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"People always ask me about life after childhood stardom. What would I say to parents of children in the industry? My only advice, honestly, is to get these kids out of Hollywood and let them lead normal lives." —Corey Feldman

A deeply personal and revealing Hollywood-survival story.

Lovable child star by age ten, international teen idol by fifteen, and to this day a perennial pop-culture staple, Corey Feldman has not only spent the entirety of his life in the spotlight, he's become just as famous for his off-screen exploits as for his roles in such classic films as *Gremlins*, *The Goonies*, and *Stand by Me*. He's been linked to a slew of Hollywood starlets (including Drew Barrymore, Vanessa Marcil, and adult entertainer Ginger Lynn), shared a highly publicized friendship with Michael Jackson, and with his frequent costar Corey Haim enjoyed immeasurable success as one half of the wildly popular duo "The Two Coreys," spawning seven films, a 1-900 number, and "Coreymania" in the process. What child of the eighties didn't have a Corey Feldman poster hanging in her bedroom, or a pile of *Tiger Beats* stashed in his closet?

Now, in this brave and moving memoir, Corey is revealing the truth about what his life was like behind the scenes: His is a past that included physical, drug, and sexual abuse, a dysfunctional family from which he was emancipated at age fifteen, three high-profile arrests for drug possession, a nine-month stint in rehab, and a long, slow crawl back to the top of the box office.

While Corey has managed to overcome the traps that ensnared so many other entertainers of his generation—he's still acting, is a touring musician, and is a proud father to his son, Zen—many of those closest to him haven't been so lucky. In the span of one year, he mourned the passing of seven friends and family members, including Corey Haim and Michael Jackson. In the wake of those tragedies, he's spoken publicly about the dark side of fame, lobbied for legislation affording greater protections for children in the entertainment industry, and lifted the lid off of what he calls Hollywood's biggest secret.

Coreyography is his surprising account of survival and redemption.

Coreyography Details

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From Reader Review Coreyography for online ebook

SheLove2Read says

If you've seen the media coverage of Corey Feldman in the last few years, reading this book will give you a new insight and appreciation for what he is enduring.

Thrown into the "business" of acting at age three, he and his sister quickly became the breadwinners for the entire family. Living with an abusive, mentally unbalanced mother and a father who only showed any interest in him when it would monetarily benefit him, I'm surprised that Feldman turned out as well as he has. He relates multiple instances of abuse from his mother, who most likely suffers from manic depression or bipolar disorder, that will bring tears to your eyes. The abuse he endures as a child actor should be a classic example of everything that is wrong with Hollywood. He states that the best thing that could happen for any child actor is to get out of the business and I can't help but feel he is right.

His volatile relationship with his best friend Corey Haim, his oddly endearing yet ultimately sad friendship with Michael Jackson, and his two failed marriages are also detailed at great length. I feel in my heart that all of these relationships were dysfunctional due to his lack of parental love. Still, one of his greatest achievements, and you can tell it is heartfelt, is the love he has for his son, Zen. I hope that he can share the love with him that he missed out on himself.

His friendship with Corey Haim will break your heart, especially as he relates their last conversation together. A really good read, especially for those who grew up watching "the two Coreys" like I did.

Ana says

When I was a child, I dreamed of becoming a famous actress. Then I grew up and realized how perverted and fucked up Hollywood really is.

Oh boy, am I thankful for having lived a sheltered life. Who wants to be an actor anyway? I'd choose mediocrity over fame any day of the week.

The book started off with a bang. Corey described the moment he received the devastating word that his close friend and fellow child actor Corey Haim was found dead in his home, apparently the victim of an overdose.

People always ask me about life after childhood stardom. What would I say to parents of children in the industry? How can child stars avoid the pitfalls of fame?

My only advice, honestly, is to get these kids out of Hollywood and let them lead normal lives. Plucking children out of school and exploiting them for profit isn't healthy; neither is turning your five-year-old into the family breadwinner, or living out dreams of celebrity vicariously through your kids.

Corey Feldman, as you may know, has been very outspoken in his condemnation of pedophilia. Child actors are constantly preyed upon by Hollywood producers, directors, agents and executives. They are molested and

raped, pressured into doing things they don't want to do. They have no one to help them. Their parents are so blinded by their own greed, they often turn a blind eye to the suffering and pain inflicted on their own children. The industry uses them up, and then discards them like trash. Is it any wonder that so many of them get caught up in drugs and alcohol?

“The number-one problem in Hollywood,” I said, “was, and is, and always will be pedophilia. That’s the biggest problem in this industry, for children. It’s the big secret. There’s only one person to blame for the death of Corey Haim. It’s true that we were both molested by men in the industry, and that we knew each other’s assailants.”

People often forget that girls aren't the only ones who have to deal with abuse. It can happen to anyone, regardless of gender. Kudos to him for being one of the few to speak out on such a controversial issue.

