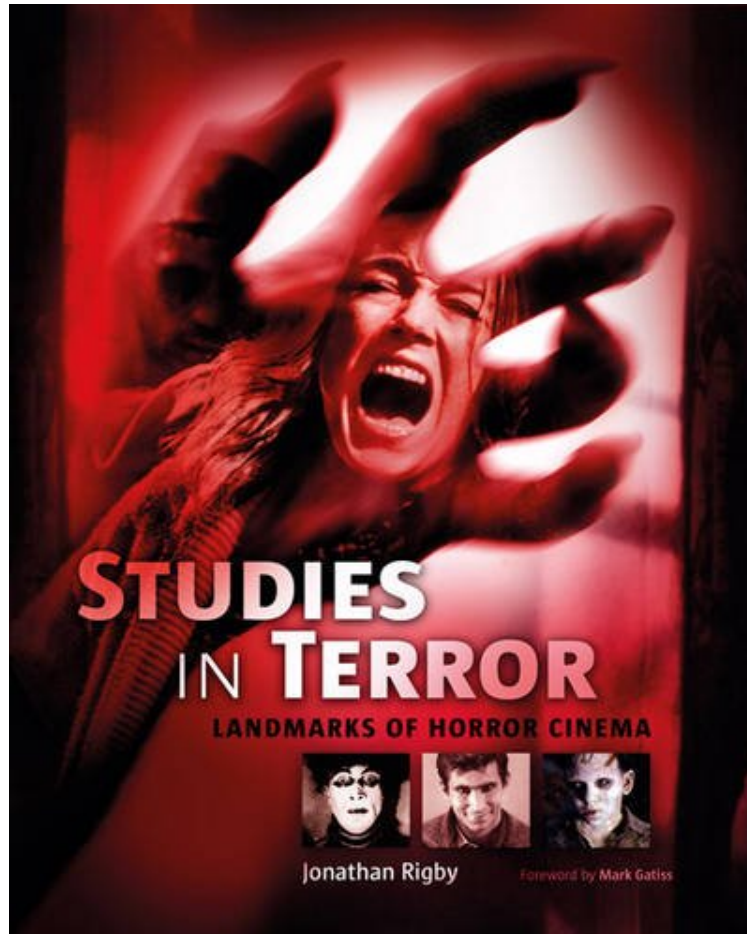


Studies in Terror: Landmarks of Horror Cinema

Jonathan Rigby

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Jonathan Rigby : Studies in Terror: Landmarks of Horror Cinema before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Studies in Terror: Landmarks of Horror Cinema:

3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A review of horror cinema from the silent films to contemporary ones including often missed gems By Wayne Klein Author Jonathan Rigby argues that horror films are about moments noting that a less than perfect film can have a series of worthwhile moments that can elevate it beyond the mundane. It's a pretty compelling argument and Rigby uses his broad interpretation of horror films to argue his point. That's a good thing because some of the films included in his book "Studies in Terror: Landmarks of Horror Cinema" are often overlooked gems. Rigby touches on everything from classic silent horror films ("The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari", "The Golem"), classics from the 1930's and 40's ("Frankenstein", "The Old Dark House"), Hammer horror films ("Brides of Dracula", "Frankenstein Must Be Destroyed!"), Amicus ("The House That Dripped Blood") and covers more contemporary work as well ("Rosemary's Baby", "The Exorcist", "The Exorcist III", "The Changeling", "Ringu", "The Descent"). Many of these works are underrated and were missed or dismissed when they were first released while

others may have had only a small cult following. Rigby devotes roughly two pages (sometimes more if the film deserves it) to each film providing a brief synopsis as well as analysis of WHY the film is important. There's also a brief article on some of the other films released the same year. You may disagree with Rigby as to whether or not all or any of these films deserve to be included BUT the author makes a pretty good case for almost every film included. Even if there is a film that, perhaps, doesn't deserve inclusion Rigby helps to uncover a worthwhile film that was missed. The only flaw with the book is that I felt many of the films deserved more discussion by Rigby. It would have been fascinating to have a more involved essay on a handful of the lesser known films featured in this book with a section set up like the rest of this book focusing on some of the better known films. Having said that, I'm sure that even Rigby would agree the best thing to do is not to just read about the films but experience them and he gives readers the desire to do so. Printed on heavy duty paper and handsomely bound, "Studies in Terror" reminds me a bit of some of the older coffee table books on horror films but with more detail and insights than many of those books. Featuring an introduction by author Mark Gatiss and generously illustrated with both black white stills as well as images from the original posters for many of the films included by Rigby. For fans of horror films this is an essential book. As mentioned you may disagree with Rigby's choices on occasion but he makes a compelling case for each and brings interesting insights to the table as well. Recommended. 2 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Fifty Fifty In The Landmark Department By William Amazzini Jonathan Rigby is one of my favorite writers of the Horror genre. His two essential tomes 'ENGLISH GOTHIC' and its sequel 'AMERICAN GOTHIC' remain classic studies of Horror film history which made his new book 'STUDIES IN TERROR' a great anticipation for this reader. Unfortunately, it falls short because of Mr. Rigby's choices in his definition of landmarks or films which influenced and grew the genre through the years. Classics are listed but really, Mr. Rigby, do you really think such titles as 'THE RETURN OF DR. X'- 1939; 'THE MAZE'-1953; 'DEVIL DOLL'-1963 ; 'THE DUNWICH HORROR'-1969, 'SCREAM'-1996 to name but a few really changed the look of the Horror film? I don't think so. Don't get me wrong, this book is well researched especially his choices from the silent era and he includes two Science Fiction films, 'THE QUATERMASS EXPERIMENT' and the 1956 version of 'INVASION OF THE BODY SNATCHERS' which succeed because of their Horror elements and includes some amazing photographs, some seen for the first time by Horror fans and belongs in every Horror fans book collection. But if you really want the definitive last word on the Horror genre, purchase author Kim Newman's definitive tome 'NIGHTMARE MOVIES' and just use 'STUDIES IN TERROR' as a wonderful coffee table diversion. 4 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Studies in Terror: Landmarks of Horror Cinema By David Schmoeller This is an excellent, expertly, scholarly written book that gives a comprehensive view of the landmark horror films from the beginning of film history to contemporary times. A must-have book for the serious student or fan of the horror film.

Acclaimed critic and broadcaster Jonathan Rigby brings his trademark wit and insight to bear on 130 of the key moments in screen horror. His scope is wide, ranging from silent masterworks like *Nosferatu* and *The Cabinet of Dr Caligari* to such 21st century milestones as *The Descent* and *Let the Right One In*. In between, he scrutinises the achievements of Universal in the 1930s and Hammer in the 1960s. Lavishly illustrated, the result is a beautifully presented history of international horror cinema that's as entertaining as it is informative.

Rare is the genre-wide, international horror study that is this uniformly enthusiastic and persuasive. Books such as this were made for the ages. - *Movie Morlocks* Rigby's writing is focused and elegant, his viewpoints presented with clarity and complemented by a well-balanced, cannily illustrated layout. In terms of sheer taste and quality, it's the most important book-length horror film study to emerge in English this past year. - *Video Watchdog* About the Author Jonathan Rigby is an actor, critic and film historian. He is the author of *American Gothic* and *English Gothic*, two of the most highly regarded books on horror films published in the last 20 years. Jonathan's other books include *Christopher Lee: The Authorised Screen History* and *Roxy Music: Both Ends Burning*.