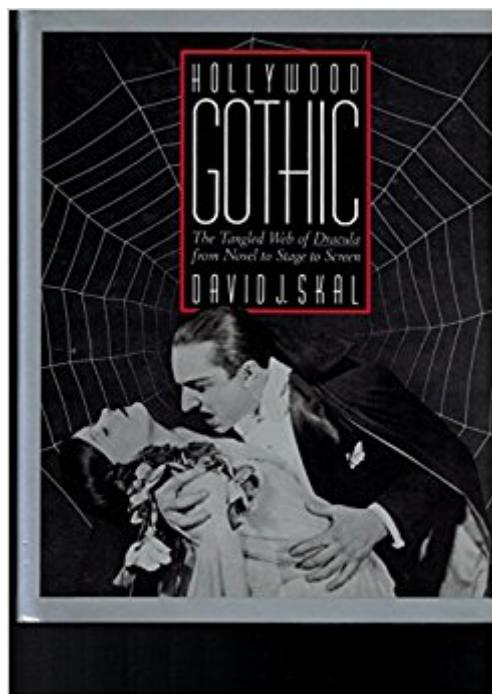


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Hollywood Gothic: The Tangled Web Of Dracula From Novel To Stage To Screen



Synopsis

Stated first edition bound in black cloth. A fine copy in a fine dust jacket.

Book Information

Hardcover: 242 pages

Publisher: Norton; First Edition edition (1990)

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Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 6 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

It could be argued that Dracula is a mediocre novel which led to a dismal play, which was revised into an average play, all of which led to a so-so film, followed by many less-than-good sequels and imitations. Obviously the vampire theme connects with something primal in humans, or it would have been forgotten long ago. Horror novelist Skal (Antibodies, Congdon & Weed, 1988) is primarily interested in Dracula from Stoker to Lugosi, although he touches briefly on earlier and later incarnations of the character, as well as the psychological underpinnings for its popularity. Of particular interest is his description of a superior Spanish-language version of the 1931 film, shot on the same sets but with a different cast and director. Hollywood Gothic is pricey, but well written and attractively designed. For larger film collections.- John Smothers, Monmouth Cty. Lib., Manalapan, N.J. Copyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Lots of classic Lugosi shots in this!! Hats off to Mr. Skal!!

This book goes into fine detail about each of the individual Dracula films and discusses each upon its acting, technical, and scripting merits. You'll find yourself referring to it every time you watch a Dracula movie. Absolutely fascinating.

My daughter has dozens of books on the subject of Dracula.....she loves this one. It's different.

I just got this the other day in a bargain bin, & was so fascinated that I read the entire book in 2 nights (90% the first night). As a comment states on the back cover, I THOUGHT I was a Dracula expert until I read this. I like that he focuses on Nosferatu & the Lugosi versions. Some of the Stoker information was quite interesting also. Per other reviewers, I see that there is some updating in the 2004 edition. Both with restorations of the 2 films he focuses on, & yet another Vampire craze cycle I'd like to read that also; though in 2014 the 2004 update may be a bit dated! Only 1 major criticism: In the end, he says a few (what I perceived as positive) words about Roman Polanski's The Fearless Vampire Killers. I've had that laying around for years, & due to what I perceived as a recommendation I put it on earlier today. It may get better as it goes on, but I could barely sit through the first 30 minutes. So far, the film is TERRIBLE; more like the worst movie Mel Brooks never made! 3 minor criticisms: 1. He spends almost no time on Return Of The Vampire, where Lugosi plays Dracula under another name. It gets a brief mention in the timeline at the end. While it's a bit weak, it deserves more. 2. I would have liked an explanation of why Lugosi didn't play Dracula in the "House Of" movies. Seeing others in the part doesn't work. 3. (Like myself) DS prefers the Spanish 1932 Dracula to the English. However, we have 1 significant difference of opinion: I feel that Lugosi was a much better Dracula than Carlos VillarÃ¡fÃ¡ as. If I understood correctly, DS seems to prefer VillarÃ¡fÃ¡ as. Despite the above nitpicking, highly recommended.

Excellent book. Well and lovingly written, wonderful pictures throughout. Would make a great gift for the Universal Monster Movie fan in your life.

David J. Skal is one of the most important names in the evolution of film history, particularly in the Horror genre. This book in particular paved the way for a lot of research on Dracula, which set the standard to follow. Not just has the book been widely imitated, but the most lasting influence was Skal's chapter on the Spanish Dracula (1931), which was shot at the same time as the Lugosi version at Universal and was considered a lost film for years. In fact, a print was available at the Library of Congress, but was missing a pivotal reel. That reel turned up in Cuba, and it was Skal who took a trip there to reveal its content to the rest of the world and inspired Universal to restore the film and release it on Video for the first time in 1993. This is an effort all film fans can be VERY grateful for. The book covers the history of Dracula from Bram Stoker's novel, and what inspired him to make it, to the classic adaptation on film in 1922, called Nosferatu, and the resulting legal battle over

copyright infringement. This follows through the Stage play to the Universal film. Skal's text reads like a novel and makes the story that much more dramatic and absorbing. A first class book that belongs on every Cinema and horror fan's book shelf.

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