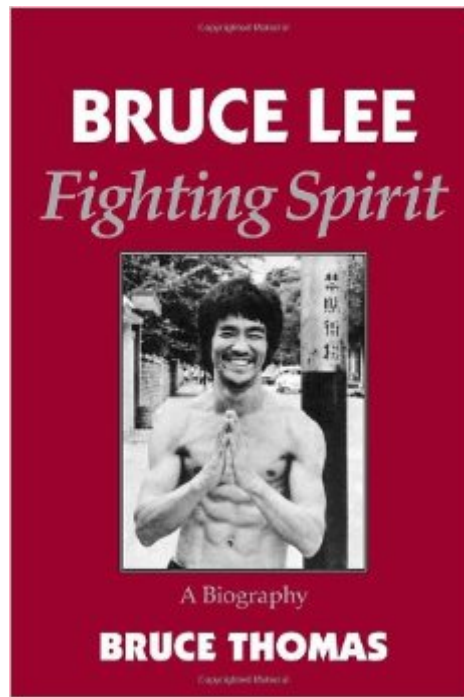


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# Bruce Lee: Fighting Spirit



## Synopsis

This is the only independent biography of Bruce Lee, and it is complete in terms of both the martial arts and the movies.

## Book Information

Paperback: 352 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (43 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #505,337 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #89 in [Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Sports & Outdoors > Boxing, Wrestling & MMA > Martial Arts](#) #1327 in [Books > Sports & Outdoors > Individual Sports > Martial Arts](#) #4734 in [Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Arts & Literature > Actors & Entertainers](#)

## Customer Reviews

I am inclined to agree with the other reviewers on the site about the merit of this book. It is very good, rivalling if not surpassing Linda Lee's account of her husband's life. As another reviewer has indicated the reason for this is that Thomas hasn't just recounted the tale of Bruce Lee's life per se but examined in quite some depth the spiritual and psychological motivations which led him to live the way he did. The biography has a special dimension which moves the reader into the actual reality Bruce experienced. I was affected greatly by the empathy Thomas has for Lee, which at times is so compelling, especially in the narration of the events leading up to Lee's death, that I was pressed to tears. There are few books which have such impact.

This is the best biography of Bruce Lee that I have ever read. It is not a pictorial perspective of the man but gives the most detailed account of his extraordinary life. It is the first book which has documented the relationship between Joe Lewis and Bruce Lee with an example of a kickboxing match (Joe Lewis vs. Greg Baines). Well done.

Thomas demonstrates a deep understanding of and empathy for Lee, and gives a great insight into

the way he lived. Rather than just cataloging the events of his life, this book goes a lot deeper and you certainly come away with as good an idea of what made Bruce Lee tick as you are likely to find anywhere. If you are a Bruce Lee fan, buy this book. You will definitely not regret it.

I, like most guys who grew up in the 70's, was and am a huge Bruce fan, and I've read just about everything ever written about him. I agree with other reviewers in that this bio is the most informative and heartfelt account of Bruce's life, written by a musician by the way! Bruce Thomas does an excellent job conveying to the reader his views on what made Bruce Lee such an electrifying human being, without it being blind hero worship. Bruce's supreme confidence and his normal human fears are explored. For fans like myself who are interested in Bruce's extraordinary martial arts abilities, Mr. Thomas delves into this aspect better than it's ever been done! Just the BEST Bruce Lee book you can get - get it and "Be WATER my friend".

Read it on a flight to Los Angeles when it first came out. Read it again on the way back. No Photos? That was different but then I got something different every time it was read again. What does that say about the writing when you are compelled to read it more than twice? Much adulation of Bruce's work and persona has been repeated to the point canonization still decades after his passing. But not much of anything on Bruce, the flawed eccentric. The bio storm following his death was just as shallow as it was necessary but how could you get to know a man who was gone on the cusp of his arrival? This author has come as close as anyone could while being free of the "enthusiast bias". It's one of the more even handed writing style biographies ever written on Lee and it worked without the photos. There were many Bruce personae that pulled punches if you will, that is, fashioned for the public...most from his own making. The real Bruce was rarely seen. The photo on the cover...that picture of him smiling...is not a pose. That was the real Bruce in front of his home in Kowloon who didn't mind the camera catching him in the middle of that rare joy before fame pressed its foot on his neck. He didn't smile or pull any more punches after that. The book doesn't either.

The thing to remember about great icons, even the late great Bruce Lee, (the godfather of martial art movies) is that we are all human, and as such we are all flawed. Personally I was for a long time reluctant to read a bio of Bruce Lee, he was the reason I got into the martial arts, (I know I'm one of millions!) so he was an idol. And friends told me it's hard to find an objective narrative of the man and the myth. Most are either a tribute or a slur, and neither is helpful when you want to get to know the man behind the myth. This book was one of the few that was told to do just that. It was still with

trepidation I started reading it. I must say it wasn't as bad as I feared, but you do get to know about the man's flaws, but also about his good traits, his motivations, his background, and so on..It was a good bio, but I still feel somewhat melancholy finish it. Such genius, such ability, such promise, gone too soon and so unnecessarily ..

First off, I want to say that *Fighting Spirit* made me realize how special Jeet Kune Do is. Bruce Lee's *Fighting Spirit* not only covers the greatness of Bruce Lee's life but also covers Bruce Lee's spiritual makeup and how he reached his full potential as a martial artist on a philosophical level. This book too can give you a piece of Bruce Lee's energy and give you the inspiration to achieve your goals in life. On the spiritual level, it's very deep as well. I'll say a few significant quotes from the book. "Though the martial artist perishes, he will embody a spirit that will not die." "What we need now is something far more extraordinary, what we need now is to share the same insights and understandings that lie at the heart of Bruce Lee's experience." If I could publish a list on the internet for one of the best Bruce Lee books of all time, this would be the book. Also, if you seek to use martial arts as a vehicle for self-awareness or to understand life on a spiritual level, it's this book.

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