

(Ebook free) Night of the Living Dead (BFI Film Classics)

## Night of the Living Dead (BFI Film Classics)

*Ben A. Hervey*

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**Ben A. Hervey : Night of the Living Dead (BFI Film Classics)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Night of the Living Dead (BFI Film Classics):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Go Ahead, Sink Your Teeth InBy Dash ManchetteI had never seen the movie Night of the Living Dead until this BFI book came out. The book actually piqued my interest enough to watch it. I did not think that the movie was very scary. I did, however, think that it was very entertaining. I can see why it became a cult classic.Does the movie mean more, though, than just entertainment? The people involved with the flick were ambiguous on this point. On the one hand, they were a bunch of low-budget film makers, who probably had enough concern simply getting the movie made to think about underlying messages. And they were from Pittsburgh to boot. Not exactly ground zero of the cultural wars being waged in the late 1960s, when Night of the

Living Dead was being made. On the other hand, even if it was not Berkeley or Ann Arbor, it was still the '60s. Everything was political. Ben Harvey acknowledges the ambiguity and then proceeds to analyze the movie along exactly the cultural and political lines that may or may not be relevant. Let us assume that such analysis is warranted, because for the most part Harvey does an exceptionally good job. Although Harvey touches upon a number of subjects relevant to the '60s era, a few stand out. Race and civil rights exploded onto the American landscape in the '60s. I use the word 'exploded' purposefully, given the violence that often came with it. That Night of the Living Dead featured only the second black man in a lead role not specifically written for a black (after Sidney Poitier!) has been the subject of much of the theorizing on this movie. The black man against The Man, represented by middle-aged white guy Harry Cooper, seemed to parallel larger issues coming to the fore of the American landscape. The brutal ending, which the film makers thankfully refused to change despite the requests of some possible distributors, brings the racial issue even more sharply into focus, forcing us to retrospectively re-examine everything in the movie that preceded it. The Vietnam War is the second major issue which forms the backdrop of any political/social analysis of Night of the Living Dead. Were George Romero Co. protesting American involvement in their own unique way? Harvey explores the issue, tying it into Romero's having grown up in the post-nuclear age, in which school kids actually performed drills to get under their desks to protect themselves against near certain annihilation. The zombies certainly look like something out of a post-nuclear holocaust, or perhaps the dead coming back from war to take their revenge on the living. Harvey unfortunately lets his politics come through too frequently and, not surprisingly for an academic interested in film analysis, they are simply patronizing to those not of the Left. However, unlike some (indeed, far too many) BFI books I have read, this does not significantly detract from the book's overall impact. In fact, given the time period in which Night of the Living Dead was released, and which forms the cultural zeitgeist against which it is to be viewed, a smidgen of liberalism in the analysis might be rather appropriate, even if in such a way not intended by the author. Certainly I would not recommend any potential reader stay away from this publication based on it. Instead, this book will enhance a viewer's enjoyment of one of the true cult classics out there. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Oh, that all genre-film scholarship were this good... By J. Peavy Not only the \*best\* writing I've ever read on "Night of the Living Dead", one of the very best genre related books/articles I've read in many a moon. The author (Ben Hervey) states up front that he "want(s) to recapture Night's significance for those early audiences: the ones who discovered it in the late 1960s, and the ones who made it a weekly ritual through the 1970s", which is exactly, \*precisely\* what he does. This book rekindled in me the feelings of fascination I had for "Night" that have waned through the years. If you're interested at all in "Night", you need this book. Absolutely first rate! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Must read for NOTLD and film enthusiasts alike! By Erich Zann Unlike any other retrospect of the film, this book breaks every part of this film down and analyzes it in a thought provoking and fascinating way. Definitely worth the read, especially if you're a fan of the film. I can't wait to read more BFI film analysis!

George A. Romero's Night of the Living Dead is a cult classic, a tremendously effective and influential horror film that has resonated with its audiences, and with independent film-makers, ever since its release in 1968. The movie redefined horror cinema, ripping away its Gothic cobwebs to confront harsh contemporary realities, and launched the modern zombie genre that continues with films like 28 Days Later ... and Shaun of the Dead. Shot by Romero and a determined team of Pittsburghers on a shoestring budget, the film was as raw and bleak as uncensored news footage: an uncompromising picture of a nation devouring itself. Young audiences responded: from the counterculture hangouts of Greenwich Village, Night became an international midnight movie cult. Fans returned to see it over and over again. Ben Hervey's illuminating study of the movie and its enduring appeal traces Night's influences, from Powell and Pressburger to fifties horror comics, and provides the first history of its reception. Hervey argues that the film broke cultural barriers, feted at New York's Museum of Modern Art while it was still packing out 42nd Street grindhouses. Scene-by-scene analysis meshes with detailed historical contexts, showing why Night spoke to its audiences about Vietnam, civil rights and the ever-bloodier seizures of a society in the grip of huge change. Hervey argues that Night was a new kind of horror film: the expression of a generation who didn't want their world to return to normal.

'Within its short confine of pages, he [Hervey] manages to give the film's production history, narrative, reception, influences, and moral and political implications in an easy, flowing style free of jargon, and, though brief, is an essential newcomer to any horror fan or Romero buff's library.' - DK Holm, The Vancouver Voice 'This particular volume of the "BFI Film Classics" series is illuminating and educational. Anyone with an interest in horror films generally will find it fascinating and students of social history will find the analyses contained stimulating and informative... Highly recommended.' - Neale Monks, SF Crowsnest 'Ben Hervey makes an excellent fist of uniting all the tales of George A. Romero's genre-defining debut.' - Empire 'Night of the Living Dead is another worthy addition to the bookshelf.' - Filmwerk" Within its short confine of pages, he [Hervey] manages to give the film's production history, narrative, reception, influences, and moral and political implications in an easy, flowing style free of jargon,

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