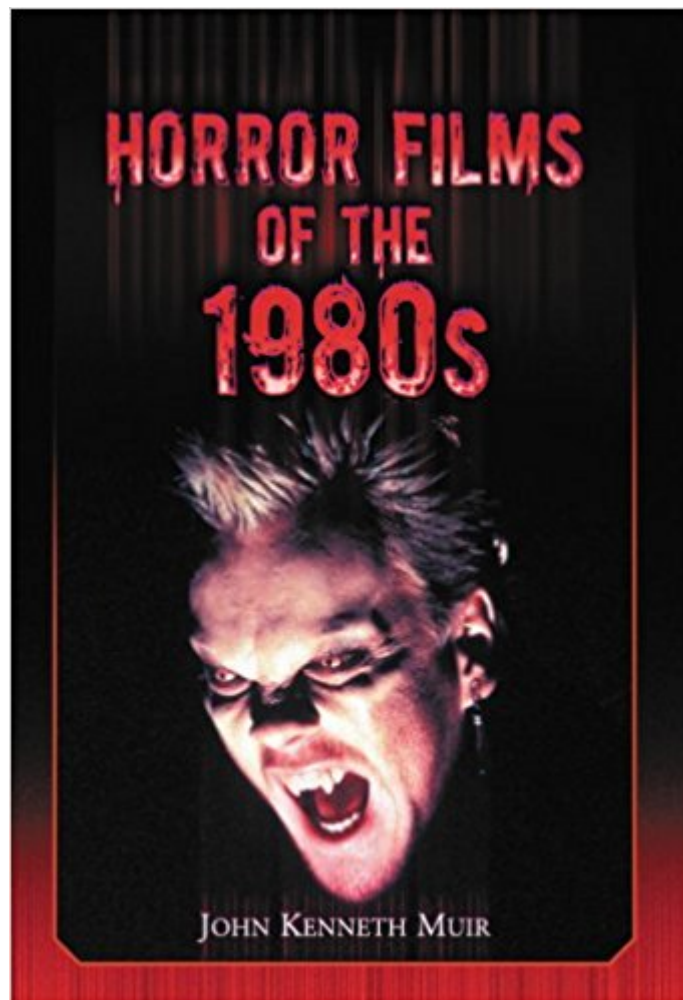


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Horror Films Of The 1980s



Synopsis

John Kenneth Muir is back! This time, the author of the acclaimed Horror Films of the 1970s turns his attention to 300 films from the 1980s. From horror franchises like Friday the 13th and Hellraiser to obscurities like The Children and The Boogens, Muir is our informative guide. Muir introduces the scope of the decade's horrors, and offers a history that draws parallels between current events and the nightmares unfolding on cinema screens. Each of the 300 films is discussed with detailed credits, a brief synopsis, a critical commentary, and where applicable, notes on the film's legacy beyond the 80s. Also included is the author's ranking of the 15 best horror films of the 80s.

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Customer Reviews

This is a very full and addictive account of '80s horror, including some truly obscure gems and turkeys. It took a tremendous effort for Muir to wade through all of this material and look deeply into each movie, although it was obviously a labor of love, and he had help. When he reviews a movie,

he doesn't just crank out a paragraph or two to describe it, he lists contemporary or retro "professional" reviews, then offers his own highly detailed breakdown of the story and the motivations of the writers and the characters. For legendary movies such as *The Shining*, he gives several pages of material for your consumption, and it really is difficult to put it down once you start reading! He also gives a lengthy intro to the book which identifies and discusses the tried and true cliches of '80s horror, such as the disposable teen campers, which includes the nerd, the jock, the hot tramp, the virginal last girl, etc. It's true; I've seen all of these play out a millions times in '80s flicks. The only real flaw of the book is that he goes WAY out into left field (pun intended) on many occasions to attack Reagan and his imagined Republican conspiracy behind everything, which is out of place and distracting. Those are his personal views, and more often than not were probably not important to the creators of the movies. At times it's as if you're reading a left wing blog that happens to have a movie review section. Fortunately, he doesn't insist on doing this for every review. This would be an easy 5-star collection if edited to remove the political blather. Even so, it's still well worth having and will help you find more rare movies to add to your stash! Looking forward to checking out his '70s horror collection soon.

Totally amazing. All the minor details to improve from the first set, are corrected here: Shorter reviews, great trivia, the words of someone who knows his stuff. At first I fear a complete "slasher" beatdown (A personal genre favourite) but all the author's opinions are founded. A really entertaining and fascinating reading, the whole political panorama, it left me speechless. This book series deserve to be on the Smithsonian.

I bought this book when it first came out and I have not put it down since. I had to track down the 70s edition as well after going through this one. He hits it out of the park. The layout of the book is great. It's broken down by years and movie titles are alphabetical order within each year, making a search for a particular movie very easy to find. One of the great things about this book (and there are MANY...I can't wait for the 90s edition...HURRY UP SEPT. 2011!!) is that he includes oddball titles that only TRUE HORROR fans would know about. This gives everyone an opportunity to learn more about these movies. Yes, *FRIDAY THE 13th*, *NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET* and *HALLOWEEN* are all represented, but so is *HELL NIGHT*, *MOTEL HELL*, *WITHOUT WARNING*, etc. There were a LOT of movies in this book that I didn't even know about. And a good portion of my DVD collection is made up of 80s horror movies. I am a TRUE horror fan, especially 80s horror, and if you need to get one book on 80s horror, this is the one!!

This book is amazing. It is the kind of tome those of us who are die-hard movie fans dream of putting together and never do. Muir is a great writer and he blends a deep and objective understanding of the many streams of the 1980s horror genre with reviews that examine aspects of films you may not have considered. From detailed analysis of direction, storylines and acting Muir often discusses how films may have served as mirrors or rejections of the perceived cultural norms of the day. His analysis is often incredibly detailed and written in a manner that keeps it very interesting. This book is more expensive than many other publications that review either movies or the horror genre specifically, but I have yet to see anything that dissects that decade and that genre of cinema like this work by Muir. His two-volume set on the 1970s is likewise extremely insightful, but this is my favorite. Highly recommended.

John Kenneth Muir's second entry into the horror genre hits the mark again. "Horror Films of the 1980s" provides a fantastic reference guide for the horror films made in the decade of excess. At over 800 pages long, the book provides an introduction to the films of the decade and how social and political events influenced them. (Muir is obviously no fan of Reagan and on one page he has a photo of the former president along side a photo of Freddy Krueger making a not so subtle comparison of the two). The next chapter is "The History of the Dead Teenager Decade." in which he explains common devices and elements which make up the bulk of films of the era. Muir then goes into the films themselves.....breaking them down by year. He provides critical reviews, cast and crew lists, a brief synopsis of the plot and then a personal commentary of his own views of each film. Some films also have a "close-up" section where additional information about cast/crew/film is given. From here, Muir gives a chapter on "The Conclusion to Horror Films of the 80s." Also provided are several appendixes including information such as memorable ad lines, Hall of fame, a list of actors appearing in these films and recommended viewing. Overall, a great book. Muir even improves on his "Horror Films of the 1970s" (which I also have) by providing in-depth commentary and info on ALL of the films listed. The 1970s tome has some films only briefly mentioned with no commentary at all by the author. And thanks to Netflix, I can check out most of the films from both decades for myself. Muir also mentions in his book that he's working on a third edition....Horror Films of the 1990s. I'll be first in line to buy it!

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