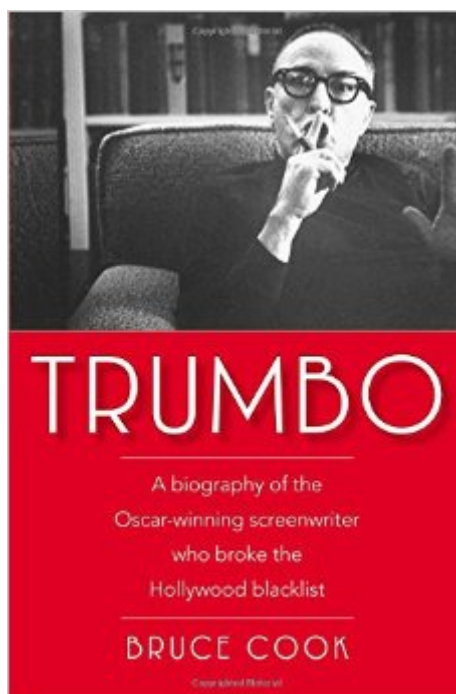


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# TRUMBO



## Synopsis

ONE OF BUSTLE'S BOOKS TO READ BEFORE OSCAR SEASON IS OVERThe true story that inspired the major motion picture starring Bryan Cranston and Helen Mirren. Dalton Trumbo was the central figure in the "Hollywood Ten," the blacklisted and jailed screenwriters. One of several hundred writers, directors, producers, and actors who were deprived of the opportunity to work in the motion picture industry from 1947 to 1960, he was the first to see his name on the screen again. When that happened, it was Exodus, one of the year's biggest movies. This intriguing biography shows that all his life Trumbo was a radical of the homegrown, independent variety. From his early days in Colorado, where his grandfather was a county sheriff, to Los Angeles, where he organized a bakery strike, to bootlegging, to Hollywood, where he was the highest-paid screenwriter when he was blacklisted (and a man with constant money problems), his life rivaled anything he had written. His credits include Kitty Foyle, The Brave One, Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo, Spartacus, Lonely are the Brave, and Papillon, and he is the author of a power pacifist novel, Johnny Got His Gun.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Bruce Cook's Trumbo is being re-released in time for the movie (Fall 2015) starring Bryan Cranston, Helen Mirren and John Goodman. Cook's Trumbo is a timely and thought provoking look into liberty, free speech and values; as relevant in the 1950s as today. The Hollywood Ten had everything to lose and only their self respect to maintain. The only reason one chooses jail is morals. What I found most interesting in Cook's Trumbo, was that Dalton Trumbo and the Hollywood Ten could have pleaded the Fifth Amendment to not incriminate themselves when hauled before the House

Committee on Un-American Activities. Rather, they plead the First Amendment: Free Speech. Cook pulls apart this time in American history telling readers that Trumbo was a pacifist, as many Americans were after World War I. Cook describes Trumbo's association with the Communist party in Hollywood. We learn that Trumbo fulfilled his patriotic duty during World War II as a war correspondent even working closely with high-ranking Navy officials on war propaganda; including a film project. However, Trumbo did not reach out to these high level government contacts to testify on his behalf; nor did they step up to vouch for Trumbo on their own. Trumbo went to jail and was blacklisted to protect his First Amendment rights. Others - men with lesser morals - were not even willing to make a call on his behalf. You will thoroughly enjoy this book. I am looking forward to the movie adaptation.

This is an excellent biography. Cook not only lays out the biographical facts of Dalton Trumbo's life but he also delves into the character and personality that made the controversial screenwriter such a fascinating figure. To achieve this depth, the author includes recreations of some of his research interviews with various individuals whose lives intertwined with Trumbo's--people who knew Trumbo as a boy in Colorado, family members and other members of the "Hollywood Ten", who were blacklisted in the 1950s for refusing to answer questions before the House Un-American Activities Committee. Cook keeps his subject at the forefront and in so doing offers as clear an explanation of the blacklist and its impact on American culture as I have ever read. Trumbo was a man of contrasts--a Communist who loved to live well, a talented writer who abandoned literature for the the money he could make in Hollywood and a political figure who refused to back down from his beliefs. I haven't seen the new movie based on Cook's work, but I look forward to it and I would highly recommend this book to anyone interested in the era of the Great Fear or anyone who enjoys biographies of people of conviction and integrity.

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Great biography about a seminal figure in America! Luckily this has been re-published concurrently with the release of the bio-pic. Not only is this a fantastic portrait of Dalton Trumbo, it's also a great primer on a tumultuous time in American history.

I got the book because I had seen the trailer for the movie and wanted to know more about Trumbo. I'd known quite a bit about the Hollywood Ten and those times through other histories of the time. I was able, while I was in law school, to meet a few of the attorneys who had represented people in that period. So I started out interested. Then when it came out I read Kirk Douglas book about the making of Spartacus..I'd give it 5 stars, but there were a couple of issues with the book that kept it from the highest rating. First, I just couldn't get interested much in Trumbo's early life and that took the first third of the book. Second, instead of writing in a strictly chronological fashion Cook make side trips into the present (well his present) to report on his interviews with his sources, almost like a magazine article. But once the book got to what I consider the meat of the matter, Trumbo's time as a radical and screenwriter and under the black list the story took over. Either the writing got tighter and better or the story itself was so compelling that it just took over. The latter two thirds of the book was so well written I could hardly put it down. I highly recommend it.

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