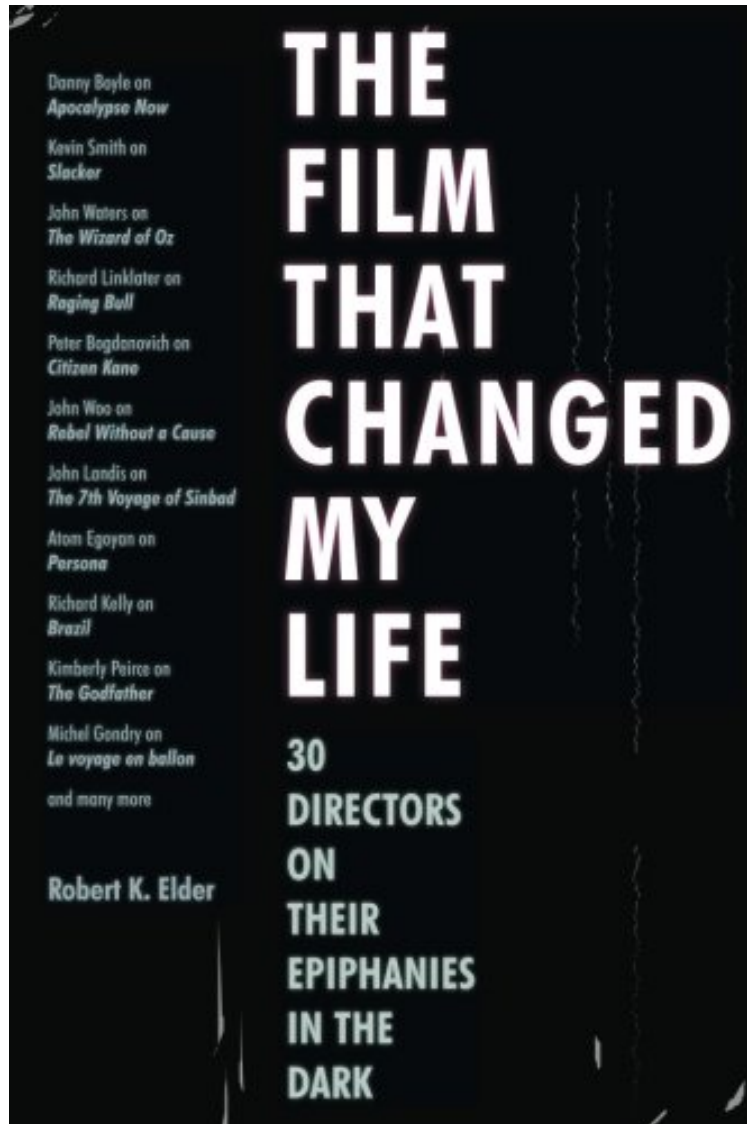


# The Film That Changed My Life: 30 Directors on Their Epiphanies in the Dark

Robert K. Elder

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**Robert K. Elder : The Film That Changed My Life: 30 Directors on Their Epiphanies in the Dark** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Film That Changed My Life: 30 Directors on Their Epiphanies in the Dark:

15 of 15 people found the following review helpful. Learn how Nicholas Cage "blew his testosterone" as well as many other little known facts of Hollywood lore. By Reviewer This is mandatory reading for film buffs. In interviews ranging

