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Snowden: Official Motion Picture Edition [Screenplay]



Synopsis

A courageous look at a historic figure. From Oscar®-winner Oliver Stone, *Snowden* is a riveting personal look at one of the most polarizing figures of the twenty-first century, the man responsible for what has been described as the most far-reaching security breach in US intelligence history. This official motion picture screenplay edition, written by Kieran Fitzgerald and Oliver Stone, includes a foreword by David Talbot and dozens of photos from the film. In 2013, Edward Snowden (Joseph Gordon-Levitt) quietly leaves his job at the NSA and flies to Hong Kong to meet with journalists Glenn Greenwald (Zachary Quinto) and Ewen MacAskill (Tom Wilkinson), and filmmaker Laura Poitras (Melissa Leo) to reveal US government cyber surveillance programs of epic proportions. A top security contractor with virtuoso programming skills, Ed has discovered that a virtual mountain of data on digital communication is being assembled—not just from foreign governments and terror groups, but from ordinary Americans. Disillusioned with his work in the intelligence community, Snowden meticulously gathers hundreds of thousands of secret documents that will expose the full extent of the abuses. Leaving his longtime love Lindsay Mills (Shailene Woodley) behind, Ed finds the courage to act on his principles. *Snowden* opens the door on the untold story of Edward Snowden, examining the forces that turned a conservative young eager patriot into a historic whistleblower and posing provocative questions about which liberties we are willing to trade for protection.

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Customer Reviews

NOTE: This book is a hardcover movie screenplay.

Kieran Fitzgerald is a director, editor, cinematographer, and screenwriter. He is the writer of *The Homesman* and *The Ballad of Esequiel Hernández*. Academy Award-winning Oliver Stone has written and directed over 25 feature films and 6 documentaries, among them some of the most influential and iconic films of the last decades. Some have been at deep odds with conventional myth; films such as *Platoon*, *Born on the Fourth of July*, *JFK*, *Natural Born Killers*, *Nixon*, and *Untold History of the United States*. David Talbot is the founder of Salon and author of the New York Times bestseller *The Devil's Chessboard: Allen Dulles, the CIA, and the Rise of America's Secret Government* and *Brothers: The Hidden History of the Kennedy Years*.

I love screenwriting and reading screenplays and am a big fan of Oliver Stone's work. This script is accurate to what I saw in the theater. It was a great picture, Snowden is a great patriot, and I consider this a return to form for Oliver Stone. Snowden is Stone's best picture since *Nixon* and *JFK*. Go to the theaters and watch Snowden.

Every person in the world needs to see this movie

Everyone should watch this film to better understand Snowden.

Really good screenplay and it shipped fast.

i threw it away

When Edward Snowden sent his NSA files to the guardian--about how his former employer(s) had been collecting the phone calls of everyone in America and more--people reacted differently. Some recognized that something must be pretty up with that information for someone to do such damage to his own life to give it here. Others had a kind of vague suspicion about him, condemning him as a traitor, a terrorist who had mocked the eternal idol of Law and Order. The truth is somewhere in between. There have been reports that Snowden was a conservative most of his life, so how does it make sense that he would make a move like this? But then checking the Guardian's website, no one knew who was but why he did it. Joseph Gordon Levitt does an extraordinary job playing this guy, who as he once said "was often likened to a robot". Indeed. He is obsessed from the beginning

with becoming known and recognized by authority, first being in the Special Forces, and then the CIA, and then the NSA. He excels at everything he does, almost to a painful point. He attains pretty much everything he wants, has an attractive girlfriend, and even supports the war in Iraq. Slowly, though, the excesses of the NSA are revealed to him. Not just that they spy on everybody, either; the mundane tales of evil are all too believable. Pakistanis become such easy targets for the NSA after 9/11 that employees pressure them in business in order to ultimately screw them over and take their business' money; in one scene a hedonistic type NSA member shows contempt for a Pakistani businessman he destroys financially. The guy's daughter almost commits suicide with pills as a result of her newfound poverty. This is when you finally see the angry Snowden; he is so uniform and by rote most of the time and seeing Levitt turn him really mad was something. Snowden tells his girlfriend to turn off her webcam after a day of watching his employees joke while watching people have sex and stuff like that. His NSA superior tells him that invading the privacy of everyone on all levels still does, arguably, reduce the threat of terrorism. Snowden moves to Hawaii with his girlfriend, an idea slowly forming in his mind. He starts having seizures. He is put on Tegretol. His health suffers more and more. Secrets are secrets, but for some reason it bothers this guy to see this kind of conduct and have these people at his trusted institution going quite that far. A really tense scene occurs when Snowden finally does what he was going to do, taking all the information on surveillance and downloading it to a memory card. The military was there that day, reprimanding another employee for messing something up security wise. Snowden puts the memory card on a rubix cube and evades detection by playing with and talking to the guards. Then, basically, you see the journalists from Citizenfour celebrated and Snowden's thought for his girlfriend. This is a multifaceted, very complex meditation on patriotism and morality. A great film about a rare character in modern times.

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