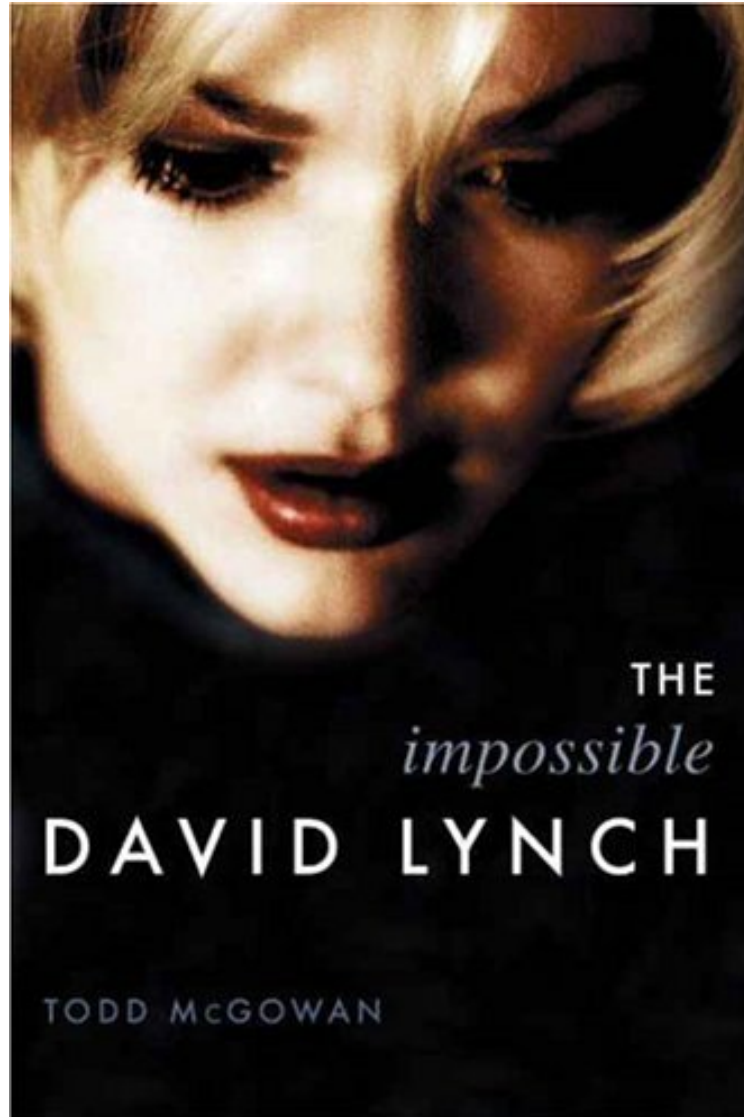


(Free pdf) The Impossible David Lynch (Film and Culture Series)

The Impossible David Lynch (Film and Culture Series)

Todd McGowan

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Todd McGowan : The Impossible David Lynch (Film and Culture Series) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Impossible David Lynch (Film and Culture Series):

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. ExcellentBy Joel R. TallentAs Farscape1477 points out, the book is not easily accessible and makes liberal use of the terminology of psychoanalysis. It practically presupposes a knowledge of the vocabulary of Lacan and Freud. But I stuck with it because I enjoy reading someone else's descriptions of Lynch's films. Eventually I felt more comfortable with the terminology. My eyes still glaze over from time to time as I read (I'm on the last chapter now), but I've still found it to be a very satisfying book. Plus, now I'm

interested in this Lacan guy and learning more about his philosophy. Another thing I'd point out is that it's hard to decide if Lynch meant his films to be the way they are for the reason the author describes, or if they're just that way because Lynch is subconsciously guided by this psychology, or what. Because sometimes the book makes so much sense I almost feel like Lynch might have been thinking these things when he wrote the film. Other times I swing the other way and think it must be coincidental, or the author is stretching. In the end it gives you a lot to think about, and that's what's so good about Lynch films in the first place. I recommend this book to any Lynch fan. It's a shame *Inland Empire* isn't covered in the book. I'd love to see McGowan break that one down. Maybe he'll release an updated edition.

11 of 12 people found the following review helpful. A Different Take on Lynch By Farscape1477 I'm only half way through this book, but so far I have mixed feelings. The author's stance is to look at Lynch's films as a blend of fantasy and desire. However, he never expresses what his definitions of these terms is. The words fantasy and desire take on new meaning in the context of this book. As a result, I've found this book to be a very difficult read. Much of the psychoanalysis is in terms of Lacanian Theory, which I know absolutely nothing about. And the author's writing style is not particularly accessible. However, I still recommend this book for true Lynch fans. Once I attain a better grasp of the author's point of view, I imagine that I will enjoy the book even more.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An exceptional book for psychologically-minded Lynch fans By G. Knoll This is an exceptionally well written and rewarding book for David Lynch fans. My father and brother are both psychoanalytic psychiatrists and huge Lynch film fans. Growing up, we used to attend psychoanalytic movie reviews which were presented by hospital staff psychiatrists and analysts and they were amazing experiences. During one session, a child analyst presented "Blue Velvet" and laid the groundwork for my understanding of David Lynch (and Lynch-like) directors. He argued that the film was about wish fulfillment and fantasy and that it could be understood most effectively from that style of interpretation. "The Impossible David Lynch" is an incredibly detailed film critique that examines the major Lynch film canon via this same style of analysis, ie, how do characters resolve the struggle between fantasy and desire? I first bought the book back in 2008 and have come back to it several times, either after re-watching a specific Lynch film, or looking for a specific quote from the author. wrt issues with technical language, i think if you are drawn to a book on film theory chances are you are equipped to understand the arguments and explanations regardless of how much Lacan you have read (or understand!). McGowan falls back on the concepts of fantasy and desire as much of the explanatory basis for his interpretations and i think these are easy enough to connect with. In any event, readers who would by this book are very likely to have some background in psychology and even the most surface level understanding of psychoanalytic theory will open the book wide open to readers. My biggest regret is that i will never be able to take a class with this extraordinary professor and thinker. Like others, i am hoping for a new volume that includes later films. I highly recommend this book.

Todd McGowan launches a provocative exploration of weirdness and fantasy in David Lynch's groundbreaking oeuvre. He studies Lynch's talent for blending the bizarre and the normal to emphasize the odd nature of normality itself. Hollywood is often criticized for distorting reality and providing escapist fantasies, but in Lynch's movies, fantasy becomes a means through which the viewer is encouraged to build a revolutionary relationship with the world. Considering the filmmaker's entire career, McGowan examines Lynch's play with fantasy and traces the political, cultural, and existential impact of his unique style. Each chapter discusses the idea of impossibility in one of Lynch's films, including the critically acclaimed *Blue Velvet* and *The Elephant Man*; the densely plotted *Lost Highway* and *Mulholland Drive*; the cult favorite *Eraserhead*; and the commercially unsuccessful *Dune*. McGowan engages with theorists from the "golden age" of film studies (Christian Metz, Laura Mulvey, and Jean-Louis Baudry) and with the thought of Sigmund Freud, Jacques Lacan, and Hegel. By using Lynch's weirdness as a point of departure, McGowan adds a new dimension to the field of auteur studies and reveals Lynch to be the source of a new and radical conception of fantasy.

A well written book combining thoughtful Lynch essays for the thinkers and film fanatics! (Horror News) About the Author Todd McGowan is associate professor of English at the University of Vermont.