The thing about sexual abuse is that it’s so taboo, so humiliating and depressing and generally difficult to comprehend, that it’s not very often openly discussed. For these reasons, it’s also often mischaracterized and misunderstood. Just because Corey wasn’t held down and physically restrained doesn’t mean he wasn’t raped. Just because he technically “allowed it,” doesn’t mean the abuse was somehow his fault. And it certainly doesn’t mean that he asked for it.

“Well, that’s what he told me. If you want to be in this business, you have to do these things.”

His parents were grade A assholes who didn't care about their children. In fact, the only thing they seemed to care about – notice – was Corey's paycheck. Btw he's been earning an acting paycheck since he was 3. They neglected him, they beat him, they ridiculed him. His mother was especially vicious, even going as far as beating him with a wooden dowel for missing out on a role.

And the contenders for the worst parents award are...

He also spoke at length about his close friendship with Michael Jackson. Michael sure liked to hang out with children. I'm not even going to comment on that.

Coreyography is filled with funny, interesting and strange stories. He opened up about his experiences on set with Steven Spielberg, River Phoenix, Kiefer Sutherland, Sean Astin and others.

The phone rang and rang and rang, until finally River picked up. He sounded out of it, and I could tell, right then, that what Kris had said was true. I told River that I had heard some things, that I was concerned about him, and that when I was back in L.A. we should meet up and talk things through. He seemed amenable. We made loose plans, said good-bye, and hung up.

River and I played phone tag for a while after that, but never did get together, and I never saw him again. Less than two years later, on October 31, 1993, he would die, in a convulsing, overdose-induced fit, outside the Viper Room, a nightclub owned by his pal Johnny Depp. He was just twenty-three-years old.

Oh.My.Goodness. His first serious girlfriend was Katie Barberi, a well-known star of Latin telenovelas. (I totally remember seeing her in *Por Tu Amor*).

The last chapter nearly brought me to tears. It was just... Oh. Rest in peace Corey Haim.

Now, if you'll excuse me, I think I'll watch *Stand By Me*. No, I'll watch *The Goonies*. Nah. How about *The Lost Boys*? *Gremlins*?

Decisions, decisions...

Rebecca McNutt says

In pretty much all of his early films, from *Stand by Me* to *Gremlins*, I thought Feldman was a terrific actor. Of course, off-screen, as with most child stars, things aren't the paradise they seem to be. Living a life riddled with drugs, neglectful parents and molestation, years of damage led to a battle with a drug addiction as an adult. *Coreyography* is one of few books that really addresses the issues that child stars face, and it's also an inspirational memoir.

Maria says

So I read this book in between others and used it as filler when I was waiting on something. That's not to say that I didn't enjoy it, or it was a bad book. In fact, it was the opposite. I enjoyed getting more behind-the-scenes on one of my favorite 80s child stars. Because I was familiar with his career, it was easy enough for me to pick this one up off and on.

Okay, the title is cheesy, but really it's a fun read. If you loved his movies then I think you'll enjoy this book. Corey talks about his life, strange relationships, drug abuse, friendships with other famous actors, and so on. I found it fascinating.

I'm glad to have read this and gave it 4-stars for my enjoyment and love of the subject matter.

Gef says

Corey Feldman's youth was so peppered with scandal, drugs, and bratty behavior, it's a wonder he never became mayor of Toronto.

I grew up a child of the 80s, and as such Corey Feldman was one of those faces that always seemed to pop up in the movies I enjoyed. Whether it be *Stand by Me*, *The Lost Boys*, or *License to Drive*, there he was emblazoned on the screen. But like 95% of the child actors out there, he grew up and was quietly brushed aside, so the next fresh face in Hollywood could claim the spotlight for a few years. Fair to say Macaulay Culkin picked up where Corey Feldman left off as the boy with a Gatling gun full of one-liners. But what happens when famous kids grow up? In Feldman's case, a whole helluva lot--especially when his personal life was even more turbulent than his professional life.

Now, I am loathe to read memoirs, especially celebrity memoirs. I've read a couple and found each to be thinly veiled exercises in stroking one's own ego. The over-inflated sense of self-worth becomes apparent just by listening to the celeb in TV and radio interviews as he/she promotes his/her book. *Coreyography* struck me as a little more grounded than the usual fare, judging by the back cover blurb and being spared listening to any interviews beforehand, so I decided to give it a go.

If Feldman has softened the lens on his life through this book, it's hard to tell because it gets dark, and quick, starting off with the death of Corey Haim, before going back to his early days in Hollywood as a young boy becoming the breadwinner for the family. I've long held the notion that child actors have a rough lot in life despite the fame and fortune, however fleeting, but if just half the things Feldman opens up about are true, then this is truly a cautionary tale for families with children on a similar career path. It's not all bleak and abysmal, mind you. Feldman is, after all, still breathing in and out, and raising a young son of his own these days. And the reminiscing of the actual nuts and bolts of acting as a craft for a kid thrust into some pretty big effing films are enlightening and even amusing, since I tend to enjoy those behind-the-scenes looks at how movies are made.

