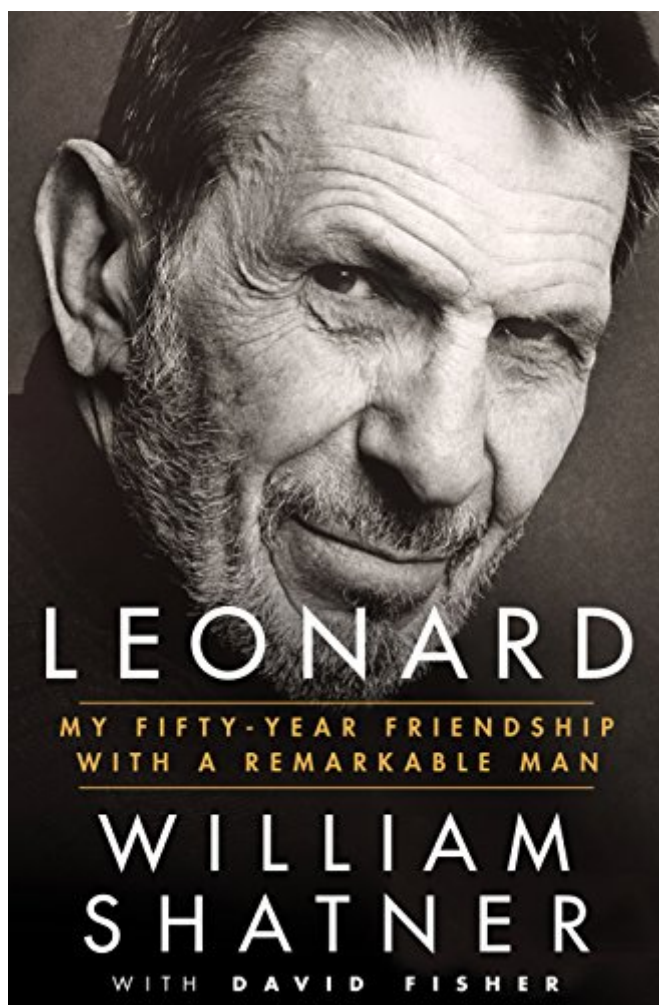


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Leonard: My Fifty-Year Friendship With A Remarkable Man



Synopsis

New York Times Bestseller Leonard Nimoy and William Shatner first crossed paths as actors on the set of *The Man from U.N.C.L.E.* Little did they know that their next roles as Spock and Captain Kirk, in a new science fiction television series, would shape their lives in ways no one could have anticipated. In seventy-nine television episodes of *Star Trek* and six feature films, they grew to know each other more than most friends could ever imagine. Over the course of half a century, Shatner and Nimoy saw each other through personal and professional highs and lows. In this powerfully emotional book, Shatner tells the story of a man who was his friend for five decades, recounting anecdotes and untold stories of their lives on and off set, as well as gathering stories from others who knew Nimoy well, to present a full picture of a rich life. As much a biography of Nimoy as a story of their friendship, Leonard is a uniquely heartfelt book written by one legendary actor in celebration of another.

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Customer Reviews

Primarily this is a bio of Leonard, secondarily a bio of Shatner. It's also a mutual career synopsis/filmography. Shatner recounts much of their work, and their consuming hobbies outside of work. That's a lot of ground to cover. When it comes to recounting friendship, Shatner is more vague. By Chapter 14, he claims "the details fade over time" and that his memories of their friendship are "emotional more than specific". So there's not a lot on their friendship, other than very brief recountings of projects they worked on together, mentions of dinners or personal conversations, how they laughed together in limos or flew to conventions together in planes. That part is sketchy. One aside, in the last few years word has come out over what a total @\$#@ Roddenberry was. A truly ugly incident recounted in this book just cements that. Shatner also recounts how he and Nimoy fell out in Nimoy's last years over Shatner's wanting him to appear in the documentary "The Captains". I'm sure Nimoy put up with a lot over the years with Shatner's ego. Still they were friends of a sort for decades. But Shatner claims that after an incident where he recorded Nimoy speaking at a convention to use in this documentary (after Nimoy had said no) Nimoy never spoke or communicated with him directly again. Shatner claims he's a loss to know what he did so wrong - but he often claimed such blindspots and misunderstandings in past instances in the book. He's rather like the Jane Austen character who says that selfishness has to be forgiven because there's no hope of a cure. And in a way, he's right in that with his narcissistic personality, you either have to accept that he is as he is, or drop him -- because he's unlikely to change. Shatner recounts sending Nimoy a touching letter (which he includes in the book) after trying to reach him personally and also through third parties. But Nimoy never respond to that either. Perhaps he was unable to, perhaps he never received it. Perhaps he'd just reached his "frankly, my dear, I don't give a damn" limit. So they were estranged when Nimoy died. Very sad, both for Shatner and Nimoy after their many years of professional association, acquaintance and friendship, but also sad for fans. Star Trek had some wonderful values. As an admitted fan, I don't pretend that the actors or even Roddenberry the creator and producer actually lived the values it purported. But it is still sad to hear Nimoy and Shatner ended estranged. This is a reasonably well written book, with some nice moments and some moments where a few more cracks are added to the Star Trek facade. For Trek fans, it's worth a read.

I am savoring this book, as a fan of the tv show and feeling as if I had Spock and Kirk as big brothers when I was growing up in the 60's. I am enjoying the behind the scenes history of all that went into their acting careers, including their shared heritage and the fact they were born in the same year, only days apart. Leonard Nimoy lived long and prospered, and William Shatner

describes their shared journey as they grew up in the harsh glare of fame and celebrity and I am grateful he shared his story. The tv show lasted 3 seasons. Luckily their friendship endured many more.

William Shatner always writes easy to read books, and this one was special, being a tribute to the actor who was his colleague, his friend, and who shared so many different experiences with him, both professional and personal. I learned a lot about Leonard Nimoy that I didn't know, not just as an exceptional actor and Mr. Spock, but as a family man, a great friend, and a perfectionist in his career as well as his interests outside his work. And he had so many other interests, from photography to flying, and singing to poetry and writing, to the useful art of bicycling. He was truly a multi-talented man. A man who gave his all in everything, and tried very hard to make things better in the world around him. He made many contributions that will continue to be felt and appreciated by many in the years ahead. The contributions to this book by Leonard Nimoy's family and friends were wonderful inclusions that brought a clearer, more personal touch to his personality, and spotlighted many of his struggles, worries and fears, his charm and humor, and his ultimate success. Some of the contributors include John DeLancie, Steve Guttenberg, D C Fontana, Adam Nimoy, George Takei, Tom Selleck, and others. What a great guy is Leonard Nimoy. And I believe he would have applauded and understood William Shatner's choice to stay at a Red Cross event he was already at when the tragic death occurred, making money for the needy, rather than crying off to go to his friend's funeral, and thereby letting down everyone at the charity event depending on him. Shatner's daughters attended the funeral, and thus represented his presence. And after reading Leonard Nimoy's own choices, and his strong feelings to help the less fortunate, I think he might very well have chosen the same, had the shoe been on the other foot. But that, of course, is just my personal opinion based on what I just read. I enjoyed and recommend this book. I have never attended a Star Trek convention, but I have always loved Star Trek and its characters, and had enough admiration for Leonard Nimoy's Spock, and interest in Star Trek in general, to make this book a must read.

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