Biographies

Available at the El Segundo Public Library



Against All Odds: My Life of Hardship, Fast Breaks, and Second Chances by Scott Brown

Call #: 328.73 BROW

This gripping memoir of resilience and redemption recounts Scott Brown's journey from a difficult, often nomadic childhood to an adult life in politics, first in the Massachusetts State House of Representatives and the State Senate and most recently, to fill the term of the late senator Ted Kennedy.

And So It Goes: Kurt Vonnegut, a Life by Charles J. Shields

Call #: 813.54 SHIE

This first-ever biography of the life of writer Kurt Vonnegut is the culmination of five years of research and writing. Vonnegut's work, including the American classic *Slaughterhouse 5*, resonates with readers of all generations from the baby boomers who grew up with him to high-school and college students who are just discovering his work.

Beaten, Seared, and Sauced by Jonathan Dixon

Call #: 641.509 DIXO

This fascinating first-person view into Jonathan Dixon's experiences at one of America's most famous culinary institutions, the Culinary Institute of America, also chronicles his transition from amateur to professional chef.

Bismark: a Life by Jonathan Steinberg

Call #: 943.08 STEI

Drawing heavily on contemporary writings, this riveting biography illuminates the life of Otto von Bismark the "Iron Chancellor" who unified Germany while also embodying everything that was brutal and ruthless about Prussian culture.

Jane Fonda: The Private Life of a Public Woman by Patricia Bosworth Call #: 791.43 BOSW One of the 20th Century's most controversial and successful women, Jane Fonda emerged from a heartbreaking Hollywood family drama to become an Oscar-winning actress whose exercise videos began a multi-million dollar fitness craze.

One and Only by Gerald Nicosia & Anne Marie Santos

Call #: 813.54 NICO

This is the never-told-before story of Lu Anne Henderson, the girl who went on the road with Jack Kerouac and Neal Cassady and helped ignite the Beat Generation.



Life Itself by Roger Ebert

Call #: 791.43 EBER

One of the best known film critics of our time, Roger Ebert has been reviewing films for the *Chicago Sun-Times* for over the past 40 years. The first film critic to ever win a Pulitzer Prize, he also appeared on television for twenty-three years as cohost of *Siskel & Ebert at the Movies*.

Life and Loss in the Shadow of the Holocaust by Rebecca Boehling & Uta Larkey Call #: 940.53 BOEH The Kaufmann-Steinberg family's recently discovered correspondence inspired this deeply moving account of a Jewish family pulled apart and dispersed over three continents before, during and after the Holocaust.



Medgar Evers, Mississippi Martyr by Michael Vinson Williams Call #: 323.092 WILL

This biography chronicles the life of civil rights activist and leader Medgar Wiley Evers, who organized economic boycotts, sit-ins, and street protests despite the dangers of challenging the status quo in 1950's and '60s Mississippi. He also organized and participated in voting drives, joined lawsuits to overturn state-supported school segregation and devoted himself to a career path that ultimately cost him his life.

My Life, Deleted by Scott Bolzan, Joan Bolzan and Caitlin Rother

Call #: 616.85 BOLZ

This memoir begins on December 17, 2008, the day Scott Bolzan went to work, slipped and hit his head and woke up in a hospital bed unable to remember every memory of his past including his wife of 24 years, Joan. Scott and his wife Joan tell the inspiring story of how they faced a real-life nightmare of one of the most severe cases of profound retrograde amnesia on record and then started anew.

The Reading Promise: My Father and the Books We Shared by Alice Ozma Call #: 028.9 OZMA This series of vignettes is about Alice Ozma's relationship with her father and the life lessons learned from the books he read aloud to her every night from the 4th grade to the day she left for college.

Steve Jobs by Walter Isaccson

Call #: 338.761 ISAA

Based on more than forty interviews conducted over two years with Steve Jobs along with over a hundred family members, friends, adversaries, competitors and colleagues, this book tells the riveting story of the roller-coaster life and intense personality of the creative entrepreneur whose passion for perfection and ferocious drive revolutionized the industries of personal computers (iMac), music (iTunes), phones (iPhone), and tablet computing (iPad), to name a few.

Sweet Judy Blue Eyes by Judy Collins

Call #: 782.421 COLL

This book is a vivid, highly evocative memoir of Judy Collins, one of the reigning icons of folk music during one of the most turbulent decades of the twentieth-century America, the '60s.

Van Gogh by Steven Naifeh and Gregory White Smith

Call #: 759.949 NAIF

Drawing from previously untapped materials from the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam as well as the artist's famously eloquent letters and unpublished family correspondences this biography presents an exquisitely detailed, compellingly readable, and ultimately heartbreaking portrait of creative genius Vincent van Gogh.

A Voice in the Box: My Life in Radio by Bob Edwards Call #: 791.44 EDWA In this book, Bob Edwards recounts the story of his life and work as a radio news broadcaster for over forty years. He began his career at NPR hosting All Things Considered and Morning Edition, and now hosting his own show on Sirius XM Satellite Radio.



West by West by Jerry West and Jonathan Coleman

Call #: 796.323 WEST

One of the greatest basketball players, Jerry West has been an NBA champion, Most Valuable Player of the NBA Finals, Olympic Gold Medal winner and was named one of the fifty greatest players in NBA history. As a Los Angeles Lakers executive, he helped lead his team to six championships. Yet he also struggled with anger, depression and low self-esteem in his rise to fame from a small West Virginia mining town.