Some readers may go for the salacious aspects of the book, some may just want a nostalgia trip through the days of *Coreymania*, but don't expect a long-winded diatribe from Feldman on any aspect of his life. The book moves fast and covers a remarkable amount of time and tumult in well under three-hundred pages. The guy who wrote this book seems far more mature than the guy I saw on TV a few years ago parading around L.A. dressed like Michael Jackson with a couple of "Corey's Angels" at his side, much to the delight of paparazzi. Feldman may have gotten out of Hollywood alive, but not unscathed.

Diane says

Once you get past the ridiculous title* and intense cover photo, this is a good memoir. I read very few celebrity biographies, but Corey Feldman's appealed to me because I grew up watching his movies. I loved "The Goonies" and "Stand By Me," and even the campiness of "The Lost Boys."

What I didn't know back then was that Corey's personal life was hell. His parents were abusive and neglectful, and for much of his childhood he was the sole breadwinner of the family. He had started acting in commercials when he was 3, and he worked steadily until he was a teenager. Both of his parents did drugs and Corey's paychecks were frittered away. If he lost an acting job, his mother would beat him. Once she beat him so hard that he blacked out. She also tormented him by constantly telling him he was fat and ugly, and that he was klutz.

Corey was so miserable that he tried to kill himself. When he was 12, he swallowed a bottle of aspirin. Later he found one of his grandfather's guns and came close to pulling the trigger, but he couldn't go through with it.

The first time Corey slept over at a friend's house, he was shocked when the boy's parents tucked his friend in at bedtime and said they loved him. Corey realized what he was missing and that his family wasn't normal. He often cried himself to sleep and wished he could escape. Eventually he started experimenting with drugs and alcohol, which set him on a path to addiction and gave him a bad reputation.

As if that wasn't awful enough, Corey wrote about how he was frequently molested by older men, and said pedophilia is a serious problem in the entertainment business. His longtime friend and fellow actor, Corey

Haim, was raped on a movie set when he was just 11. In a disturbing description, Feldman looked at a photo from his 15th birthday party and saw that there were five different child molesters in the picture, along with himself and Haim. He said they were surrounded by "monsters." Feldman said he later tried to bring charges against one of his abusers, but the statute of limitations had run out.

One of Corey's childhood idols was Michael Jackson, who became a good friend. Corey's home life was so screwed up that Michael's house was a safe haven for him. The memoir has several sweet stories of hanging out with Michael, going to Disneyland with him while wearing a disguise, and attending Michael's elaborate parties. Years later, when MJ was accused of molesting children, Corey spoke up in his defense. In 2001, Michael broke off their friendship when he heard a rumor that Corey was writing a book about him, which Corey denied.

Hollywood is so far removed from my world that I had never seriously considered the plight of child actors. It's just not fair to put kids under such pressure to earn a living and support a family. When parents ask Corey for advice on how to get their child into the movie industry, he tells them to "get these kids out of Hollywood and let them lead normal lives."

I'm glad I read this memoir, even though I'll never again be able to watch those beloved 80s movies the same way. Corey tells some good behind-the-scenes stories about making "Gremlins," "The Goonies," "Stand By Me," and "The Lost Boys," and fans will probably appreciate this book. But the details of his abuse and neglect are very disturbing and sensitive readers should be warned.

Corey closes the book on an upbeat note, saying he's been sober for years and he's happy to have a son, Zen, who is now 8, and is still focused on his movie and music career. He hopes that talking about his abuse may help prevent other children from the same fate.

*Note: The title "Coreyography" is so hokey that when I first heard it, I thought it was a joke. My husband says this book should have been called "The Lost Boy." I think he's right.

Tara D-K says

It was SO good! I read it in 48 hours. I grew up with "The Coreys"- their movies, the teen idol fandom, etc. I was a child of the 80's so I really remember the Coreys Craze. The book was definitely nostalgic for me. It also was a very...humble...book. Feldman didn't come off as arrogant or unrepentant for his issues. He also was clear that even though all this stuff happened to him, really as a result of his parents poor choices, bad parenting, selfishness, etc, he was really about forgiveness and just trying to work, hone his craft, do something he loves, and make a great, supportive life and environment for his son. You can tell he's grown, matured, and it gave a new insight to a person who has often been made to seem like a joke over time. On TV and interviews, he can come off as odd, weird...I don't know what. But with the book, you really felt for him...where he came from, how awful it was to try to have a childhood in his environment, and how easy it was to take advantage of kids not that long ago. I'm shocked at how many of these child stars were basically the sole breadwinner for their families. Not because their parents couldn't work or needed help but because the parents were lazy, drugged up, selfish, disgusting excuses for parents and really, for human beings. How children were solely responsible for where the family was able to live, whether there was food, etc. These kids were made to think crazy dysfunction was normal. The lens into Feldman's life was really eye-opening.

