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Storyteller: The Authorized Biography of Roald Dahl

By Donald Sturrock



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Storyteller: The Authorized Biography of Roald Dahl By Donald Sturrock

Now in paperback—Donald Sturrock's *Storyteller* is “a major literary biography...packed with intimate details, sharply intelligent commentary, and surprising revelations” (*The Washington Post*) of one of the greatest writers in the twentieth century, whose work still delights millions around the world today.

A single-minded adventurer and an eternal child who gave us the iconic Willy Wonka and Matilda Wormwood, Roald Dahl lived a life filled with incident, drama and adventure: from his harrowing experiences as an RAF fighter pilot and his work in British intelligence, to his many romances and turbulent marriage to the actress Patricia Neal, to the mental anguish caused by the death of his young daughter Olivia. In *Storyteller*, the first authorized biography of Dahl, Donald Sturrock—granted unprecedented access to the Dahl estate's archives—draws on personal correspondence, journals and interviews with family members and famous friends to deliver a masterful, witty and incisive look at one of the greatest authors and eccentric characters of the modern age, whose work still delights millions around the world today.



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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Only a special author can enter the imaginative realm of a child to write a *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. Yet this authorized biography, written by someone who knew Dahl and worked with the cooperation of the author's adult children and both wives--one of whom was film star Patricia Neal--covers the man and his reputation thoroughly while veering from deeper psychological readings of his work. This is not to say the book is superficial. Neal observed that her husband was a modern Pied Piper to children, and an element of the conjurer runs insightfully through this solid biography. Dahl considered himself a wanderer between his native Norway, the U.K., New York, and Hollywood, and a depressed one at that. He was drawn to the high life and celebrities such as Chaplin, Dorothy Lamour, and Robert Altman, and to expensive artwork and furnishings. Well covered are Dahl's English boarding-school years, his flying for the RAF during WWII; prickly relations with agents, editors, and publishers; the tragic lives of two of his children; and his up-and-down marriage to Neal. Yet because this biography is authorized, one comes away feeling that there is more to tell. 16 pages of b&w photos.

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From [Bookmarks Magazine](#)

Reviewers welcomed a new biography of Dahl on the twentieth anniversary of his death. Even though Sturrock's is not the first, his access to the Dahl family and their archives helps him to deliver a more thorough book on the children's author than has yet been attempted. Critics tended to agree that Sturrock has made great use of the new material, balancing the daffy, avuncular Dahl of the books with the very dark man he proved to be in real life. But some reviewers felt that the book's prose was only so-so and that Sturrock treads on eggshells when it comes to certain (more lurid) aspects of Dahl's life, suggesting *Storyteller* may not be the best read for those who are not already interested in Dahl or children's literature.

From [Booklist](#)

Today, Dahl, author of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* and *James and the Giant Peach*, is primarily celebrated for his iconoclastic children's novels. Sturrock successfully peels away the layers of this complicated and accomplished public figure, revealing a life as fascinating and, at times, as darkly humorous as one of his own novels. Dahl himself lived life on a very large canvas as a fighter pilot, intelligence agent, diplomat, novelist, screenwriter, family man, and bon vivant. Married twice, the first time to actress Patricia O'Neal, he relished his lavish lifestyle and socialized with a formidable array of literati and popular celebrities. Handpicked by the Roald Dahl Estate to write this authorized biography, Sturrock doesn't offer much detailed literary analysis; however, he does do an exceedingly admirable job of capturing Dahl's theatrical personality, while at the same time probing beneath the larger-than-life surface to reveal what made both the world-famous author and the private man tick. --Margaret Flanagan

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Lea Severino:

Hey guys, do you really wants to finds a new book you just read? May be the book with the headline Storyteller: The Authorized Biography of Roald Dahl suitable to you? The book was written by popular

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Elliot Weber:

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Pamela Prince:

The book untitled Storyteller: The Authorized Biography of Roald Dahl contain a lot of information on that. The writer explains your ex idea with easy way. The language is very clear and understandable all the people, so do not necessarily worry, you can easy to read the item. The book was authored by famous author. The author will take you in the new period of time of literary works. You can actually read this book because you can please read on your smart phone, or gadget, so you can read the book within anywhere and anytime. In a situation you wish to purchase the e-book, you can open up their official web-site and also order it. Have a nice go through.

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