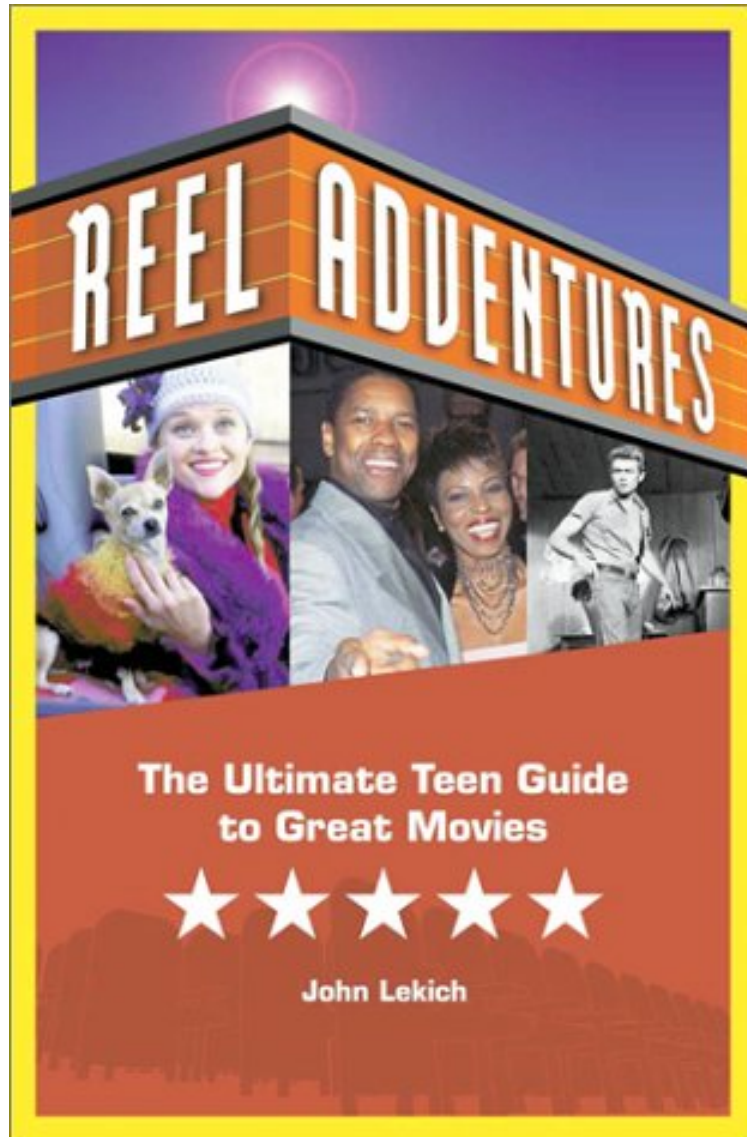


(Free download) Reel Adventures: The Savvy Teens' Guide to Great Movies

Reel Adventures: The Savvy Teens' Guide to Great Movies

John Lekich

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John Lekich : Reel Adventures: The Savvy Teens' Guide to Great Movies before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Reel Adventures: The Savvy Teens' Guide to Great Movies:

2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Reel Adventures as reviewed on evalu8.orgBy John KeyesSince Reel Adventures is aimed, according to the jacket copy, at "teens (technically 17+) and young-minded adults," and because Vancouver-based film buff John Lekich has subtitled his book "The Savvy Teens' Guide to Great Movies," I figured I would ask the young-minded adult in our family to list 10 movies he figured the author of a book like this