from roughly five to ten pages in length, Robert Elder asks a bunch of filmmakers what movies made them want to start directing their own films. What makes this book so spectacular is that the author-interviewer knows as much (or sometimes more) than the people he is interviewing. I have been obsessed with several of the films discussed at length in this book, and I was blown away by the little-known trivia this guy is able to dredge to the surface when he starts talking about the movies he and his interviewees love. Highlights include Danny Boyle talking about how "Apocalypse Now" affected him (Boyle comes across as the most intelligent and film-literate in a very bright bunch of directors), as well as Richard Linklater's tale of how Martin Scorsese's "Raging Bull" literally changed his life (Linklater was planning on becoming a writer until he saw the movie, at which point he decided he wanted to make movies). Some of the directors may seem like odd, or even poor choices, when one first gets a look at the table of contents. My first thought on discovering Brian Herzlinger's entry on "E.T." was, do I really want to hear about how a guy who made a documentary about Drew Barrymore feels about E.T.: The Extraterrestrial? But the surprising answer to that question was Yes, yes I do. The "old Hollywood" crowd gets its say, alongside the younger auteurs, with solid interviews featuring John Landis talking up "The Seventh Voyage of Sinbad" and John Waters explaining why "The Wizard of Oz" has provided him with his own prayerful mantra that he recites daily. Highly recommended, both for film buffs and those generally curious about how to skillfully conduct an interview.

1 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars  
By brian  
My brother loved it!  
7 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Awesom  
Book  
By Customer  
One of the best film books on the market right now. All the directors choices are varied and enlightening. Lots of fun!!

The movie that inspired filmmakers to direct is like the atomic bomb that went off before their eyes. The Film That Changed My Life captures that epiphany. It explores 30 directors' love of a film they saw at a particularly formative moment, how it influenced their own works, and how it made them think differently. Rebel Without a Cause inspired John Woo to comb his hair and talk like James Dean. For Richard Linklater, "something was simmering in me, but Raging Bull brought it to a boil" Apocalypse Now inspired Danny Boyle to make larger-than-life films. A single line from The Wizard of Oz- "Who could ever have thought a good little girl like you could destroy all my beautiful wickedness? -had a direct impact on John Waters. "That line inspired my life" Waters says. "I sometimes say it to myself before I go to sleep, like a prayer" In this volume, directors as diverse as John Woo, Peter Bogdanovich, Michel Gondry, and Kevin Smith examine classic movies that inspired them to tell stories. Here are 30 inspired and inspiring discussions of classic films that shaped the careers of today's directors and, in turn, cinema history. Robert K. Elder's work has appeared in the New York Times, Los Angeles Times, Chicago Tribune, Salon.com, and elsewhere. His books include John Woo: Interviews and Last Words of the Executed.

From Booklist  
Thirty disparate directors discuss their transformative moviegoing experiences in this collection of revealing and entertaining interviews. The subjects cover the cinematic gamut, from mainstream veterans (Arthur Hiller, Bill Condon), art-house auteurs (Guy Maddin, Atom Egoyan), and young turks (Jay Duplass, Richard Kelly) to cult figures (Kevin Smith, John Waters), documentarians (Alex Gibney, Steve James) and animators (Pete Docter, Chris Miller). Some watched their pivotal flick as children John Landis saw the fantasy epic The 7th Voyage of Sinbad at age eight and said, Hey, I could do that while others were already committed to the medium and viewed their picks in film school. Many of the choices show an obvious influence for instance, John Woo, renowned for his hard-boiled Hong Kong crime epics, cited Rebel without a Cause and Mean Streets but others are genuinely surprising, such as horror auteur George Romero's picking Michael Powell's opera adaptation The Tales of Hoffmann. The discussions provide insight not only into the chosen films most have been viewed repeatedly by the enthusiastic interviewees but also into the directors own works. Their heartfelt and passionate tributes are cinephilia made concrete. --Gordon Flagg  
"If you love films and care about filmmakers, you'll have a hard time putting this book down..." -- Leonard Maltin, author of Leonard Maltin's Movie Guide  
"A great and provocative read...It's addictive." --Michael Phillips, film critic, Chicago Tribune  
A bonanza for film buffs a wonderful recommendation to all who love movies. Elder has done us all a favor: read this book --Lawrence Grobel, author, The Art of the Interview  
About the Author Robert K. Elder's work has appeared in the New York Times, Los Angeles Times, Chicago Tribune, Salon.com, and elsewhere. His books include John Woo: Interviews and Last Words of the Executed.