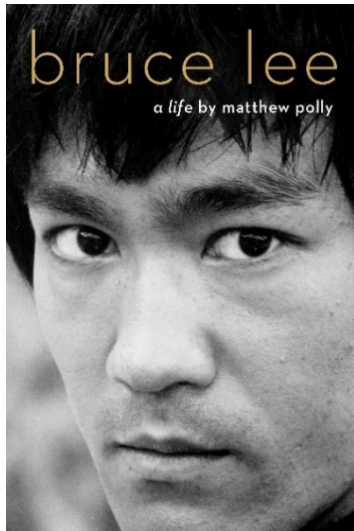


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# BRUCE LEE

## *A Life*

**BY MATTHEW POLLY**

Simon & Schuster | Hardcover | June 05, 2018 | \$35.00

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“This thorough, well-sourced biography from Polly (*Tapped Out*) is an engrossing examination of the life of martial arts movie star and his shocking, early death...In what is certainly the definitive biography of Lee, Polly wonderfully profiles the man who constructed a new, masculine Asian archetype and ushered kung fu into pop culture.”

—*Publishers Weekly*, starred review ★

“Spirited celebration of the life of ‘the Patron Saint of Kung Fu,’ a stalwart of pop culture whose career is due for a revival... Students of martial arts, film history, and the 1970s alike will find much to enjoy in Polly’s homage.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*

“At last, Bruce Lee has the powerful biography he deserves. Matthew Polly’s book is packed with new information and sharp insights. It will thrill Lee’s fans and fascinate the unfamiliar. Bravo!”

—Jonathan Eig, author of *ALI: A Life*

“You won’t find a better match for a biographer with his subject than Matthew Polly and Bruce Lee. From Lee’s early days as the self-proclaimed Cha-cha Champion of Hong Kong to his final, fiery years as the iconic, fist flashing, kung-fu master, Polly tells Bruce Lee’s story with clarity and empathy, tearing away the myths to reveal Lee’s most interesting persona yet: the man himself. A definitive biography, told with passion and punch.”

—Brian Jay Jones, author of *George Lucas: A Life* and *Jim Henson: The Biography*

“Believe it or not, Bruce Lee has never been the subject of a truly in-depth biography—until now. With this meticulously researched, beautifully realized work, Matthew Polly has written the definitive account. It moves with the authority, grace and economy of Lee himself. I was hooked from the first chapter.”

—Jimmy McDonough, author of *Shakey: Neil Young’s Biography* and *Soul Survivor: A Biography of Al Green*

-over for more

This summer marks forty-five years since the sudden death of Bruce Lee at the age of thirty-two. Lee made martial arts a global phenomenon. He bridged the divide between Eastern and Western cultures. He smashed long-held stereotypes of Asians and Asian-Americans. And yet, there has never been a comprehensive account of the film legend's life.

Until now.

In ***BRUCE LEE: A Life*** (June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018/\$35.00 hardcover), journalist and bestselling author Matthew Polly has written *the* definitive account of Lee's life, featuring dozens of rarely seen photographs. Following a decade of research that included more than one hundred interviews—with Lee's family, friends, business associates, and even the actress in whose bed Lee died—Polly has constructed a complex, humane portrait of the icon. Here are just a few of the fascinating revelations in ***BRUCE LEE***:

- Bruce Lee had Jewish ancestry.
- He was a child film star, appearing in his first movie at two months old.
- As a teenager, he was the 1958 cha-cha champion of Hong Kong.
- He was introduced to Hollywood by celebrity hairstylist Jay Sebring, who along with actress Sharon Tate and others would be murdered by the Manson family. And for a brief time, Tate's husband, director Roman Polanski, suspected Lee might have been responsible for the killings.
- He taught kung fu to Steve McQueen, but the two had a falling out when they both became involved with the same actress.
- He often used cannabis and occasionally drank, which contradicts the common belief that he was a teetotaler.

Polly explores Lee's early years as a child star in Hong Kong; his actor father's struggles with opium addiction and how that turned Bruce into a troublemaking teenager who was kicked out of high school. ***BRUCE LEE*** charts the film legend's career in Hollywood, from his beginnings as a martial arts teacher; to his struggles as an Asian-American actor and frustration seeing role after role he auditioned for go to white actors in eye makeup; to his eventual triumphs as a leading man. ***BRUCE LEE*** also chronicles the actor's challenges juggling a sky-rocketing career with his duties as a father and husband, and closely examines his shocking end that to this day is still shrouded in mystery.

This is an honest, revealing, and long overdue look at an impressive yet imperfect man whose personal story was even more entertaining and inspiring than any fictional role he played onscreen.

#### **About the author**

**Matthew Polly** is the author of the national bestseller *American Shaolin* and *Tapped Out*. A Princeton University graduate and Rhodes Scholar, his work has appeared in *Esquire*, *Slate*, and *The Nation*. He is a fellow at Yale University and teaches a course on Bruce Lee. He lives in New Haven, Connecticut.

**BRUCE LEE: A Life** \* Matthew Polly  
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