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Cinemageddon: A Guide To The Dark Side Of Film

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From the shocking and controversial, to the banned and censored, scary or just plain weird, CINEMAGEDDON takes readers on a guided tour of a century of horror and cult cinema. Compiled from previous volumes - Beyond the Darkness, Shock Movies, and Phenomena - along with more than a hundred new reviews that haven’t appeared anywhere else, this book offers 950 reviews in total, covering everything from mainstream hits to lurid underground shockers, and everything in between. Includes ‘video nasties,’ torture porn, out-of-print VHS, vigilantes, mutants, body horror, vampires, ultra-violence, perversities, true crime, aliens, psychotic women, slasher movies, mad doctors, Nazisploitation, satire, possessions, Satanic cults, serial killers, killer bugs, killer kids, killer cops and killer clowns, interlopers, psychopaths, cannibals, rape-revenge, zombies, gialli, pandemics, excessive gore, pseudo-snuff, haunted houses, documentaries, TV terrors, monsters of all shapes and sizes, demons, curses, home invasions, apocalypse, mass murders, backwoods horrors, and other assorted maniacs. Also included are details of actors, directors and other key personnel, details of censorship hassles, constant cross-referencing to put the films in context within their particular sub-genres, and the availability of uncut materials. Six years in the making, and presented on large-format, double-columned pages, no film fan’s bookshelf is complete without CINEMAGEDDON...

I found this book to be very informative and well thought out with regards to content and general lay out. In depth reviews and many moments of amusement as the author, doesn’t mince his words...
when giving his opinion and if you are just starting to realise that you've a deeper interest in movies and wish to explore/learn more about movies that are not "Hollywood", which offer far greater intrigue, excitement and often complete nonsense. Then this is the book you should consider.

Racist trash. Just check out the "Fear The Walking Dead" review, which I'm sure isn't even the worst example in the book: "the characters we're expected to be rooting for are disgusting people - the mother and daughter are a pair of self-absorbed mudsharks [I had to look up that slang] ... the 'man-of-the-house' is a weak and bumbling fool who must also protect his spoiled, selfish brown kids... Basically these are exactly the type of characters who are helping to bring about the downfall of civilisation in real life". The author's introduction includes an un-nuanced defense of Mary Whitehouse, more handwringing about 'degeneracy' and the crumbling of societal order (the kind of coded racism you hear about in American media despite the fact that crime here is at a historical low) and sentences like 'I say bring back the patriarchy and throw these commie vermin out of helicopters, Pinochet-style'. Aside from the hateful content, the less political reviews aren't particularly insightful or informative. I recommend picking up Stephen Thrower's "Nightmare U.S.A." if you're interested in weird movies - I don't necessarily agree with Thrower's takes on all the films, but it's treasure, very well-written and thoughtful, and it's led me to discover some of my favorite movies. If you want a collection of basic reviews by someone scared of brown people and immigrants who somehow doesn't think he lives in a patriarchy, this might be up your alley.

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