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## Diaz from page 2D

many accomplishments ("and then I played, and then I directed . . . , etc.

Still, in part, this autobiography has a genuine, decided appeal.

Though Heston is known to most of the "beauting the films the "Ban-tine" Though Heston is known to most of us for his work in films like "Hen-Hur," "The Ten Commandments," and "The Agony and the Ecstasy," he actually started his career on stage and television. (He's continued to work on the stage throughout his years in Hollywood, most (ans may be surprised to learn.) His long career has spanned the last half of the twentieth century and consequently, his story is a kind of consequently, his story is a kind of from the trenches crash course in film

trom-tne-trenenes crass course in in-and theatrical history during a particu-larly dynamic ora of its growth. Heston came to Michigan with his parents shortly after his birth on Chica-go's North Shore in 1923. He spent his addist views in the community of St go's North Shore in 1923. Its spent me earliest years in the community of St. Helen, not far from Roscommon. Looking back, these years seem to have been idyllic for him, filled, as they were, with "home, pine woods, and books." (He still owns property in northern Michigan) still owns property in northern Michigan and, each year, ships to his California home a Christmas tree cut from the forests of the Wolverine State.)

What took him away from the area, at age 10, was his parents' divorce, an event he says still remains "the most traumatic experience of my life."

Perhans because of this very ceal con-

Perhaps because of this very real con-

flict in Heston's early life, the first part of this book is by far its most rewarding, although this will probably come as a surprise to those who read celebrity bios, simply to soak up glamour. Afterwards, the story tends towards a curious flatness (and, with it, Heston himself), simply because there is SICH. self), simply because there is SUCH lack of significant conflict as the years

If we are to take Heston at his word surely his Ilfe has been near-perfect. Talented, moneyed, famous, in good health — he doesn't seem to have even suffered any algnificant marital problems, either. He and wife Lydia (whom he refers to as "my girl" so much and so often that you'd like to smack him have been married 50-plus years, parenting a son and a daughter, both whom seem above-the-frav themselves If we are to take Heston at his word whom seem above-the-fray themselves.

In addition to its spotlight on film history, "In the Arena" carns bonus points for the tight shots it provides on David O. Selznick, Laurence Olivier, famed stuntman Yakima Canutt, Sam Peckinpah ("the only director I've ever worked for who came late to work"), and countless others.

If you're looking for kiss-and-tell, den't look here. And don't look for anything much that shows anyone in a tru-ly unflattering light.



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