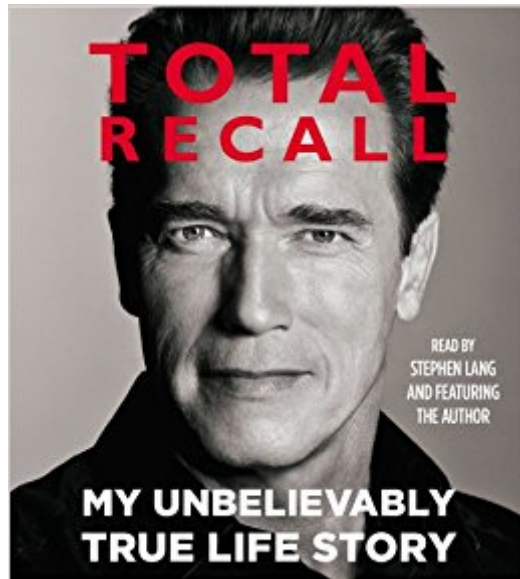


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Total Recall: My Unbelievably True Life Story



Synopsis

One of the most anticipated autobiographies of this generation, Arnold Schwarzenegger's *Total Recall* is the candid story by one of the world's most remarkable actors, businessmen, and world leaders. THE GREATEST IMMIGRANT SUCCESS STORY OF OUR TIME AND HE TELLS IT BRILLIANTLY, READING THE FIRST AND LAST CHAPTERS HIMSELF! His story is unique, and uniquely entertaining, and he tells it brilliantly in these pages. He was born in a year of famine, in a small Austrian town, the son of an austere police chief. He dreamed of moving to America to become a bodybuilding champion and a movie star. By the age of twenty-one, he was living in Los Angeles and had been crowned Mr. Universe. Within five years, he had learned English and become the greatest bodybuilder in the world. Within ten years, he had earned his college degree and was a millionaire from his business enterprises in real estate, landscaping, and bodybuilding. He was also the winner of a Golden Globe Award for his debut as a dramatic actor in *Stay Hungry*. Within twenty years, he was the world's biggest movie star, the husband of Maria Shriver, and an emerging Republican leader who was part of the Kennedy family. Thirty-six years after coming to America, the man once known by fellow bodybuilders as the Austrian Oak was elected governor of California, the seventh largest economy in the world. He led the state through a budget crisis, natural disasters, and political turmoil, working across party lines for a better environment, election reforms, and bipartisan solutions. With Maria Shriver, he raised four fantastic children. In the wake of a scandal he brought upon himself, he tried to keep his family together. Until now, he has never told the full story of his life, in his own voice. Here is Arnold, with total recall.

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Customer Reviews

Choosing the title of his autobiography must have been easy for Schwarzenegger. Finding a reason for writing it, especially at this particular moment, must have been a lot harder. As everyone (at least everyone who reads the gossip sites) knows, the body builder, movie star, and governor fathered a son with the housekeeper. As Arnold makes clear, he wants nothing more than to reunite with his wife, Maria Shriver. So why go there? Oh, well, Arnold has always been a guy who sets a goal and meets it, so maybe this will work out, too. His strong will was forged in a harsh Austrian environment, where parents and teachers delivered body blows, and dentists didn't use anesthesia. At 10, Arnold knew he would one day come to America, and, by 21, he was a Mr. Universe living large in L.A. His movie career pushed him into superstardom, and when he decided to run for governor, he won that, too (though he left office with an approval rating of 28 percent.) This is a dishy bio on lots of fronts, dipping as it does into the worlds of body building, politics, movies, and the Kennedys. Arnold seems to have a modicum of self-awareness: for instance, he knows he's secretive (you think?), but his last chapter, "Arnold's Rules," really reveals him: don't overthink (no problem); stay hungry; change always takes big balls. A guilty pleasure for those who just can't say no. --Ilene Cooper --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Arnold Schwarzenegger served as governor of California from 2003 to 2011. Before that, he had a long career, starring in such films as the Terminator series; Stay Hungry; Twins; Predator; and Junior. His first book, Arnold: The Education of a Bodybuilder, was a bestseller when published in 1977 and, along with his Encyclopedia of Modern Bodybuilding, has never been out of print since. Stephen Lang's Broadway credits include Wait Until Dark, A Few Good Men, The Speed of Darkness (Tony and Outer Critics noms), and Death of A Salesman (Drama Desk nom). Among his feature films are Last Exit to Brooklyn, Tombstone, Gettysburg, and Manhunter. His television work includes, The Fugitive, Crime Story, Babe Ruth, and Death of A Salesman. Arnold Schwarzenegger served as governor of California from 2003 to 2011. Before that, he had a long career, starring in such films as the Terminator series; Stay Hungry; Twins; Predator; and Junior. His first book, Arnold: The Education of a Bodybuilder, was a bestseller when published in 1977 and, along with his Encyclopedia of Modern Bodybuilding, has never been out of print since.

