new generation of filmmakers who grew up watching Jackie Chan videotapes, his star finally rose in the West. But where did he come from, and how did he achieve so much? His autobiography, *I Am Jackie Chan*, answers those questions in an engaging, almost novelistic style. When his father moves to Australia to take up a new job, the young Jackie is placed in Hong Kong's China Drama Academy under the tutelage of Master Yu Jim-yuen. For the next 10 years he is trained in martial arts, dance, acrobatics, singing, and comedy, while suffering extraordinary hardships, including regular beatings and near-starvation. Yet he can look back on this period of his life with considerable affection, not least because it taught him the skills, and provided him with the network of friends, that would sustain his film career for decades. Chan has always earned the respect of his fans by committing himself wholeheartedly to creating the most death-defying stunts possible. His achievements seem even more remarkable when set against the struggles described in this book. In the Drama School, as a young stuntman, in his first troubled attempts to make movies in America--Chan's personality shines through, and *I Am Jackie Chan* can only enhance his reputation as one of the most likable and admirable movie stars in the world. The book also includes Jackie's comments on all of his movies, lists of his favorite stunts and fights, and an astonishing catalog of all his major injuries. Can you imagine what it must feel like to dislocate your cheekbone? --Simon Leake

One of Asia's most popular film stars, Chan has helped reinvent the Hong Kong action genre by blending hyperkinetic stunts with a self-deprecating humor and a freewheeling flamboyance reminiscent of Buster Keaton, Harold Lloyd, Gene Kelly and Fred Astaire. His autobiography, unfortunately, contains few of these elements. In minute detail, he chronicles his punishing

childhood in the Chinese Opera Research Institute and his rise to superstardom. From age seven to 17, under the severe discipline—some might even call it child abuse—of his Opera Master, Chan was trained for theater and film work. After the death of Bruce Lee (Chan was a stuntman in Lee's *Fists of Fury* and *Enter the Dragon*), his studio, Golden Harvest, attempted to turn him into a Lee clone. But Chan's film persona finally gelled when he began to emulate his silent-movie heroes and to punctuate his films with what he calls "the superstunt"—high-risk feats of derring-do that he performs himself. Chan takes himself to task for neglecting his family (indeed, his wife and 14-year-old son are only briefly mentioned), and offers a candid look at the gangs, called Triads, that retain a powerful grip on the Hong Kong film industry. But despite such glimpses behind the actor's Teflon veneer, and his punchy anecdotes, this surprisingly tame, sometimes plodding memoir fails to deliver the heady thrills one has come to expect of a Jackie Chan production. FYI: *I Am Jackie Chan* is published to coincide with the release of his first American film in 13 years, *Rush Hour*. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc.

I read the disclaimer: Writing, markings, etc... may be found on the book..I knew I was buying a used book. I took the chance, since "I Am Jackie Chan" has been a hard book to find. Also, I've read the book already, so to me, it was worth the risk.I received it today, and it has a few bends on the soft cover, but other than that, the book is perfect.I noticed that the book is actually sold for six US dollars, More than double what I paid for it, but alas, I have my book and I can sleep at night.I'm one happy customer. Maybe I got lucky, who knows. No book is the same when it's used. So this review may not be the same for other customers.As for the book itself, it's an awesome book. You might want to rent it out at your public library if it's not available on .I can't say much about the book without talking too much. All I can say is that it's an amazing story. Jackie Chan tells how he got his name, Jackie Chan! I always thought it was a super awesome story, and I enjoy telling others about it. When I tell them, they think it's funny and I can't help but smile. I read "I Am Jackie Chan" 14 years ago, for the first time, and I still remember a lot of the book. Why did I buy it, if I still remember the book? I'm starting a library of my own, and this book was a "Must Have" for me. That's how awesome this book is. :D

When selecting this book, I wasn't quite sure what to expect, but I was certainly surprised when I began reading. Based off of his fun-loving charisma today, you would have never expected that he was raised in an extremely strict setting. Of course that never stopped him from acting out and putting people in their place, but punishment was cruel during his time and I couldn't help but feel

sorry for him and his Chinese Drama Academy family. Reading about his struggle on finding a promising job after his life at the Academy really helped me put into perspective as to how hard he's worked to become what he is today. I was a bit surprised when he shared his struggle with acting, since that's what he's known for, but I suppose with each film, an actor's skills only get better. Overall, this autobiography is very intriguing as it is consumed of many things I've never read of before.

This is a great book about a great man! If you are a dedicated Jackie Chan fan, make sure you purchase this biography. I have enjoyed having this in my collection for many years and I am surprised to see that the price has not fluctuated much. Take care of it!

So far a nice read. Very interesting this mans life. Truly one of my heroes growing up. Shipping was quick. Sooner than estimated for standard shipping. Minimal wear and tear on sleeve and book itself is flawless as mentioned in product description.

After reading this book on Jackie Chan I am truly amazed that he survived his early childhood, but it has made me appreciate all the efforts he uses to make sure his movies are funny and action packed. I know that I could not have gone thru what he did in the Chinese Opera Schools. This book had a lot of pictures of him as a young boy and of his parents. Well worth reading to know about one of your favorite actors.

If you're a Jackie Chan fan, you must read this book. It is an excellent account of his life, from his pre-opera days through the present. His early days in Hong Kong cinema are as fascinating as his childhood years in the opera school. And Jackie doesn't paint a perfect picture of himself - his accounts of his early success are thought-provoking. If you're not a Jackie Chan fan, go rent and watch "Supercop" and "Rumble in the Bronx" (and "Drunken Master II" if you can find it) and then read this book. You'll be a fan for life!

A cool read. Jackie Chan is a lot more interesting than I thought. Very cool to read about his early days, his perspective on work and life and how his career has developed.

Jackie Chan weaves a tale from his upbringing in Hong Kong to his stardom all over the world. If you're a Jackie Chan fan, you'll want to buy this book and get better acquainted with one of our

hardest-charging action figures.

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