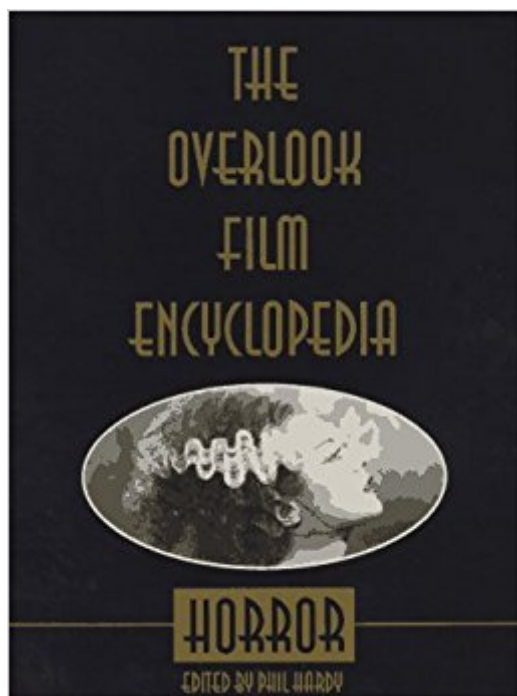


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The Overlook Film Encyclopedia: Horror



Synopsis

A reference guide to horror films. Entries on 1,800 films and their directors, effects and actors. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is the best single volume book on the horror film, the definitive reference work devoted to the subject. It contains entries on every movie even remotely connected to the genre, whether it is a 19-century silent, a grade "Z" schlocker, or an "art" film by the likes of Fritz Lang or Ingmar Bergman. Each entry contains a full list of credits and a descriptive review. Hardy writes about horror movies with such enthusiasm and intelligence that you feel you're getting the low down on the genre from a sincere and learned friend.

This book is the most thorough any encyclopedia has ever dared to be, chronologically assorting horror movies starting way back with George Melies' short film; *Le Manoir Du Diable* (1896, Fr.). I just wished it had included everything including the either lost, forgotten, or never released horror films that are only in their original languages from the Philippines, Italy, Japan, and Mexico. I really want to know more about Japan's "Moken no himitsu" from 1924, I believe it is Japan's true first ever horror film (according to the internet movie database website). The amount of Mexican, Hong Kong, and Japanese horror films from 1960 and on with incomplete credits are tremendous. This encyclopedia also helped me discover one title from my youth I thought I would never find,

"Something Wicked This Way Comes." The book most heavily exhausts Christopher Lee's and Vincent Price's filmographies which delights me greatly. Everyone who cares about horror movies should look for and buy this encyclopedia. And I really wish it would get an updated release spanning horror films up to 2010. Let's get the ball rolling for this, I saw in previous reviews that other owners want the same thing. Trying to fit it all in one book would be too much, it would exceed 2000 pages. How about a Volume 2? Also the encyclopedia contains knowledge of many lost films that seem to have disappeared in recent years in other horror encyclopedias. The writer really did his research. Holding the book for me is holding horror movie history, and for the legion of younger horror fans that is growing rapidly these last few years, they should know about the silent horror film years and not just say "A Nightmare on Elm Street" is the greatest horror movie ever. George Melies "Le Manoir Du Diable" (1896), "The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari" (1920), and Bela Lugosi's "Dracula" (1931) are arguably the best horror movies ever because they changed the landscape of the entire horror and monster genres. I can't stand encyclopedias that are all in alphabetical order. What if I wanted to know all horror movies made in the year 1955?

In terms of exhaustiveness, this book is probably second to none. Not only does it survey almost every American horror movie ever made, it contains a good lot on international films, especially Italian giallos. A new edition of this 1994 book would be most welcome. However, the authors of this book make the serious mistake of revealing key plot details of most movies, thus ruining the viewing experience of the unwary viewer. This is not how reviews ought to be written. So please do not read the review from this book before viewing the movie, it will ruin it for you!!!

The Encyclopedia of Horror Movies: The Complete Film Reference was the horror movie fan's bible back in the 80s (with the old Jack Nicholson cover photo from The Shining). It had reviews and details for tons of famous, infamous, and totally obscure horror films from all over the world. Films you probably thought you'd never see in those ancient, pre-internet days. I learned a lot from it. It was like having your own personal IMDB at your fingertips! Cast and crew, run times of cut and uncut versions, production companies, plot summaries--it was all there. The review style was a bit on the dry, academic side, but (usually) quite thorough. The book was revised and reprinted (with the classy Bride of Frankenstein cover shown above) in the mid-90s and you can see how the quality of horror films went down the toilet in the early 90s. Now, with the internet (and sites like IMDB), the need for this or any other film review book is becoming less and less. However, it makes a wonderful gift, coffee table book, or jumping off point for doing your own online research. I'm still

happy to have a copy of this and "The Overlook Film Encyclopedia: Science Fiction" on my bookshelf, even if I don't consult them nearly as much as I used to. Overlook also issued comprehensive film encyclopedias for the gangster, noir, and western genres.

This book has its flaws, there is no doubt about that, various films are missing, the writing is overly politically correct, almost every film is considered either racist or homophobic and every time a woman is killed it is because the director either hates or fears women. Did they ever think that maybe the reason there are beautiful women in these movies is so that there is something to hold the viewer's interest between killings rather than having them nod off because of the inane dialogue. Then there are the racist cannibal films. Most of these films are little more than a chance to show some extreme gore and nothing more should be read into them than that. I must say that I am surprised that they missed the right wing political views that are rife in ZOMBIE. They also give away the ending to half the films. Still, it's a great book, and I'm not being sarcastic. As a reference guide for the horror fanatic it's second to none. I have certainly never read anything with as much information on each individual film as this, as I mentioned before there is sometimes too much information, ruining twist endings and giving away key plot elements before you have had a chance to discover them for yourself, but you just have to be careful how you read it. I've owned this book for a few years now, and have read it through about twenty times and I am still picking it up often and going over old ground and discovering new information. Any horror fan must own this, no two ways about it.

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