Having watched Arnold since I was a teenager, he is & always will be one of my favorite action heros, his films in the 80's & 90's were always fun to watch, especially his one-liners, some of which have taken on a life of their own, In this book Arnold talks about his childhood, his upbringing from a

poor family, his passion for bodybuilding which ultimately led to his coming to the U.S., Arnold really gives you the world of bodybuilding with all its glory & at times the ugly side, he also delves into some of his more popular films with some funny behind the scenes memories, he talks about his role in the "Terminator" & how he didn't want to be villains all the time, but was pleased with it's success, he really talks about how Universal was in a "E.T." mindset with the "Conan" sequel, & his artistic battles with the studio about "Conan's" direction & how he eventually lost out but was under contract to do it despite its PG feel, he talks about Dino DeLaurotis' dislike for him on the first "Conan" film, he talks about his & Joel Silver's falling out over the "Predator" sequel, Sharon Stone's hang-ups on "Total Recall", his & Danny DeVito's life-long friendship that came from "Twins", his heart surgery shortly after finishing "Batman & Robin", his return to films with "End of Days", & his bid to be Governor of California, the last part of the book as many have pointed out deal with his being Governor & all the political hardships he had to deal with, like passing fiscal budgets, dealing with career politicians, not getting certain bills passed & his passion to make California a better place to live & succeed, he also talks about his extra-marital affair & doesn't make excuses for it, but says little about what led to it, he talks about his marriage to Maria Shriver & his being accepted by members of the Kennedy family, Arnold is definitely a true rags-to-richs success, & this book is no doubt an inspiration to those who want to come to America to succeed, some may say he comes off as arrogant, but I didn't get that impression, what I got was a man very passionate about his success & failures, I highly recommend this to all Arnold fans out there.

I have been a fan of Arnold since I was a child. I got into weightlifting when I was in high school, and still have my hardcover copy of the Encyclopedia of Modern Bodybuilding. I have followed his career, been a fan of his movies, and read several books about him. I liked this book because it is one of the few that goes into details about his childhood through this arrival in America. Several things I had heard and read were not accurate, and he tells the story himself. I enjoyed the book for the most part, but his recall of his performance and accomplishment as Governor of Calif. are pretty subjective and I believe inflated from his point of view. I live in Calif, and I voted for Arnold twice. However, a Republican Governor in Calif is pretty much lame duck from day one in normal circumstances. Arnold did try to change that, but it did not work out that way. The really interesting stuff in the book really involves his early life, his rise to the top, working on various movies, and his business dealings. The political stuff is pretty subjective and somewhat inflated, and the recent family turmoil and child out of wedlock is not a significant portion of the book.

As someone who grew up watching Arnold's films and who later looked to him as a fitness role model, it was fascinating to read the inside story behind all of his experiences. Reading about the Mr. Olympia competitions and how he perceived them, reading about the making of some of his great movies, all of this is like crack if you're a fan. I couldn't put it down. My main takeaway from this book has been how motivated he is, how he visualizes a goal and falls in love with it so that he takes action like a crazed beast. The other thing is that he plays to win - even to destroy the competition, even when the competition are his good friends or people he has a good relationship with. This man makes no apologies for being #1, and that's something a lot of us can learn from. You can still like the people around you without letting them hold you back.

Great book! Even though I assume this Terminator guy just focused on the good things and how great things turned out to be for him when he established in America I still think it's something really good to read. It's inspiring and makes you wonder how far can you go when you chase a dream. This guy it's the biggest body builder ever, he became a hollywood star and still hungry he became governor of the largest state of the US. When I was a kid I used to love his movies, he was kind of a superhero to me and when I saw the chance to read about his life I just seized it. I loved the stories behind some of his movies, I found kind of boring the chapters about what he did as governor and I found a bit disappointing the chapter "The secret" where he tells briefly about one of the biggest mistakes of his life that costed him his marriage and reputation and he said not really much about what in the blue blazes made him do what he did. Great last chapter with the 10 rules of Arnold, I guess he could have added a 11th one about not being so theatrical when you had the chance to write your biography.

I found the book so far (read about a third of it) to be extremely rich in motivation-spawning statements. And I apply this to my main profession (being a PhD student in marine robotics) primarily: Arnold turns out to be a very disciplined person with a great vision, who exactly knows how to turn this vision into reality. Honestly, after a couple of years in grad school, I sometimes feel my personal vision and ambition to pursue a PhD slipping away from me, but reading this book made me wanting to approach my professional life in a similarly determined way as Arnold does. Really, this guy is my role model now, and many of his statements help me now to stay focused in research, stay concentrated when practicing the trumpet, and be ambitious in natural bodybuilding. Thumbs up! Can't wait to finish the book.

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