



The Engineer: Follow Elon Musk on a journey from South Africa to Mars

Erik Nordeus

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This is a book about the beginning of a journey. Elon Musk is the main person in the journey through a roller-coaster life. His journey includes everything from Winston Churchill's adventures in British colonies to demolished sports cars. From failed marriages to German scientists escaping from the Red Army. From the oil industry to the Burning Man festival.

Elon has been described as the Steve Jobs of heavy industry, as a modern version of the scientist Nikola Tesla, and as the Henry Ford of rockets. There's a high probability that the British Secret Intelligence Service has a file on him. As the files of other James Bond villains, it describes secret rocket launches in the Pacific Ocean. But Elon doesn't own a white cat - he's more of a dog person. Maybe the most comparable persons are the great explorers who voyaged across the globe. They had an entrepreneurial spirit, were a little crazy, tried what no one else had tried, and thought what no one else had thought.

If you want to describe the companies Elon has founded with one theme, you can say that they improve the world with the help of innovative technologies. This is exactly what our world needs.

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Nurlan Imangaliyev says

I hope a few centuries later people will be remembering Elon Musk for his positive contributions (successfully achieved) to the history of humanity.

Petr says

This unofficial biography is not very well written. There are typos, grammatical mistakes and the writing is often confusing and hard to follow. But since it's the closest thing we have right now to Elon Musk's biography, I don't want to complain too much. If you're interested in the man, this is the only decent option right now.

Vasco says

First the bad. Has some typos and inconsistent language - could have been better edited. Also might be opinionated and biased as it's one author's recounting of Musk's life events.

The good: it's a valuable, extensive biography and history of Musk. It gives you perspective on all his different enterprises and the context for each. Very comprehensive.

Jinglei Cui says

Very good and detail all you need to do is reading and learn by doing!!! Work hard and to be Elon Musk!!!

Tanja says

Last year I read Elon Musk: Inventing the Future and became a huge fan of Elon Musk. So when I found out another biography of him exists, of course I had to read it.

The most important difference between the two biographies is that Elon Musk had no involvement at all in this one. The author has used over 450 sources to write this book, but when you're writing a book about a living person, your best possible source is that person. This book is self-published, which is sometimes quite obvious because of grammatical errors and awkward sentences. Regardless of the faults, I still really enjoyed reading it.

Elon Musk is a fascinating person. He went from having nothing to being a billionaire and he achieved that with companies that not many people expected to succeed. It would be difficult to write a book about him

that's not interesting to read. This book describes his life up to year 2012 (it would be great if there were yearly updates, but oh well) and there are three very handy timelines at the end, one for Elon's life, one for Tesla Motors and one for SpaceX. Most of the book is focused on his companies, but there are also chapters about his early life and, later on, his personal life.

Most of the information was already familiar to me, but there were some anecdotes and details I didn't know before. For an unofficial biography, this is a really good book.

Sunita Gupta Kaushal says

Motivating story. A must read.

Aissa Benabbou says

The Book was a partial of a biography of Elon Musk Innovative life , I enjoyed every chapter of it only one chapter which was about his romance life and stuff (i found it boring) , i recommend this book to every person love technology,engineer or engineer student ... Enjoy it

Oscar Romero says

I love to read anything about Elon Musk--and this book sure gave me a lot more details about his business and his personal life. This book helped me get to know better how Elon works and operates.

Strongly recommended for everyone....as soon as you can read. Elon Musk sure is a unique individual...he is already up-there with the great minds that helped humanity--and he still working at it...he is not done yet, not yet.

Ruben Bos says

There will be a better biography, as it's mainly based on public articles. But for now, this is a must-read.

Hemant Thapa says

A man to inspire the world through his innovation.

Visnja Zeljeznjak says

Hats off to the author, Erik Nordeus, who compiled hundreds of public sources into this inspiring story about

a great man who will soon become even greater.

The book is chock-full of facts and information, clearly laid out in a digestible timeline which ends in 2012. The best stories, I am sure, are yet to come, and I hope this book gets more updates.

The missing fifth star in my review goes to the fact that this self-published book needs professional editing and cleaning up. But don't let this keep you from reading it, it is worth your time and your money.

I'm also hopeful that Elon Musk would find a couple of hours in his crazy busy schedule to give additional authority and authenticity to this book. Maybe someone should give the man a little nudge? ;)

Being a self-published author myself, I can only say that the world needs books like these and authors like Erik Nordeus, whose number one motivation was to inspire more people to dream bigger, just like Musk dreams bigger. Telling a story about a contemporary man who is too busy bringing humanity to Mars to tell his own story himself is important. The world needs more troublemakers like Musk, and in order to manufacture them, we need stories like this one. Get the book, I guarantee you will be inspired to be more while you're still alive.

Sotiris Makrygiannis says

3 stars for the story and 1 for Elon. Amazing journey and no matter what is the motives of Elon the truth is that he is pushing humanity forward

Chad Kohalyk says

Erik Nordeus has done a commendable job, scouring the web of resources to build a narrative of Elon Musk—a man too busy to get involved in a biography—and doing so in a different language! The book is an interesting business model (see leanpub.com/theengineer for more information) and it serves well as a first pass on the story of Elon Musk. I actually learned quite a bit.

In the future I really hope Nordeus is able to get an English editor and make some follow up interviews with the man himself. Also, since the book has the tinge of hero worship, I hope that Nordeus can give us some more constructive criticism of Elon (who, admittedly I worship as a hero myself). Regardless, it is an easy and quick read, and well worth it.