He also talked about the sexual abuse he and Corey Haim endured. People might think he used Haim's story

as a ploy to make the book more salacious or controversial. But I think it was written about very well. It explained a lot about Haim's personality in a general sense. You could also really tell how much Feldman loved and misses Haim. And how there is a certain guilt he feels over not doing enough to help him when there were things going on that shouldn't have but he just didn't have the emotional capacity to do so at the time. What he's written is more like a quiet reflection on his life, his times with Haim, his family life, having a child, talking about his vast body of work, and how he's come to be the man he is today.

I really enjoyed it. It was the perfect mix of dish and emotion. It started off with intensity, instantly pulling you in, and it never lets go or gets dull. I've read MANY celebrity memoirs and I have to say, this was one of the most compelling, leaving the reader with a real warmth about the actor.

Cassidy Savage says

I grew up watching Corey Feldman movies, Goonies has always been my movie. I went into this read with a grain of salt but an open mind. He has gotten increasingly eccentric since childhood. I skimmed the reviews here and they're glowing....if not a bit overly so. This is an entertaining and somewhat enlightening read. Much of it feels embellished if not fully reimagined, maybe not made up, I'm not trying to say this is a book of lies. I'm sure this is his life, I don't doubt him. But being as drugged up as he was...I'm fairly sure he had to fill in some blanks. This is well written and flows easily, I don't feel drastically different about him after reading this, I followed him when I was younger so I remember much of this. Don't go in thinking you'll get tons of behind the scenes or new information, he skims over and stays close to staying squarely centered on himself. Which isn't a bad thing, it's his life's story, not an exposé on Hollywood movie magic. All in all I liked this book and recommend to anyone that really liked his movies.

Miss Kim says

I'm an eighties child, and to this day I hold Goonies, Stand by Me, and Lost boys as some of my favorite movies of all time. Feldman's story was interesting, sad, and yet seemed to ring familiar with what happens to children in Hollywood. His parents used him as their meal ticket, and treated him like shit. He was just wanting love from anyone his whole childhood, and led him to trust those he should not.

Reading about the rise and demise of Corey Haim was very sad.

Learning about Feldman's friendship with Michael Jackson was more interesting than I'd thought it would be. I believe him when he says that nothing inappropriate happened between them. The time he spent with Jackson was very innocent and good compared to the rest of his teen life. Jackson cut him out of his life out of the blue, and I think Feldman never got over that.

This is a good read if you are interested in true Hollywood stories. It is definitely not a feel good book. I don't think Feldman is using Haim's problems to sell his book--I think he is being honest and truly loved Corey Haim and tried to help him.

Jools says

I do not know where to start with this book to be honest. As biographies go he packs a hell of a punch into just short of 300 pages. First off I have to point out I have been trying to get my hands on a hard copy of this book since day one. So when one landed in my PO Box kindly sent from a friend I dropped everything and embarked on this roller coaster of emotions.

Like so many who will pick up this book I was a very young girl in the 80's when the names Feldman, Phoenix and Haim where gracing the covers of most magazines and out of the "Two Coreys" I always liked Feldman more. So it was no surprise that I really wanted to read this book.

Feldman takes you back to day one really his first memory so to speak of his first acting job at age 3. He then progresses to current day. From the start he does not shy away from a abusive mother to being groomed and substance abuse all before his 15th birthday. A lot of people have wondered how much of this book is embellished but for me all I was thinking was, "how restrained is he having to be not to end up being sued"? When it came to trying to talk about the molestation and not give away names and positions.

Feldman also is a huge Michael Jackson fan like so many, and he was lucky to actually meet his idol with the help of Steven Spielberg while working on the film "The Goonies" This part of the book I loved, in the way he was just some super excited kid wanting to meet his idol. He then goes on to tell the story of how they became friends and how the friendship eventually ended.

He also tells us about Corey Haim and why he ended up with such a sad end to his life. This I found really hard reading and he does not sugar coat his struggles or there friendship good and bad. I really do hope Haim is at peace now and Feldman (I'm sure) would of got the green light from his mother to print his story and struggles along with his own.

It is well documented about all these young actors in the 80's and the drug abuse, but to be honest I was pretty shocked at the extent and how much and how easy it was for these kids to get hold of. Then again the fact that most of there responsible adults surrounding them where actually abusing them in someway is terrifying to even imagine.

If like me you grew up in the 80's and this time period then I would say this is a good book to read. I will also warn you it is not the most comfortable of reads. He is quiet frank and to the point when dealing with the tough issues.

