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Who Was Alfred Hitchcock?



By
Pam Pollack
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Illustrated by
Jonathan Moore

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Grosset & Dunlap
An Imprint of Penguin Group (USA) LLC

For Peggy Thomson, Partner in Crime—PP

To Irene Meltzer Richard, Mistress of Suspense
at Lincoln Center—MB

For Betty, Char, Adam, and Mads—JM

GROSSET & DUNLAP

Published by the Penguin Group

Penguin Group (USA) LLC, 375 Hudson Street, New York, New York 10014, USA



USA | Canada | UK | Ireland | Australia | New Zealand | India | South Africa | China

penguin.com

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Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data is available.

ISBN 978-0-448-48237-8

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

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Chapter 1

Call Me Hitch



Alfred Hitchcock was born on August 13, 1899. His brother, William, and sister, Nellie, were nine and seven. Alfred's father, William, ran a grocery store and his mother, Emma, took good care of the

children. The family lived above the grocery store.
Life at 517 High Road was very orderly.

W. HITCHCOCK *Fruit Sales*



From an early age, Alfred liked to be alone. At family gatherings he stood off in a corner watching everyone else. Although there were other children who lived on his street, Alfred always played by himself or watched the other children play. For him this was more fun than being with other people. By the time he was eight, Alfred had ridden all the tramlines in London. He had taken the river steamers all the way to the mouth of the Thames River! He loved to

ride streetcars and big ships and kept charts of all their routes. He also memorized train timetables—the hours of all the arrivals and departures. To Alfred, keeping track of the schedules was as exciting as reading stories.

TRICHT		LONDON TO NORWICH										
Class	1st	2nd	Time		Days		Week		Month		Year	
From	To	Time	Day	Week	Month	Year	From	To	Time	Day	Month	Year
		6:10										
7:26	6:19								7:52	8:12		
7:47	6:28	6:58							8:09	8:31		
7:59	6:36	6:04							8:18	8:39		
8:10		6:13							8:30	8:57		
8:19	6:34	6:20							8:38	8:45		
8:28	7:06	6:28							8:46	8:56		
8:36	7:12	6:39							8:59	9:08		
8:45	7:23	6:48							9:10	9:18		
8:54	7:32	6:56							9:21	9:28		
9:05	7:41	7:05							9:32	9:40		
9:16	7:49	7:13							9:41	9:48		
9:26	7:56	7:20							9:50	9:56		
	8:06	7:28							10:00			
9:44	8:16	7:38										
9:56	8:25	7:45										
	8:34	7:56										



Every evening Alfred's mother called him to her room and asked him questions about his day. He confided in her about everything he had seen and heard.

At the time, movie theaters did not exist. But the Hitchcock family loved to go to the theater to see plays performed onstage. Alfred not only enjoyed the stories and the characters but also the way the lighting could make the audience react.

He remembered a show where the ghostly looking villain stood under a spooky green light. He was amazed at how a simple lighting trick made a character seem more frightening.



It sometimes seemed as if much of young Alfred's life was scary, too. One night he woke up and found the house empty. He went from room to room calling out for his parents. He didn't know it, but they had gone for a walk. His brother

and sister weren't at home. Alfred was completely alone, and he was scared. He wandered around the empty house. There was "nothing but night" all around him. Later, his parents came home and found him in the kitchen crying.

In 1910 Alfred started school at St. Ignatius College, a Catholic school for boys. Alfred still liked to spend time alone. Years later, a classmate of his remembered him as a plump schoolboy leaning against the wall, his hands folded across his round stomach, simply watching the other boys.

ST. IGNATIUS COLLEGE

