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## Let's Scare 'Em!: Grand Interviews and a Filmography of Horrific Proportions, 1930-1961

*Rick Atkins*

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### **Rick Atkins : Let's Scare 'Em!: Grand Interviews and a Filmography of Horrific Proportions, 1930-1961**

before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Let's Scare 'Em!: Grand Interviews and a Filmography of Horrific Proportions, 1930-1961:

3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A fan's heartfelt tributeBy DoctorJekyll77Since the 1980s, a renaissance in vintage horror films has supported a spate of books recounting the lives and careers of stars Karloff, Lugosi and the Chaney's, not to mention new information about stalwart co-stars John Carradine, Dwight Frye, Lionel

Atwill, Colin Clive and Ernest Thesiger. Now comes Rick Atkins' admittedly star-struck volume. At age 17, he began researching and interviewing the people who made horror happen in the talkies -- Universal Studios' Carl Laemmle Jr., who produced *Dracula* and *Frankenstein* (both 1931), *The Old Dark House* and *The Mummy* (in 1932), *The Black Cat* (1934) -- plus actors Carradine, Ralph Bellamy and Alan Napier, actresses Gloria Stuart, Evelyn Ankers, Zita Johann, director William Castle and special effects man Ken Strickfaden, among others. While Atkins' writing is a bit sketchy in places, the roundup of personal reminiscences, photographs and a comprehensive filmography and bio-glossary of personalities make this little tome an odd and specialized delight. 3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Greatest book of its kind  
By A Customer  
Mr. Atkins should be extremely proud of this book. With interviews with such film legends as Gloria Stuart, it serves as a great textbook for lovers and students of film history.

This work documents and illustrates the suspension of disbelief and audience manipulation integral to these three decades of horror, fantasy and monster movies. The book includes interviews, over 150 photographs and a filmography of more than 250 of the best known releases.

From Library Journal  
Written by a longtime fan, this work will presumably leave film scholars cold but appeal to vintage horror buffs. At its heart are interviews with notable horror figures like producer Carl Laemmle Jr., actor John Carradine, and special-effects wizard Kenneth Strickfaden; lesser-known talents are interviewed as well (e.g., character actor Ian Wolfe). Two chapters sketch an overview of the genre from 1930 to 1961, and lavish photographs animate the rather lumbering contents throughout. A filmography of 251 titles gives credits. Atkins's knowledge of horror lore conveys a generous amount of trivia, and his interviews yield insights about historical and biographical contexts. Overall, though, the volume reads like a resurrected assemblage of several issues of *Famous Monsters of Filmland* magazine. Given the horrific, hardcover price tag of this book, libraries might consider a year's subscription to *Fangoria* instead.  
?Neal Baker, Ball State Univ., Muncie, Ind.  
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"fascinating...well written" -- Samhain  
"for horror buffs, loaded with illustrations" -- Classic Images  
"interviews with notable horror figures...lavish photographs" -- Library Journal  
"the eclectic mix really does encapsulate the horror genre from 1930 to 1961...loaded with wonderful photographs" -- Filmfax  
"wistful and charming reminiscences from Carroll Borland, Gloria Stuart, and Rose Hobart" -- Monsters from the Vault