Brian says

This is as honest as a writer can get. Corey bares his soul and shares stories with a life filled with ups and downs, with many more downs than ups. If you are a fan of hollywood or books about filmmaking and acting this should become required reading. I don't see how I can ever refer to one of my favorite movies as Mearballs 4 again, it will always be Happy Campers to me. Lots of "ah ha" moments and shocking revelations kept me on the edge of my seat the whole time. I don't see how you can give anything less than 5 stars to this because it is unlike anything I have read.

Jami says

First of all, I was born in 1976. That makes all the difference in the world. I had posters of the two Coreys on my bedroom wall, *Stand by Me* was the first rated 'R' movie I watched (it was the first rated 'R' movie any of us watched), and, though it wasn't surprising, I was crushed when I heard that Corey Haim had passed away. Basically, a good chunk of my childhood movie memories involve a movie starring Corey Feldman. At the risk of sounding like an old timer, movies just aren't the same anymore. And, I think you'd have to be from my generation to thoroughly enjoy this book. I really hope, though, that younger readers will give the book a chance. I really enjoyed reading about his journey, but, again, I imagine that's because we grew up in the same generation.

To be honest, my biggest enjoyment of the book came from reading about the movies he was involved in. Though I believe that he did suffer abuse at the hands of his mother and some of the men in Hollywood, I was more interested in his film roles than the gossip about the world he grew up in. One thing that struck me as refreshing was the fact that, even though I'm sure he did witness and endure tragedies, he never really trash talked, bad mouthed, or spoke negatively about anyone he worked with or came into contact with. Even when he was speaking about his abusers, he spoke in a manner that didn't feel hateful or vengeful. It was just simple honesty.

I've read angry reviews that seemed to suggest he was negatively "outing" Corey Haim as gay or putting Corey down now that he is dead. I disagree completely. The first thing I said to my husband was that you could tell he really and truly did love Corey. He didn't stand up to Corey's abusers or his drug use for the same reason he had problems battling his own demons ... He was a child, naive and scared. He had his own hurdles to conquer, but I think he helped Corey as much as he possibly could. He hated his drug addiction, and he was disturbed by the child abuse surrounding them, but I don't think that he was speaking about Corey in a hurtful manner. And, I don't think he was saying anything critical about homosexuality. I think he was implying that, in their preteen and early teen years, they were both too young to be involved in that type of relationship with an older adult, male or female / gay or straight.

He pretty much said what I thought he would say about Michael Jackson, though some of the details were, I'll admit, interesting. I thought the 9-11 story was really sad. I knew that Corey had always been vocal with his claims that Michael never abused him and the book stayed true to those claims. Again, the tone of his stories about Michael weren't attention-seeking or tabloid-y. They just felt more truthful to me than anything else.

Since I've been reading Corey's book, I've re-watched some of his movies. It's hard to pick a favorite because I love them all. My husband (he's 6 years older than me) and I got into an argument about whether or not *The Lost Boys* is scary. I said, "I was 11 when it came out at the theater and the first place I saw it was at a slumber party involving about six 12-year-old girls. To us, it was kinda creepy." I hated Kiefer Sutherland during my younger years because he played such a delicious villain in the *Lost Boys* and *Stand by Me*. Now, of course, I know that they were all just really good actors. I understand now the movie may seem dated and silly. But, to us, it wasn't, it was scary, campy, and fun. *The Lost Boys* is one of my favorite movies from the 1980's and I really enjoyed reading about his time filming the movie. I think us 80's kids have left behind a better legacy than Edward Cullen, at least.

If you're a fan of Corey's movies, I would suggest reading the book. He's a good example of a child actor who seems to have weathered the storms of success fairly well. He's overcome his drug abuse problems and I think he cares about young people and drug education. Good, entertaining read. I recommend it. I'm going to go watch *The Goonies* or *The Gremlins*, now...

Matt says

I've long been fascinated with the Coreys. Reading "Coreyography" made me think about why. Was it mean-spirited schadenfreude, cruel delight at watching this marginally talented kid crank out dopey direct-to-DVD movies and cringeworthy reality shows? Yes, in part. But I've always rooted for Corey Feldman too, and I think it's always because *he* seemed to believe that he had something important to offer, despite the awful music and playboy posturing that suggested otherwise.

Corey's had a tough go, that much is certain. We learn about his unfit parents, the men who molested him, the hangers-on who provided him with the drugs that messed up his career before his so-so talent could take him down. Here's all you need to know about Corey's adolescence: The most stable, normal adult in his life was Michael Jackson.

Here's the crucial question about many child performers: What happens when you've spent a childhood singing for your supper, then you grow up and nobody wants to hear it anymore? Corey sounds like he's still trying to figure out the answer.

