

The extraordinary life of an ordinary man: a memoir

Author: Paul Newman

Source: EPLD Adult Department

Paul Newman was an iconic movie actor, so I was intrigued to find that his family had published his memoir based on conversations that he had over the years with his close friend, screenwriter, Stewart Stern. This book is Paul Newman's version of his life dispelling the 'fairytale' life that people assumed he lived. The book is honest, humble and direct from a notoriously private man who in later life became as well known for his philanthropic endeavors and car racing as his acting.

The book is interspersed with snippets of conversations with all types of people from Paul's life from his childhood friends, family members, and film and theater colleagues. And while these conversations provide more insight into Paul Newman, I found they made the book feel disjointed not really knowing what aspect of the man I would be reading about in a given chapter. They also made the book feel more like an ongoing contemplation of his life which I think was his intent. The one thing I did take away from the book is that Paul Newman knew he had been 'lucky' in life which meant that he had to give back....which he did in a big way, and is rightly celebrated in this book.