would surely have included. (Incidentally, in the interests of full disclosure, Lekich is an old colleague and pal of mine.) In less than a minute, our boy, who's 20, rhymed off: Evil Dead, Army of Darkness, Tremors, Nightmare Before Christmas, Saving Private Ryan, Mrs. Doubtfire, The Matrix, Star Trek II, Star Trek VIII and Dogma. Lekich's book has three of them - Tremors, Nightmare Before Christmas and The Matrix - and two different Star Treks (instalments III and IV). In a nutshell, that's the Achilles Heel of a book like this, despite the author's considerable knowledge and best intentions. Unless a writer is going to be putting out a comprehensive door-stopper, like the one by Leonard Maltin that must be a perennial Christmas stocking-stuffer by now, he's going to encounter a skeptical audience that will instantly check the index to see if the author has the "right" taste in movies. Lekich has packaged thoughtful synopses and considerations of 250 selected movies that he thinks ought to appeal to teenagers, and although he may well be right in his selection, his target audience is not only not easy to please, but it's a moving target as well. Our own boy's "must-have" 10 movies would have been different a year ago and will be different a year from now. Kids belong to tribes, and the tribe dictates what's cool or important. A member of the tribe might consult a book like this, but I doubt it. Certainly not in front of the others. Lekich has rigidly formatted his book. Each movie is broken down into "The Short Story" (the synopsis), "Memorable Moment" (a scene to watch for) and "Message" (a category that works better for the coming-of-age dramas than for the comedy and horror categories, when there tends not to be any message other than to make the audience laugh or feel scared). He clearly loves his subject matter, knows it thoroughly, and writes in an infectiously enthusiastic style about movies that he thinks will be memorable to a young person willing to just sit down and watch. After a while, and the "Message" category ought to have been the give-away, you realize that the overwhelming majority of Lekich's choices have some constructive moral value that surpasses mere entertainment. Consider these titles and pithy overviews: Edward Scissorhands: "It's not easy being different"; Ever After: "Living happily ever after is hard work"; Far from Home: "Sometimes you have to get lost in order to find yourself"; Field of Dreams: "Faith can make a miracle happen." It occurs to me that this book might be of much greater use for adults looking to introduce impressionable viewers - and much younger than late teens, I would think - to wholesome, intelligent, family-values fare (horror films included). This would include teachers, librarians, camp counsellors, drop-in centre workers, babysitters, grandparents, independent video store owners - and plain ol' parents. Lekich provides a real service. It just may not be to the audience he originally envisioned.

A comprehensive guide to 250 timeless movies that teenagers will love! Here is an engaging, breezy, and fun guide that hits the sweet spot when it comes to movies that appeal to teens. Included are the best of the more recent blockbusters, lesser-known edgy satires, and thought-provoking films, as well as vintage classics that have stood the test of time. The expansive selection of movies covers a surprisingly wide range of styles and eras, which all have something to say over the crunch of popcorn. These are accomplished films that invite viewers into unique worlds, and all are available at the corner video store. Five categories of movies are covered, from serious drama to comedy to what the author terms "Fright Night." There are action adventure flicks as well as those often described as coming-of-age films. Each entry includes: a brief synopsis the author's cut-to-the-chase opinion a memorable moment or line to watch for a quick message about what the movie is trying to say "Check This Out": films with a similar theme, interest or plot Throughout, sidebars reveal little-known facts about the movies. An index at the back of the book provides quick reference. Written by professional movie critic and film fanatic John Lekich, this is an authoritative guide with a wonderfully jaunty tone. John's enthusiasm for movies, both new and old, is genuinely infectious, as readers will quickly discover. And the good news is that you don't have to be a teen to enjoy these films!

From School Library Journal Grade 5 Up-A guide to choosing a few gems from among the thousands of videos out there, this attractive little book is organized by category-"Getting There," "The Great Escape," "Think about It," "Fright Night," and "Just for Laughs," ensuring easy access to some new favorites. Catchy film descriptions, memorable moments or lines, the "message," and suggestions for similar titles accompany the entries, which are arranged alphabetically. The last few pages are devoted to an index of films, and one of actors. Books that review films abound, but they have more sophisticated analysis and a more serious tone. Teens will enjoy browsing through this one. Susan Riley, Mount Kisco Public Library, NY Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. A guide to choosing a few gems from among the thousands of videos out there. (Susan Riley School Library Journal 200211) Lively and informative ... eclectic in its coverage of different genres. (Gwyneth Evans Quill and Quire) About the Author John Lekich is a full-time movie reviewer for The Georgia Straight magazine. He is also the author of a novel for young adults, The Losers' Club. John lives in Vancouver.