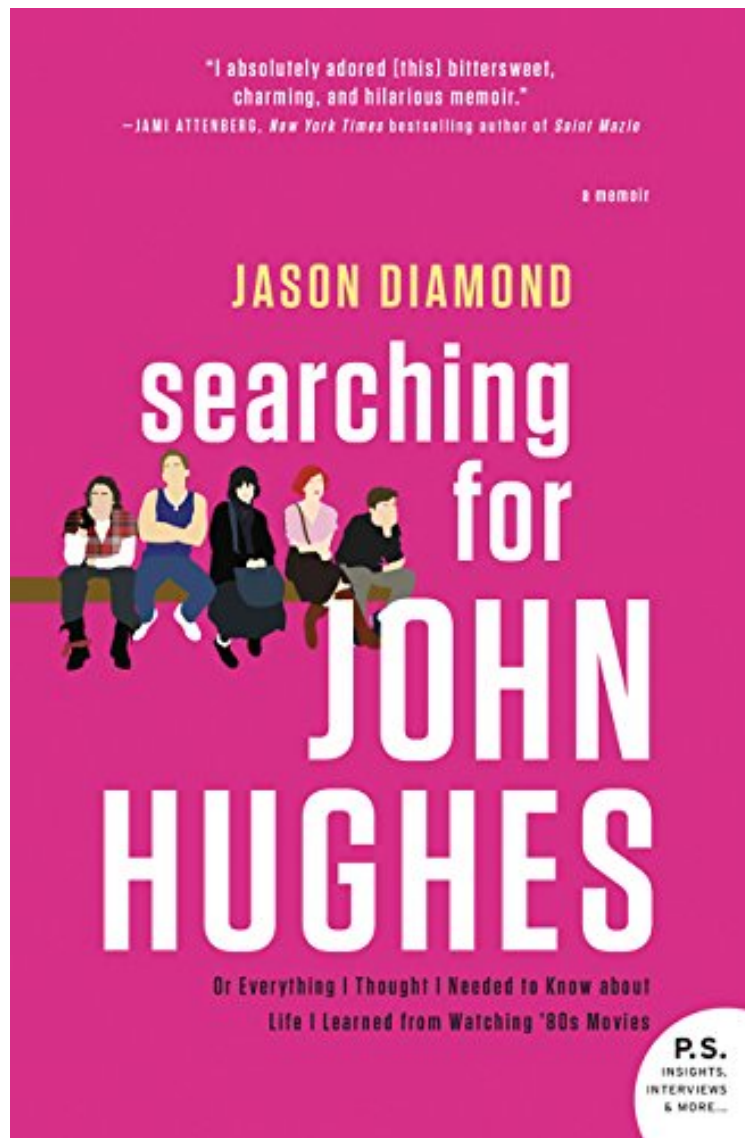


(Download pdf) Searching for John Hughes: Or Everything I Thought I Needed to Know about Life I Learned from Watching '80s Movies

Searching for John Hughes: Or Everything I Thought I Needed to Know about Life I Learned from Watching '80s Movies

Jason Diamond

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Jason Diamond : Searching for John Hughes: Or Everything I Thought I Needed to Know about Life I Learned from Watching '80s Movies before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Searching for John Hughes: Or Everything I Thought I Needed to Know about Life I Learned from Watching '80s Movies:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. can relate to any of the members of The Breakfast Club or think of Pretty in Pink as your high school soundtrackBy carilynIf you grew up on John Hughes movies or found them later in life, can quote every line in Ferris Bueller's Day Off or still dream of taking that day off, can relate to any of the members of The Breakfast Club or think of Pretty in Pink as your high school soundtrack, then Jason Diamond's memoir SEARCHING FOR JOHN HUGHES might be just what you want to read. Just a warning, it is sad and has some very dark moments. Diamond, who grew up on the North Shore, which Chicagoans and Hughes fans will know all too well, had probably one of the most unpleasant childhoods I have ever heard/read about. In fact, I am still haunted by it and commend him for his strength to not only write about it but to have survived it. I admire his quest to become a writer, to pursue Mr. Hughes to such lengths, and to have the determination to stick with something even at great financial loss. But, stick with it he did and without giving any spoilers, he knew what his end goal was and did it all on his own. It is a remarkable story.I am shocked at both of his parents' behavior and I hope that in the not-too-distant future, Diamond might share what became of his mother and father and how he came to peace with how they treated him. There was both abuse, physical and emotional, as well as abandonment, and no resolution shared in the course of the book. The parts about his childhood were so painful to read, and although Diamond was resourceful, he shouldn't have had to be, as only a teen, and the cruelty that they showed to him was unforgivable.Loving Chicago and the North Shore as well as Hughes' movies, I was inclined to read the book and relive the movies in all their glory. Each of them brings back memories of not only life as a teen, but of the city that I adore, which the director so lovingly captured on film.This is a heartfelt memoir that shows you really can follow your dreams, get knocked down a lot, get back up again and again, and if you don't give up, you might just be surprised where you land.5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Searching for a great read?By E. MCI came into this as a huge Hughes fan thinking it would be lot of commentary on movies, but I was surprised at how personal and powerful of a memoir this turned out to be. For those who've ever felt out of place, left behind, or otherwise discarded by a world that just doesn't understand -- this is a book for you. Diamond turns from a painful childhood toward the bucolic cinematic universe of John Hughes, in turn finding that one can only hide in film for so long. While the story is dark and at times difficult to read, the book is a testament to the will of young artists and the power of media to provide solace even when we are the most vulnerable. It reminded me of another moving book about teens, The Perks of Being a Wallflower. Diamond's earnest prose and deeply personal connection to Hughes makes for a great read, especially if you've ever struggled to find somewhere and something to call your own.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Misleading titleBy damsel41Not a book about John Hughes or his movies but a memoir. Misleading!

