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Veva Vonler

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Veva Vonler : The Movie Lover's Tour of Texas: Reel-Life Rambles Through the Lone Star State before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Movie Lover's Tour of Texas: Reel-Life Rambles Through the Lone Star State:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good book! By Sonya Graham Very interesting book for movie lovers. It covers the expansive history of filming taking place in Texas, written in a fun and delightful tale. The

author's obvious love for the subject shines through, keeping it from being a mere history book. Very nice read. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The Best Book on Texas Movies By Robert Huffaker This beautifully written book is a history of movies set in Texas or filmed there. This fact-filled account is a superb tour guide, with maps and detailed directions to locations where these movies were filmed or set, along with information about Texas history and geography, and native Texas actors and their home towns. Its author, Veva Vonler, is a Ph.D. scholar of literature and cinema, and her engaging and conversational tone is a pleasure to read from cover to cover, especially while exploring the Lone Star State. 1 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Use Google and save your money! By BronzeHorse I received this book as a gift, and even so, was very dissatisfied (to say the least). Having a film degree myself, and armed with quite a bit of film knowledge, not to mention a bookshelf full of film reference books (and about 12,000+ DVD's and VHS tapes on my sagging shelves), I found this particular book sorely lacking in the meat and potatoes department (this being the understatement of the year). The writer may have a PhD, but she comes off like a bored housewife with a barely passing knowledge of the films (or film in general) presented, and heck, her "knowledge" even seems Googled to me (basically, it's as if she read the reviews on IMDB for the films then re-wrote them in her style: very, very bland). For instance, "Rushmore" is a "strange little comedy." What? That's it? Are we talkin' the same ground-breaking Wes Anderson film here? Anderson, who went on to make "The Royal Tenenbaums," "The Darjeeling Limited," "The Fantastic Mr. Fox," and his masterpiece (along with "Bottle Rocket") gets the simplistic "strange little comedy?" Ummmm, okay. Each synopsis is very brief, and she left out quite a few classic films that diehard film lovers will find simply unforgivable. "Rolling Thunder" anyone? It only happens to be on Tarantino and Robert Rodriguez' top ten favorite film list year after year, and with Rodriguez (El Mariachi, Spy Kids series, Machete, Predators, Planet Terror, etc.) doing more for Texas filmmaking - since he shoots all his film in Texas, and brings many more here - than any other living filmmaker/producer in Texas (well, him and Richard Linklater) in recent memory, I would think it might get a small inclusion (being it was filmed at the famed Hot Wells Hotel in San Antonio, the stockyards, Sunset Station, among many, many other famous locales in San Antonio). As for regional horror films, forget it, buddy, all we get here is standard big Hollywood fare (with very few exceptions; "Race with the Devil" gets a brief mention though, I was shocked to read, although it's a Hollywood production shot by non-Texans). Famous comic artist and early San Antonio newscaster Pat Boyette's San Antonio output (namely the Ed Woodian cult classic "Dungeons of Harrow") is flat-out ignored, as is S.F. Brownrigg's famed cult Southern Gothic oeuvre. Uber-rare Texas drive-in mess (in a fun way) "Enter the Devil," (AKA "Disciples of Death," 1972) shot in Terlingua and Lajitas? You're not going to read about it here, folks. What about the SA-lensed Douglas Sirk-wannabe amputee drama "Prelude to Happiness?" A virtual postcard of early 70's San Antonio? It's very rare, only played a few drive-in's, sure, but a little bit of digging will get you a copy. Where are the films of Dale Berry? H.G. Lewis (yes, "The Godfather of Gore" made the non-gore political film "Year of the Yahoo" in San Antonio)? I could go on and on. Anyway, you get my drift. My opinion, if you're really serious about Texas film locations, hit Google and get to work, this book leaves out so much information it's criminal. One step above vanity press. And by the way, I write all this from memory, so that should tell you something (and I ain't got no PhD, just a decent knowledge of the films of Texas, and films in general). Skip it.

Texas movies are as vast as the Lone Star State. This book offers readers the chance to visit Texas vicariously by viewing movies filmed in and about the state that reflect Texas history, cultures, and landscapes. Suggested itineraries, maps, and lists of unique shooting locations make this book a travel guide. Anecdotes about the experiences of the movie makers during the filming add unique interest for the movie fan.

Since the earliest days of the film industry, Texas has been prime real estate for the movies. From Canadian to Brownsville, from El Paso to Port Arthur, Texans have seen on-location filmmaking up close. With this book, you will enjoy an insider's look at Texas movies. Pack up The Movie Lover's Tour of Texas and hit the highway for a road trip. (Tom Copeland, Director, Texas Film Commission) If you love movies, settle in for a chatty visit with a friendly tour guide. Whether you plan to travel the movie landscapes of Texas or just love watching movies with a Texas connection, The Movie Lover's Tour of Texas is the guidebook you need. Vonler sets a swift pace, deftly separating the 'reel' from the 'real' in the lore of Texas movies, serving up the gossipy details movie lovers crave where a movie was really filmed and who caused trouble on what set. (Jessie Gunn Stephens, author of The Book Lover's Tour of Texas) "Vonler tackles every and all movies filmed or set in Texas...there are some hidden gems between the pages" (Martin Winchester Monitor). . . the author explores the state's cinematic presence dating back to more than 100 years. "Organized geographically, The Movie Lover's Tour of Texas juxtaposes "Reel-Life Tours" (which shows how the state is depicted on film) with "Real-Life Tours," which helps travelers navigate the state's movie sites." (Lori Moffatt Texas Highways) "It is a travel guide that invites you to tour the state from the comfort of your home, armed with a VCR or DVD and a bag of popcorn." (Glenn Dromgoole Lubbock Avalanche- Journal) From "Miss Congeniality" to "The Westerner," Dr. Vonler clearly has spent a lot of time in the dark- and that's meant as a compliment. (Ron Franscell Beaumont Enterprise) If you enjoy movies and road trips, this nifty guide combines insight

on film locations with practical tourism tips. (Harry Shattuck The Houston Chronicle)About the AuthorVeva Vonler, Ph.D., is a native Texan and lifelong movie fan. Her love of movies was possibly instilled before she was born when her mother saw almost every movie shown in the Arcadia Theater in little Ranger, Texas, while pregnant and waiting for her husband to return from World War II. Love of the movies was a family affair. Her great Aunt Myrtle played the piano for the silents shown in the Thurber, Texas Opera House. At age 12, Vonler won the local newspaper's contest for predicting that year's Oscar winners, earning a three-month free pass to the Campus Theater in Denton, Texas. Her professional life has included teaching writing and literature, international consulting on education, and university administration. She has written for a number of academic and popular publications such as The New Rambler and Westward Magazine and has co-authored a composition/literature text published by Harcourt Brace.