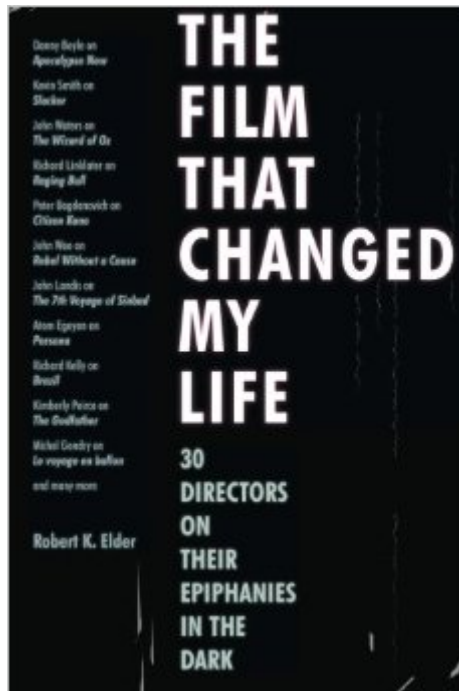


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# The Film That Changed My Life: 30 Directors On Their Epiphanies In The Dark



## Synopsis

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.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

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

One of the best film books on the market right now. All the directors choices are varied and enlightening. Lots of fun!!

My brother loved it!

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