



Weird

A Monster-Maker's Journey From Small Town to Hollywood With OCD

by Lynette Eklund



Non-Fiction - Memoir

250 Pages

Reviewed on 03/13/2026

Book Review

Reviewed by Carine Engelbrecht for Readers' Favorite

In *Weird*, Lynette Eklund describes how she knew that she wanted to live and work in Hollywood. It was a dream she had planned from childhood with meticulous determination. At college, she studies fashion design to prepare for a possible career in costume design. But when a chance encounter soon after moving to California introduces her to creature effects design, she is instantly hooked. It's all in a day's work (or sometimes a night's work) for Lynette. While the variety is exhilarating, absorbing new skills at the breakneck speed required to meet deadlines can be extremely nerve-wracking. But behind her drive for perfection lurks a different kind of beast. Obsessive Compulsive Disorder can be an ally when attention to detail matters. But at the same time, the dictates of that invisible rulebook often get in the way of connecting on a deeper level with co-workers. A career coup comes when she gets a dream assignment to work for the prestigious Stan Winston's workshop, but then she has to make a difficult choice about her career.

I love the format, which reflects the movie metaphor by styling each chapter as a scene change. The sequence is non-linear, but intuitive, adding a thread of meaning to each change. In *Weird*, Lynette Eklund offers a unique, behind-the-scenes glimpse into the world of moviemaking, and while the celebrity encounters were a nice bonus, it's the monster-wrangling that provides its truest moments. It was fascinating to see the can-do, in-the-moment improvisation that happens as iconic monsters strut their stuff in real time. In a way, this book is better than any celeb memoir I've ever read. Additionally, her self-awareness and honesty give the narrative an added dimension that is equally compelling. There are lessons to learn in the way she adapts to the inherent insecurity of freelancing and deals with a mental disorder that would paralyze a lesser person. The downside? You may never look at a monster movie quite the same way again. On the other hand, that's not necessarily a bad thing. Recognizing genius and artistry is its own reward.