Suvi says

Sometimes certain people appear on and off all the way through your childhood and teenage years, but you don't realize it until later. I recently rewatched *Gremlins* (1984), one of my favorite films as a kid, and Corey Feldman was in it. When I was fifteen, we watched *Stand by Me* (1986) in school and I remember being impressed by the scene where Feldman is screaming about his father, but his name didn't register then. At some point I started getting interested in vampires and watched *The Lost Boys* (1987). It was ok, but I liked the actors more than I did the film. When I heard about the legendary *The Goonies* (1985) that many remember fondly, I watched that as well. Again, Feldman was in it, but I don't remember if he was good, I just remember the film was underwhelming.

The next time I "met" Feldman again was many years later, when I stumbled into a Vice article about his birthday party where women were dressed in their underwear and, according to the author, the mood was grim and the guests were few. At the time, it felt depressing to see yet another former child star going downhill, and somehow I unfairly juxtaposed Feldman with **Charlie Sheen**. There was, however, a patronizing tone in the article that made me uncomfortable. Like it was a pat on the head of someone who didn't ask for pity. At the end, there was a note saying Feldman wasn't too happy about the article, because it wasn't what was promised to him.

Fast forward to year 2016, when I found out Feldman had written a positively received memoir three years previously. I've avoided modern celebrity memoirs, because there are very few contemporary celebrities who

interest me in terms of taking the time to read a whole book about their lives (and then there's the branch of narcissistic rants of people who have proven time and time again they're out of touch from reality, so those I'm definitely not going to read, ever). However, something drew me towards Feldman's book, although I sensed he wouldn't let me off easy.

Turns out, I was right. Feldman starts with a punch in the stomach by recounting the moment he heard about **Corey Haim**'s death. For some reason that hit me really strongly, and a part of that was how well Feldman described the game of vultures: an endless stream of phone calls from journalists and people who think that just because they're celebrities, they have a right to claim a special relationship with the deceased.

Helicopters hunting a good shot of Haim's apartment building, one of Haim's neighbors trying to get a funeral gig for his singer girlfriend, **Warren Boyd** (whose job was to keep Haim clean, but disappeared whenever Haim ran out of money) trying to stuff A-list celebrities into the funeral despite their nonexistent relationship with Haim, the pressure to come up with a media-friendly statement, photographers stalking unsuspecting people in bushes, trespassing reporters etc. It's a sickening jungle out there, and reading about this stuff always makes me slightly anxious and out of breath.

As it can be guessed from that first chapter, this isn't only Feldman's story. Haim and Feldman were both molested several times at a young age by men who worked in the industry, so Feldman feels like Haim deserves to be heard as well, and is adamant that parents who have kids in the industry should be warned. The documentary *An Open Secret* (2014) addresses the problem. It's a shame it bombed (probably because it's more difficult to get people see documentaries than escapist flicks in theaters), but although I haven't seen it yet, the importance of the topic makes it an urgent watch for everyone. Movies are a big part of our society and it should be made aware what happens behind closed doors, especially when it concerns kids and teenagers. The film has apparently already suffered edits after a lawsuit, and seems to be extremely elusive and difficult to see anywhere in the Internet. Time will tell whether Hollywood will subtly push the film under the radar and eventually into oblivion. In any case, the problem of child actors being taken advantage either financially by their parents or emotionally by industry employees (some of them high up in the pecking order) has to be dealt with. It should've never existed and it shouldn't exist now.

As the case of **Martin Weiss** shows, there's still work to do what comes to the actual sentences when things finally progress to that point. Like Feldman says, "*the bright lights of Hollywood are blinding, and the sanctity of childhood is easily trumped by the deafening drumbeat of fame*". Power hungry casting agents are prepared to do anything to acquire fame for their clients, and the film industry is the perfect place to surround yourself with kids who desperately want to be famous. Kids, who don't necessarily have proper support systems to guide them through the very surreal world of Hollywood.

In a lot of ways, Feldman didn't have a great start in childhood. He and his siblings lived with a mentally unstable mother, who forbid them to have friends over, sometimes left the kids to starve because they weren't allowed to eat before she woke up in the late afternoon, and who did her best not to seem like a pushy and intense stage mother to outsiders (sometimes succeeding, sometimes not). We're talking about a home where Feldman had only seen from the television how parents tucked in their kids and kissed them goodnight, and where a mother physically attacked her child. Granted, she was sick, but it must have been a nice change to get to the movie sets.

Feldman talks about his experiences over the years candidly. The suicide attempts and the drug problem aren't glossed over, and blame isn't directed at anyone else. There's no bitterness, just honest discussion about the past that has molded Feldman, and about all the mistakes he has done along the way (doing an anti-drug awareness program while having a drug problem, throwing a huge party at the Four Seasons - when the studio execs told the bill was open and he should relax - and completely trashing the room etc.). He doesn't

claim to be perfect, and that's what's appealing about the memoir. Feldman willingly admits he has difficulties saying no and a need to see good in people, even in the most untrustworthy ones. Sadly, he also believes he contributed to Haim's death by being one of the first who introduced him to cocaine.

