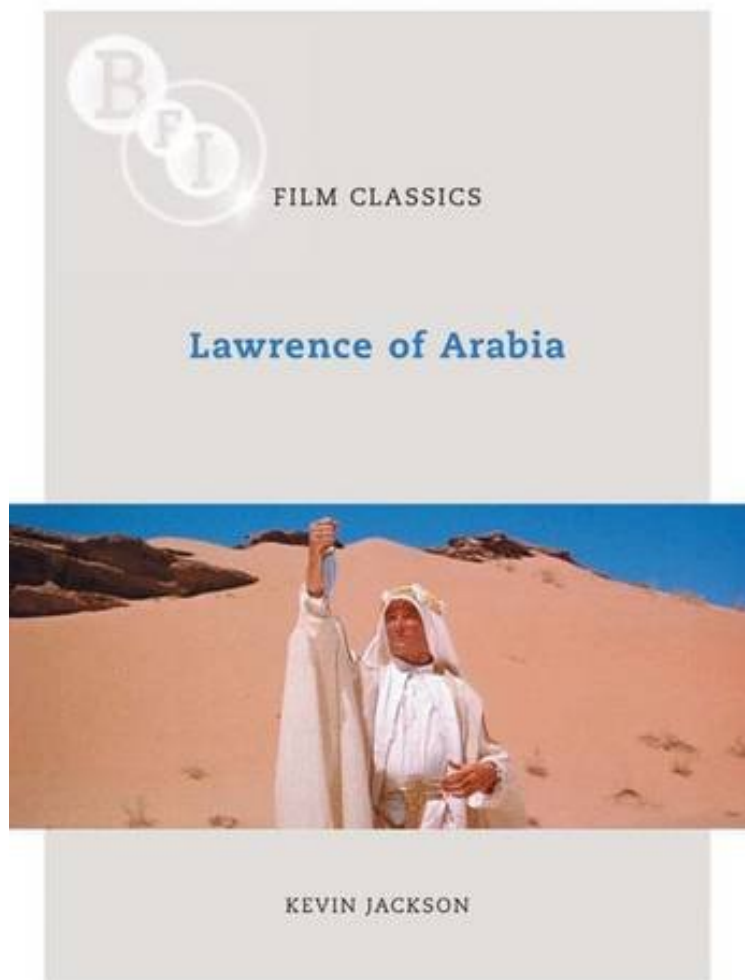


Lawrence of Arabia (BFI Film Classics)

Kevin Jackson

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#1104227 in Books 2007-06-01 2007-06-01Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 7.51 x .39 x 5.24l, .41 #File Name: 1844571785127 pages | File size: 37.Mb

Kevin Jackson : Lawrence of Arabia (BFI Film Classics) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Lawrence of Arabia (BFI Film Classics):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Thought I knew a lot...By MHLovely little book packed with great information. Nice pics and well-organized. Learned a lot that will bring even more enjoyment of this film.3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Very WorthwhileBy Dash ManchetteOne of the interesting things about the BFI series is that it allows different authors to approach their subject matter, the movie at hand, in whatever way they like. Some focus on the movie itself, such as its plot or maybe its symbolism, while others focus on more of the production of the movie, placing it into some historical context that allows a reader to have a better understanding of

the movie's place in the world. But writing on the movie *Lawrence of Arabia* must have been particularly difficult for the obvious reason that the movie itself is based on a real person. And that person himself was one of extreme complexity and ambiguity over which historians still disagree and argue. We should be thankful then (and I am thankful given how many of these BFI books really fall flat) that author Kevin Jackson has done such an excellent job. Instead of focusing on one aspect of T.E. Lawrence, he discusses the ambiguity and complexity of the man, specifically to describe the difficulty of bringing such a man to the silver screen. Should the movie focus on his Arabian exploits alone, or on his full life? Or maybe some aspects of his life, but which? The ones preceding his military exploits or the ones that came after? These are the issues that moviemakers themselves struggled with and Jackson gives us a taste of the difficulty they must have had in the early years, when previous attempts to bring Lawrence to the cinema fell through. Then, when the film finally was to be made, Jackson shifts focus to the making of the movie itself. Perhaps not as deep and philosophically oriented as some others in the BFI series (though that may indeed be a gift; see the atrocious *The Matrix* (BFI Modern Classics)), it does make for an enjoyable read. *Lawrence of Arabia* is not merely a fantastic movie, it was an accomplishment of movie making, with its exceptional setting in the desert, epic scale and very large cast and crew. Of course, given the scale both of the man, T.E. Lawrence, and the movie, *Lawrence of Arabia*, any single book is going to provide only a small taste of the larger subjects. That may especially be true given the size limitations in the BFI publications. Nonetheless, the taste provided by this book is a good one. If you are a fan of the movie, you should read it. If you have never seen the movie, then you should watch it and then read this book. 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Excellent starting point for "Lawrence" lovers. By James A. Curry. Enjoyed this thoroughly, as I do all of the BFI "classic" series (barring *The Matrix* volume). Well documented research and sources cited. Of interest to both newcomers as well as those well-versed in "Lawrence" lore. Great quotes from living and deceased contributors to the film. Informative backstory regarding various incarnations of script, pre-production, and censorship controversies. Would love to see expanded edition put out by BFI as a coffee-table pictorial glossy hardcover ;) *Sidenote: BFI needs to increase their output and selections of both Modern and Film Classics. Both their selections and output have decreased since their launch in the mid-nineties. Since they've got the niche, you'd think they'd want to exploit the market, but it seems to have petered out. Step it up BFI (if you're listening).

Lawrence of Arabia is widely considered one of the ten greatest films ever made - though more often by film-goers and film-makers than by critics. This monograph argues that popular wisdom is correct, and that Lean's film is a unique blend of visionary image-making, narrative power, mythopoetic charm and psychological acuteness.

'...a fascinating companion piece to the film...*Lawrence of Arabia* is a unique epic that is wonderfully detailed in this superb book by Kevin Jackson.' - Filmwork.co.uk ... a fascinating companion piece to the film ... *Lawrence of Arabia* is a unique epic that is wonderfully detailed in this superb book by Kevin Jackson.' Filmwork.co.uk From the Back Cover *Lawrence of Arabia* is widely considered one of the ten greatest films ever made - though more often by film-goers and film-makers than by critics. This monograph will argue that popular wisdom is correct, and that Lean's film is a unique blend of visionary image-making, narrative power, mythopoetic charm and psychological acuteness; far from being a "Boy's Own Tale", it is one of popular cinema's greatest tragedies, closer to Shakespeare than to "Biggles". This volume is the first since Adrian Turner's (now long out of print, and unobtainable for less than GBP 120) to bring together a critical analysis of the film and an account of its tangled production history - a kind of epic in its own right. It is the first ever to combine these elements with the story of attempts by Alexander Korda and others to bring Lawrence's story to the screen, and to be written from the perspective of someone who is as deeply immersed in the lore of the real-life Lawrence as in the movie. It should appeal both to the film's enormous fan-base and to the exceptionally large number of readers who are fascinated by all aspects of Lawrence and his many careers.