For all fans of John Hughes and his hit films such as National Lampoon's Vacation, Sixteen Candles, and Home Alone, comes Jason Diamond's hilarious memoir of growing up obsessed with the iconic filmmaker's movies—a preoccupation that eventually convinces Diamond he should write Hughes' biography and travel to New York City on a quest that is as funny as it is hopeless.For as long as Jason Diamond can remember, he's been infatuated with John Hughes' movies. From the outrageous, raunchy antics in National Lampoon's Vacation to the teenage angst in The Breakfast Club and Pretty in Pink to the insanely clever and unforgettable Home Alone, Jason could not get enough of Hughes' films. And so the seed was planted in his mind that it should fall to him to write a biography of his favorite filmmaker. It didn't matter to Jason that he had no qualifications, training, background, platform, or direction. Thus went the years-long, delusional, earnest, and assiduous quest to reach his goal. But no book came out of these years, and no book will. What he did get was a story that fills the pages of this unconventional, hilarious memoir. In Searching for John Hughes, Jason tells how a Jewish kid from a broken home in a Chicago suburb—sometimes homeless, always restless—found comfort and connection in the likewise broken lives in the suburban Chicago of John Hughes' oeuvre. He moved to New York to become a writer. He started to write a book he had no business writing. In the meantime, he brewed coffee and guarded cupcake cafes. All the while, he watched John Hughes movies religiously.Though his original biography of Hughes has long since been abandoned, Jason has discovered he is a writer through and through. And the adversity of going for broke has now been transformed into wisdom. Or, at least, a really, really good story. In other words, this is a memoir of growing up. One part big dream, one part big failure, one part John Hughes movies, one part Chicago, and one part New York. It's a story of what comes after the "Go for it!" part of the command to young creatives to pursue their dreams—no matter how absurd they might seem at first.

"Tells a heartbreaking story of restless youth, imposter syndrome, and the movies that help him make sense of it all...Makes me want to tell my parents and children how much I love them...and then curl up on the couch and watch The Breakfast Club." (Emma Straub, author of the New York Times bestsellers Modern Lovers and The Vacationers)"With geniality, humor and charm, Diamond explores the ways in which cinematic fantasy can influence, overshadow, and help us to escape reality. This book is for anyone playing out an eternal adolescence." (Melissa Broder, author of So Sad Today)"Jason Diamond writes with equal parts wit and candor about what happens when life diverges wildly from the suburban fairytales made popular by John Hughes. Diamond passionately conveys how lovely it is when we find less cinematic but harder earned happy endings on our own terms." (Maris Kreizman, author

of Slaughterhouse 90210)“Oh look, it’s all my favorite things in one book: Chicago, New York City, punk rock, food, and existential crises...Bittersweet, charming and hilarious...details the longing and struggle of an aspiring writer with clarity, wit, and heart.” (Jami Attenberg, New York Times bestselling author of *The Middlesteins* and *Saint Mazie*)“Both funny and heartbreaking, Diamond’s memoir is not just an account of how one director’s films impacted—and perhaps saved—his life. It is also a memorable reflection on what it means to let go of the past and grow up. A quirkily intelligent memoir of finding oneself in movies.” (Kirkus s)About the AuthorJason Diamond is the founder of Vol. 1 Brooklyn and an associate editor at Mensjournal.com. His work has been published by the New York Times, The Paris , Pitchfork, Vice, Bookforum, McSweeney's, and many other publications. He lives in Brooklyn.