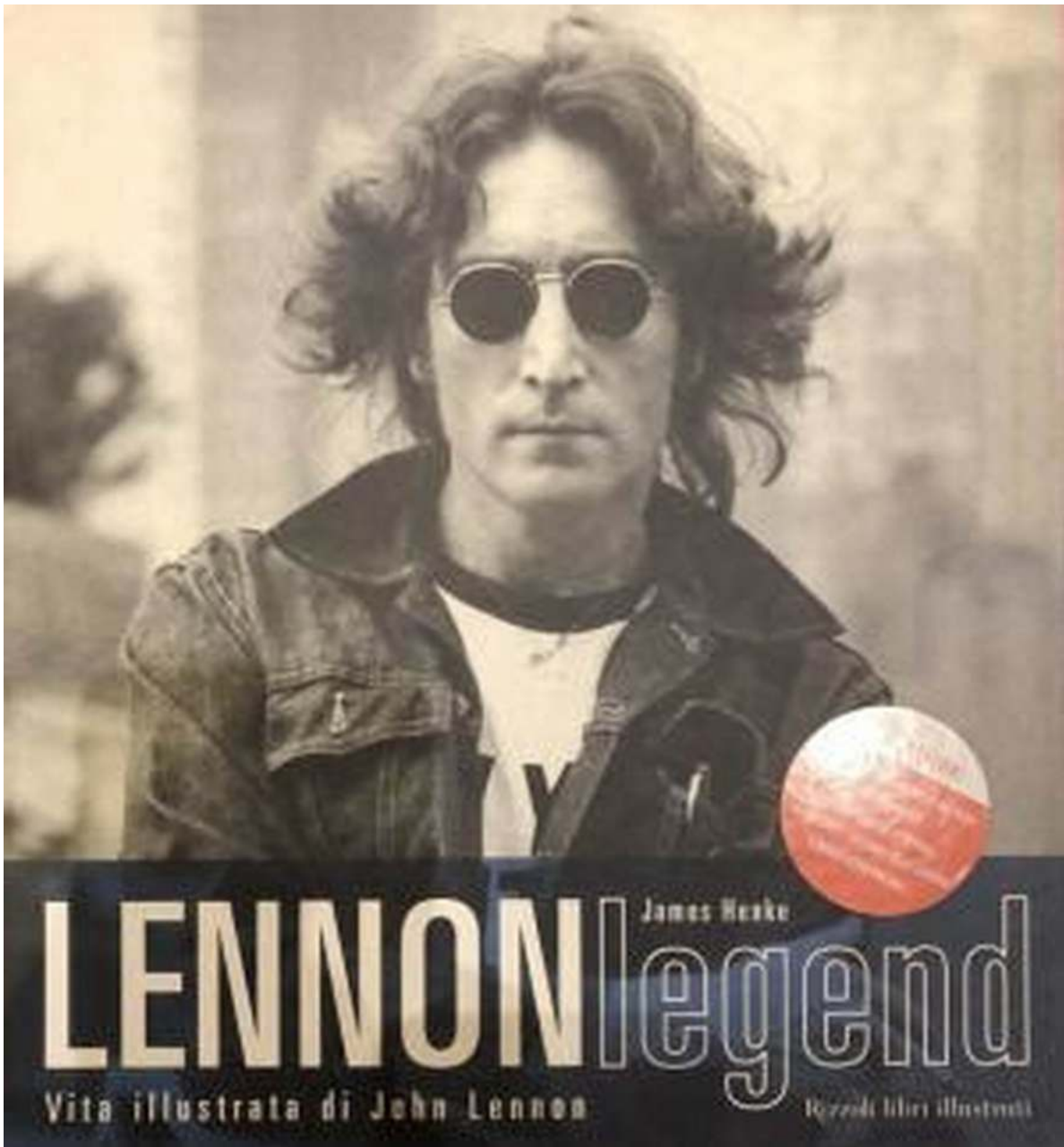


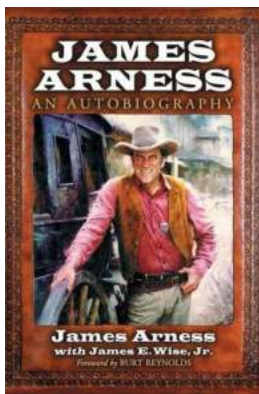
Unveiling the Remarkable Journey of James Arness: An Autobiography



The entertainment industry has produced numerous icons over the years, but few have captured the hearts and minds of audiences as James Arness did. From his memorable role as Marshal Matt Dillon in the iconic television series,

"Gunsmoke," to his innate charisma and talent, Arness left an indelible mark on the world of entertainment.

But what lies behind the tough exterior and the gravelly voice? What experiences shaped the man who became a beloved figure in American households? In his autobiography titled simply "James Arness," the legendary actor opens up about his extraordinary journey, offering readers a priceless glimpse into his life and the entertainment industry of yesteryears.



James Arness: An Autobiography

by James Arness (Reprint Edition, Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 29189 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 274 pages



A Childhood Shaped by the Great Depression

James Arness was born James King Aurness on May 26, 1923, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. His childhood was marred by the Great Depression, which left a lasting impact on him and his family. Growing up alongside his younger brother, Peter Graves, who also found success in the acting world, Arness learned the value of hard work and determination from an early age.

Despite the challenges, Arness discovered a passion for the performing arts during his high school years. Acting in school plays and immersing himself in the

world of storytelling became an escape from the harsh realities of life. Little did he know that this newfound passion would pave the way for a remarkable career that would span over six decades.

