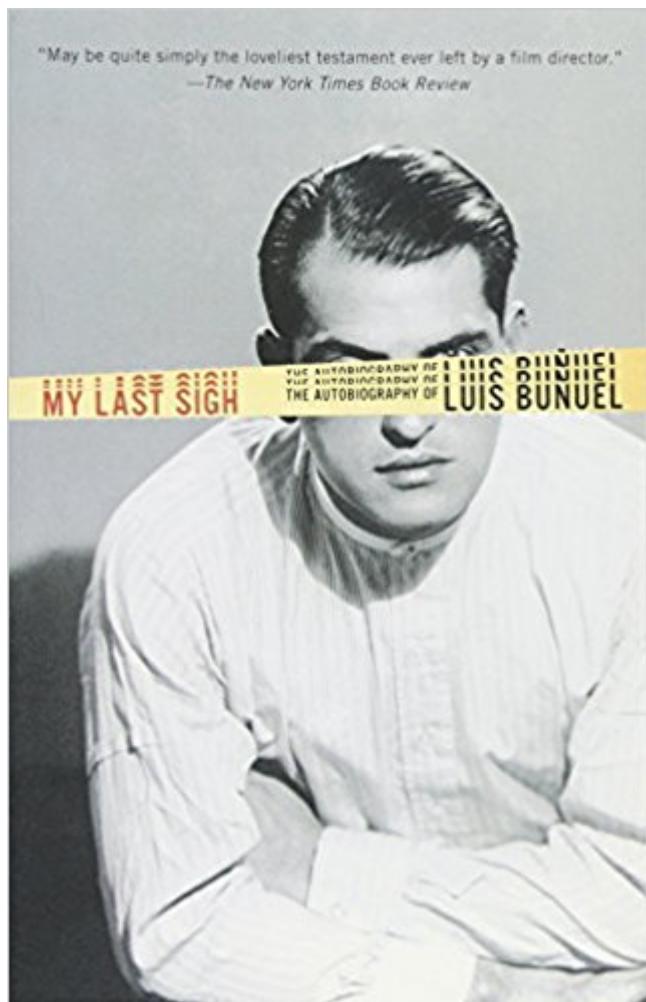


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My Last Sigh: The Autobiography Of Luis Bunuel



Synopsis

A provocative memoir from Luis Buñuel, the Academy Award winning creator of some of modern cinema's most important films, from *Un Chien Andalou* to *The Discreet Charm of the Bourgeoisie*. Luis Buñuel's films have the power to shock, inspire, and reinvent our world. Now, in a memoir that carries all the surrealism and subversion of his cinema, Buñuel turns his artistic gaze inward. In swift and generous prose, Buñuel traces the surprising contours of his life, from the Good Friday drumbeats of his childhood to the dreams that inspired his most famous films to his turbulent friendships with Federico García Lorca and Salvador Dalí. His personal narratives also encompass the pressing political issues of his time, many of which still haunt us today: "the specter of fascism, the culture wars, the nuclear bomb. Filled with film trivia, framed by Buñuel's intellect and wit, this is essential reading for fans of cinema and for anyone who has ever wanted to see the world through a surrealist's eyes.

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Customer Reviews

"May be quite simply the loveliest testament ever left by a film director." —The New York Times Book Review "One of the best books ever offered by a moviemaker. Buñuel is the proper human landmark for a moment when Europe met America and the schemes of religion, property, and progress were reassessed as dreams." —The New Republic

Luis Buñuel (1900–1983) was one of the twentieth century's greatest filmmakers. His many credits include *Un Chien Andalou* (1924), which he conceived with Salvador Dalí, and *The Discreet Charm of the Bourgeoisie* (1972), which won the Academy Award for Best Foreign Film.

Luis Bunuel was born in 1900 and reared in Calanda, Spain, to a wealthy family that enabled him to lead exactly the lifestyle he chose, which was a grand one considering that he was also brilliant, creative, charismatic and handsome. Looking back, his favorite places to live were Paris, Madrid, Toledo, El Pular, and San Jose Purua. He had many women friends but married the actress Jeanne Rucas, whom he filmed in "Diary of a Chambermaid," 1964. She later chose to live in Paris to rear their two boys. In 1972 he received an Academy Award for Best Foreign Film, "The Discreet Charm of the Bourgeoisie." Circumstances led him into the "talkies", a new art form he quickly and successfully adapted (first filming "Un Chien Andalou," 1928) until the turmoil of the Spanish Civil War forced him out of Madrid. After that he moved back and forth from Mexico and Europe depending on when circumstances were favorable to write and film. Mostly because of his Surrealist political views and his atheistic stance, his films were often very controversial--depending on when and where they were shown--and people either loved or hated them. He rarely viewed the finished product and couldn't understand why there were misunderstandings about their meanings. His politics were far left of left, but he also delighted in pranks, which didn't please the serious Surrealists, so he drifted away from meetings but was a loyal friend to them as well as many painters (Salvador Dali helped conceive "Un Chien Andalou"), writers and poets (Gael Garcia Lorca was one of his best friends), photographers (Man Ray, a fellow Surrealist), actresses (Catherine Deneuve, "Belle de jour 1967) and literally hundreds more, often sparring but usually remaining friends. In 1983 before he died, Bunuel narrated this book to his good friend Jean-Claude Carriere. The stories wander some, stopping to include a memory that has just come to him. This makes the prose a bit jumpy and the timelines overlapping. No matter, he comes across as an enigma. In the end he worried about the future of mankind, in particular the many nuclear bombs that have the potential to blow the Earth to smithereens. He laments "the four new horsemen: overpopulation, science, technology and the media." Yet his only regret in dying is "I hate to leave while there's so much going on."

Perfect!

Luis Bunuel made amazing movies in three countries (Spain, Mexico, and France) over much of the

20th century. The autobiography fascinated me but be warned, it ain't the whole story. You have to read his wife's book too, *Memoirs of a Woman Without a Piano: My Life with Luis Bunuel*, to get a better picture. Luis was a film genius but he was also insanely jealous and peculiarly cruel to the woman he married. Despite that, she stayed with him until his death, an indication of how fascinating somebody really talented can be.

Amazing book.

I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN A FAN OF BUNUEL'S FILMS AND HIS AUTOBIOGRAPHY HAS GIVEN ME INSIGHT INTO HIS LIFE, HIS PERSONALITY, AND HIS TIMES, ALL OF WHICH CONTRIBUTED TO HIS UNIQUE FILM ANTHOLOGY.

Anyone who enjoys Bunuel films will enjoy this book. He is absolutely natural in his writing so it's a pleasure to read. His life was so interesting and you 'see' his films in a new way after reading this book. I also learned a lot about the war years in Spain, something most WW II histories skip over. Highly recommended.

As wonderfully unique as the man himself. A must have for Bunuel enthusiasts.

Double the pleasure of learning of a person's life in a time of innocence and adventure. Want to know more

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