Despite all the great stories about filming processes and the friendship with **Michael Jackson**, there's an inherent tone of sadness throughout the memoir that I couldn't shake off for a while after finishing it. It's not the kind of patronizing sadness that many feel about once famous celebrities (some would use the word washed up, but I try to avoid it, it sounds so demeaning), but the kind of wistful sadness that comes with the knowledge that a person has had a troubled past, but has still come through as a winner. Feldman has been sober for years, and I honestly wish him and his son nothing but the best.

When a celebrity fucks up his life, it often happens under the watchful eye of millions of people (some of them who have no problem tearing a celebrity to shreds, because "hey, he chose the profession, he has no right to complain when we poke at his personal life despite him trying to keep it private"), but it doesn't mean the public knows the person and everything that's happened. Preying on vulnerable people has never been attractive and never will be. In the end, Feldman's memoir ends with a positive note, because he's still here. There's no need to feel sorry for him and treat him like a pathetic invalid whose life's over or somehow insignificant.

Jennifer (Jen/The Tolkien Gal/???????) says

Review to come. Because of the much sensitive subject matter and new viewpoints I've developed from reading this book, I need to reflect before blurting out a review. Also, I need to get the rollercoaster of emotions that slammed into my face to subside.

Andrew Hicks says

Andrew Hicks

Corey Feldman was a child actor whose most prominent mainstream output occurred in the mid-to-late '80s. You may remember him from such films as *Gremlins*, *The Goonies*, *Stand By Me* and *Meatballs 4*.

Philip Gibbons

I never saw *Meatballs 4*, nor any other *Meatballs* movies.

Andrew Hicks

Meatballs was like a PG *Porky's*, like *what's the point?*

Philip Gibbons

What's the point, indeed? Like a PG-13 horror movie, except somehow worse.

Andrew Hicks

It wasn't even supposed to be a *Meatballs* movie. It was a direct-to-video release that overnight, thanks to deal between producers and a studio, became a *Meatballs* movie. Corey Feldman never would've done that

flick if he knew it was gonna be a *Meatballs* movie. Just one of the many horrors he endured. This book frequently goes dark.

Philip Gibbons

Feldman sets the tone on page one: this is not going to be a comedic, light-hearted book. It's a dark, scary and brutally honest memoir about being a child star in Hollywood.

Andrew Hicks

Shit, he sets the tone on the front cover, like "I dare you to smile at any cute stories about *Goonies*. You think *Gremlins* was fun? I got RAPED by a Gremlin!" Then the prologue starts off in 2010, with the tragic, sudden death of Corey Haim, Feldman's best friend and frequent costar. We learn a whole lot about Corey Haim in Corey Feldman's book. One of the first things we discover in the narrative is that Haim was raped by a Pretty Important Nameless Adult in Hollywood at age 11.

Philip Gibbons

A lot of the shadier Haim anecdotes are uncomfortable because Haim isn't here to defend himself. I Guess Feldman's free to talk about Haim having loud sex in the next room with famed Hollywood child-talent manager Martin Weiss. Wait, Haim and Feldman were best friends, right?

Andrew Hicks

You've gotta wonder how much of this dirt he would've dished - or if there would've been a book at all - had Haim still been alive. Feldman spares no details when it comes to his memories of Haim's sex life. But when describing his own virginity loss, Feldman gives us a sentence or two about how he made love to his girlfriend on a bed of roses, or whatever.

Philip Gibbons

Now, Feldman was molested too, at age 15, and sexual abuse is never the victim's fault. But everything else that happened to him, he blames on someone else. His hotel room got trashed to the tune of \$10,000, but that was because of the animals that unexpectedly dropped by. Aside from getting coked up before a shoot on *The Lost Boys* and being screamed at by director Joel Schumacher, Corey never really admits to doing anything outrageous. Everybody else is impulsive or a sex fiend or a control freak or all of the above. Feldman is just a hapless bystander who has to pick up their pieces. We don't really get speculation on their behavior or comparatives. They're just 'like that.'

Andrew Hicks

I came away from that *Lost Boys* coke scene thinking Schumacher was an out-of-control diva. Feldman is still the tortured victim. We get ugly depictions of Feldman's parents and mom's boyfriends; he even goes off on other child actors from the time (Jeremy Licht, you little bully!). Granted, I don't envy Corey's childhood. I believe his depiction of a super-shitty home life was overall pretty accurate.

Philip Gibbons

It was interesting how his mother forbade him from doing any activities where he might get injured and lose acting gigs, yet she regularly beat the living shit out of him.

Andrew Hicks

Then she'd go back to sleep for a week. I keep seeing this in celebrity memoirs - the kid's doing all the work while the mom hides in bed.