A Hollywood Journey Begins

After serving in the U.S. Army during World War II, Arness received a medical discharge due to his injuries. His dreams of becoming a professional basketball player were dashed, but fate had a different path in store for him.

Encouraged by his younger brother, Peter Graves, who had already found success in Hollywood, Arness decided to give acting a try. With his towering height of 6 feet 7 inches, rugged good looks, and a strong screen presence, Arness quickly caught the attention of talent scouts.

In 1947, Arness made his film debut in "The Farmer's Daughter," starring alongside Loretta Young and Joseph Cotten. This marked the beginning of a successful film career, with Arness appearing in various movies alongside renowned actors of the time.

Marshal Matt Dillon: A Role That Defined a Career

While Arness enjoyed moderate success in films, it was his portrayal of Marshal Matt Dillon in "Gunsmoke" that catapulted him to stardom and etched his name into television history.

Spanning an impressive 20 seasons, "Gunsmoke" became one of the longest-running television shows in history. As Marshal Matt Dillon, Arness captivated audiences with his calm demeanor, unwavering sense of justice, and magnetic presence. The show tackled a range of complex issues, making it a trailblazer in the realm of television drama.

Throughout the autobiography, Arness reminisces about his time on "Gunsmoke" and the incredible impact the show had on his career. From the challenges of portraying a beloved character to the profound friendships forged on set, Arness bares it all in this captivating account.

Beyond "Gunsmoke"

Although "Gunsmoke" was the pinnacle of Arness' career, he continued to leave his mark on both the small and big screens. From appearances in popular television shows like "How the West Was Won" and "McClain's Law" to memorable film roles in movies such as "Them!" and "The Thing from Another World," Arness showcased his versatility as an actor.

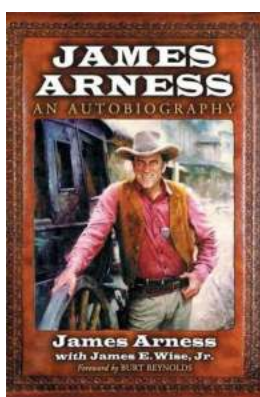


But life wasn't just about Hollywood for Arness. In his autobiography, he delves into his personal life, offering a glimpse into the man behind the roles. From his marriage to Virginia Chapman and their two children, Craig and Jenny, to his dedication to philanthropic work, Arness proves that he was much more than a Hollywood star.

A Legacy that Endures

James Arness' autobiography is a testament to a life well-lived, a career filled with ups and downs, and an unwavering passion for the craft of acting. It is a captivating tale that will appeal to both die-hard fans and those curious about the Golden Age of Hollywood.

From his humble beginnings during the Great Depression to becoming a beloved television icon, Arness' journey serves as an inspiration to aspiring actors and individuals seeking to make a difference in the world. His impact on the entertainment industry and the hearts of millions will forever be remembered.



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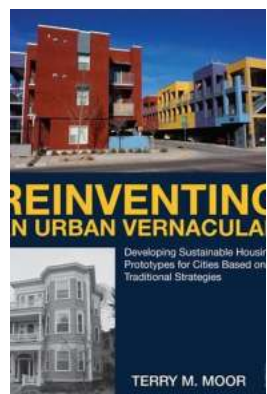
James Arness gives the full story on his early years, his family, his military career and his film work in Hollywood, including appearances in the cult-favorite science fiction movies Them! and The Thing. He had a very long run on television's Gunsmoke and a role in the miniseries How The West Was Won. His post-theatrical period is also covered.

This is a republication in paperback of the 2001 edition--the long anticipated account of one of the icons of 20th-century television. He offers many anecdotes of interacting with the Gunsmoke family, such as Miss Kitty, Doc and Festus. His own work as a producer is covered. Throughout are previously unpublished photographs from the author's collection. Appendices include comments by show biz colleagues and Gunsmoke alumni, and a sampling of letters received from his fans. Actor and fellow Gunsmoke performer Burt Reynolds has written a foreword to the book.



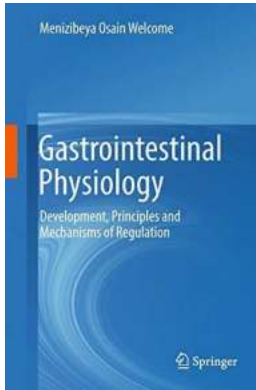
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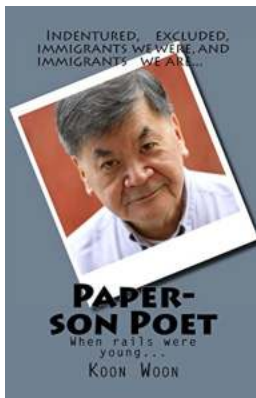
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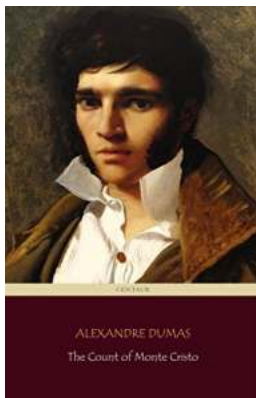
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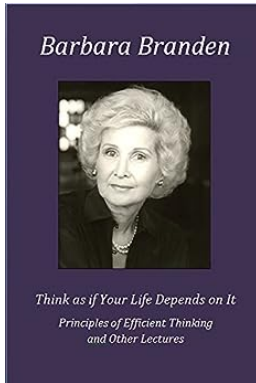
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