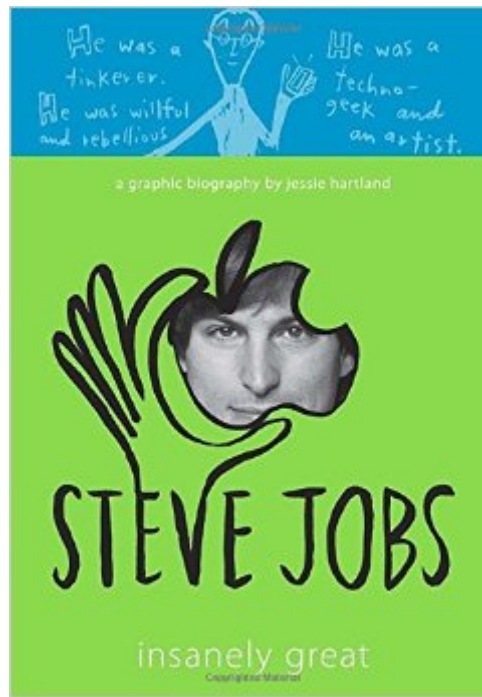


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# Steve Jobs: Insanely Great



## Synopsis

Whether they've seen Aaron Sorkin and Danny Boyle's Steve Jobs movie, read Walter Isaacson's biography, or just own an iPhone, this graphic novel retelling of the Apple innovator's life will capture the imaginations of the legions of readers who live and breathe the technocentric world Jobs created. Told through a combination of black-and-white illustrations and handwritten text, this fast-paced and entertaining biography in graphic format presents the story of the ultimate American entrepreneur, the man who brought us Apple Computer, Pixar, Macs, iPods, iPhones, and more. Jobs's remarkable life reads like a history of the personal technology industry. He started Apple Computer in his parents' garage and eventually became the tastemaker of a generation, creating products we can't live without. Through it all, he was an overbearing and demanding perfectionist, both impossible and inspiring. Capturing his unparalleled brilliance, as well as his many demons, Jessie Hartland's engaging biography illuminates the meteoric successes, devastating setbacks, and myriad contradictions that make up the extraordinary life and legacy of the insanely great Steve Jobs. Here's the perfect book for any teen interested in STEM topics, especially tech. A School Library Journal Best Book of the Year • a picture is worth a thousand words, then this comic tale can hang with the sprawling biographies. • "Macworld.com" • "An accessible take . . . undoubtedly valuable for kids who are growing up using Apple's products but knowing little about the man who created them." • "GeekDad.com"

## Book Information

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Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

It has been said that we reach higher because we stand on the shoulders of giants. In the case of Apple co-founder, Steve Jobs, he both stood on their shoulders and we stand on his shoulders. The creations of his company, the Apple and Macintosh computers, the iPad, the iPhone, the iPod and the many other technological tools built on these foundations, have changed the world. Jessie Hartland, in *Insanely Great*, has captured the essence of Jobs' rise to his role as the late 20th century's greatest technology contributor along with Stephen Wozniak (arguably). He is quirky, he is driven, and he is difficult to work with. Incredibly researched and detailed, the book speaks of his lifelong Zen obsession, and his need for simplicity in all things Apple. From the beveled edge on the first iPod to the iconic G-series shape, Jobs' input was final. It was not ready until he was satisfied. Jobs' work with Apple, Next, Pixar and then Apple again are covered in detail, educating the reader just as any good biography does. In any graphic novel presentation, the story and art work together. As much as Hartland's art is sketchy and simplistic, to tell a complex story such as Jobs', it works. Photo realistic art would not, nor would a fantasy style. The book reads well, and for any techno geek out there, is also available in eReader formats as well.

There is no denying that Steve Jobs will go down in history as one of the greatest innovators of all-time. Yet, there are likely many youngsters who don't understand how/why he is important, and how (without him) those ubiquitous phones in their pockets may not exist. That is where *Steve Jobs: Insanely Great* thrives, giving a graphic history of Jobs' life in an easily accessible form. This is a pretty standard biography of Jobs' life and career set in a graphic novel format. It starts with his birth, ends with his death, and covers pretty much all the important moments in between. The subject matter, of course, is what will draw both young and old to this book. Even though we all seem to have a smartphone in our pocket these days, I think we are still amazed at how quickly that technology developed. Looking at the life of Mr. Jobs is a nice parallel for understanding how we went from computers that took up entire rooms to the small, sleek, stylish devices we have now. Another positive from *Insanely Great* is that it is long enough (at 223 pages) to give some real insight into the man and the times around him. The book doesn't shy away from the fact that Jobs was often hated by

his employees, but it doesn't demonize him for it either. Instead, it takes a good middle of the road approach to Jobs' biography by laying out what is known about him and letting the reader decide what they think. Overall, it was fun to read this graphic novel, and because of the ease of the format it truly can be enjoyed by pretty much all-comers. The art was intriguing and pleasing to look at on each page, while the subject matter is so fascinating that you can't help but turn the page again and again.

Great book on Steve Jobs, but Need Color Version too to make the story more vivid! The book is black and white which is beautifully illustrated on Steve Jobs' life story in new angles, yet too dull in black and white colour. The author can think of launching a color version of the book, which will be a plus for such a great book!

Steve Jobs is the person who brought us Apple computers, as well as iPods, iPads and iPhones, and his story is truly a remarkable one. In STEVE JOBS: Insanely Great, Jessica Hartland shares Jobs' biography in graphic form. Each chapter deals with a different period of his life --- the first covers his first ten years, and one chapter only covers 1977, a very important year for Jobs. Jobs' life pretty much mirrors the history of the personal technology industry. Jobs made the first useable home computer, leaving consumers happy and demanding more. Jobs did not disappoint; he went on to create newer, faster, better computers. Then he branched out into other personal technology items, like cell phones and small, portable computers. He revolutionized the computer industry. I had never read a biography in graphic form before --- I'm generally not drawn to the graphic novel format, in general --- but I was pleasantly surprised by how easy this book was to read and how interesting it was. I had already read Walter Isaacson's biography of Steve Jobs --- a more detailed and comprehensive look at Jobs --- but this book covered many of the main themes and events in his life. It also briefly mentioned Jobs' drug use, which came up much more frequently in Isaacson's biography. If you are a fan of Steve Jobs, would like to learn more about this brilliant man or like the comic form, than this is the perfect book for you. Even if you don't particularly like comics (like me), you might still enjoy this book (like I did); it's short, has lots of illustrations and it covers every major aspect of Jobs' life. Reviewed by Christine M. Irvin

being a die hard fan of "steve jobs" its a great graphic novel which had enlightened with the missing pieces of his life story in more interesting way. the book has a great pace of telling the story and I

was able to finish the book in

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