Philip Gibbons

Before Corey started getting work, his big sister Mindy was bringing home the bacon. When your kids are successful actors, REM sleep is your 9-5. With all the under-bus-throwing Feldman did to his mom throughout the book, I expected Sheila Feldman to be as dead as Haim.

Andrew Hicks

Nope, she's alive, and she's denying that "most" of this is true. She says Corey told her the book would be highly unflattering and that she should just "go along with it."

Philip Gibbons

Would you say that Corey Feldman is a bit of a unreliable narrator?

Andrew Hicks

He definitely didn't tell the whole story. Possibly as a coping mechanism over the years, he's repressed or simply rewritten the story and convinced himself of its veracity. Every memoir so far that I've read that was written by medium talent (Steve Guttenberg, Jason Priestley, Pat O'Brien) takes painstaking measures to paint the self in a flattering light and in most cases ignore the ugly stuff outright. For these guys, I suspect, the mere acknowledgment in print that they have massive egos, is enough of a confessional accomplishment.

Philip Gibbons

I guess it's easier to write an addiction memoir if you depict yourself as not as big an asshole as everybody else. Regardless of his filtering, there are still seams where I feel his ego poking out. Still, the impression I picked up by the final chapter was that Feldman is more mature now, more introspective, and probably a generally nice guy.

Andrew Hicks

I don't dislike Feldman after reading his book, but I'm super-easy to please when it comes to celebrity memoirs. Just tell me some random stories I don't already know about movies and people I do already know. Tell me about some short-lived sitcom you were on that I've never heard of, about how you got to bone Drew Barrymore, and I'm reading it all to the end. It was surreal, though. It almost seemed like it was told by three or four different narrators.

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OUTTAKE:

Andrew Hicks

And there was more Michael Jackson than I was expecting, especially when you consider that their friendship involved hero worship on Feldman's end, a few long phone conversations and just a couple times of hanging out in person.

Philip Gibbons

The part where Michael called him and they talked on the phone for hours was interesting. There seems to be a running theme of permissive parents when it comes to MJ and his underage pals in these stories. They seemed to let their kids run off with MJ for sleepovers, trips to Disneyland and late night phone chats, no questions asked. It's either a byproduct of Hollywood fuckedupness, broken homes, living vicariously through children, or all of the above.

Andrew Hicks

There's a weird dichotomy too between the pedophile-cautionary intro and the reverential hero worship of

Michael Jackson. In any fiction book, after that foreshadowing, the Jackson character would turn out to be a pederast. But all Feldman wanted was more of Jackson's time.

Joe Barlow says

A brave and shocking memoir by the actor who seemed to epitomize '80s cinema for people of my generation. Feldman will shock many with his tales of drug abuse and sexual molestation, but it's hard to put down when he shares on-set reminiscences of *The Goonies*, *Stand By Me*, *Gremlins*, *The Lost Boys*, and *Friday the 13th: The Final Chapter*, or memories of his close friendships with Michael Jackson and Corey Haim. Feldman writes like a man determined to put his past behind him, and I'm sure that writing it was a cathartic experience. It never feels like bravado, just matter-of-fact reporting by someone who was there.

Erin says

Don't judge me. It was a Kindle Daily Deal.

I think this may be a record for shortest length of time in finishing a "purse book". It just goes to show that I spend way too much time waiting in doctors' waiting rooms. Get it together, doctors!

So, here's Corey Feldman's autobiography. It will probably surprise exactly no one that his parents were not the best, that he made some poor choices and that he has a few interesting stories to tell. I was a bit surprised that he was so open about sexual abuse between adult males and adolescent male stars (both he and Corey Haim had a number of horrific experiences), although now I do seem to remember hearing a bit about this at the time of Haim's death.

Anyway, if you are a huge fan of Corey (either Corey) or the movie "*The Goonies*" (which I never saw) this might be a painless way to waste some time.

Amy says

Most depressing issue ever of *Tiger Beat*.

Melissa ♥ Dog/Wolf Lover ♥ Martin says

I started this book yesterday and finished it today. I grew up with and loved some of the movies he was in and just love him. I have all of the *Lost Boys* movies, *Stand By Me* and *The Goonies*. I want to see about getting some of his music.

Reading this memoir was really sad. You hear so many things about child stars over the years and you don't know what is real or what isn't. I was horrified at the way his family treated him. I know this happens in a lot of families that you never hear about. I know he said his mother had mental issues and I'm glad he forgave her, but I sure wish someone could have really gotten him away from her more when he was young. No child

should be beaten or called names all of the time. The only good thing I saw she did was teach him to love animals. He mentioned that as well.

It also goes to show you can't really trust anyone in the industry. You say one thing and they change everything you say around. I think the only one that always gave him a true interview or didn't change his words or anyone's words is Larry King.

I'm very glad he was able to make it through all of the crap these child stars deal with and become the person he is today!
