



Michael Douglas: A Biography

Marc Eliot

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A groundbreaking portrait of one of Hollywood's most successful stars, from critically acclaimed and bestselling biographer Marc Eliot

Through determination, inventiveness, and charisma, Michael Douglas emerged from the long shadow cast by his movie-legend father, Kirk Douglas, to become his own man and one of the film industry's most formidable players.

Overcoming the curse of failure that haunts the sons and daughters of Hollywood celebrities, Michael became a sensation when he successfully brought *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, starring his friend Jack Nicholson, to the screen after numerous setbacks, including his father's own failed attempts to make it happen. This 1975 box-office phenomenon won Michael his first Oscar (the film won five total, including Best Picture), an award Kirk hadn't won at the time, and solidified the turbulent, competitive father-son relationship that would shape Michael's career and personal life.

In the decades that followed, Michael established a reputation for taking chances on new talent and projects by producing and starring in the hugely successful *Romancing the Stone* and *Jewel of the Nile* movies, while cultivating a multifaceted acting persona—edgy, rebellious, and a little dark—in such films as *Wall Street*, *Fatal Attraction*, *Basic Instinct*, and *Disclosure*.

Yet as his career thrived, Michael's personal life floundered, with an unhappy and tumultuous first marriage, rumors of infidelity (especially with leading ladies such as Kathleen Turner), and a headline-grabbing stint in rehab. Rocked by a series of tragedies, including Kirk's strokes, his son Cameron's incarceration, and his own fight against throat cancer, Michael has emerged triumphant, healthy, and happy in his marriage to Catherine Zeta-Jones, a Welsh actress twenty-five years his junior, and their new young family.

In *Michael Douglas*, Marc Eliot brings into sharp focus this incredible career, complicated personal life, and legendary Hollywood family. Eliot's fascinating portrait of the lows and remarkable highs in Michael's life—including the thorny yet influential relationship with his father—breaks boundaries in understanding the life and work of a true American film star.

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