

[Ebook free] A Youth in Babylon: Confessions of a Trash-Film King

## A Youth in Babylon: Confessions of a Trash-Film King

*David F. Friedman, Don Denevi*

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**David F. Friedman, Don Denevi : A Youth in Babylon: Confessions of a Trash-Film King** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Youth in Babylon: Confessions of a Trash-Film King:

3 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Indispensable look at the history of Exploitation- Fun to read!By Nicholas J. FaustDavid F. Friedman's extraordinarily entertaining biography traces not only his colorful life, but also the the history of exploitation from side show carnivals to the independent, drive-in movies that titillated and educated generations of the American public. You won't find a single classic film discussed here, but you will finish the book with a unique admiration for these crazy movies, and an even greater respect for those who pulled the strings to make them. Friedman's narrative moves with speed and grace; it's funny, ironic, and always informative. I'll even go so far as to say, Friedman's insight packs a significant wallop, a jolt of carny wisdom that would serve any independent artist struggling today with all the conditions of production, marketing, and distribution. I recommend this book without hesitation.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Great, But Only the First Half of His Life StoryBy M. RayGreat book, but I just wish that Friedman had ALSO covered his life in showbiz from the late 1960's, up to the present day (before he passed on). I know he had planned to produce two (2) books, but the second book never materialized (sadly), so we only have the "first part" of his life, not the "second half." The second half would have been even more interesting to read about (covering all his color exploitation films, how he started and ran the infamous 1970s X-rated movie theater chain - the PussyCat theaters, etc.)!4 of 6 people found the following review helpful. The

Sweet Smell of B.S. By John Ashley Nail David F. Friedman was a pioneer in the world of exploitation movies, so I was quite excited when I found out he'd written (with Don Denevi's help) his biography. "A Youth in Babylon" is a fascinating and entertaining read, detailing Friedman's early years in the promotions department at Paramount, his association with roadshow titan Kroger Babb and his partnership with Hershell Gordon Lewis (a.k.a. The Wizard of Gore). Cheerfully chauvinistic and heartily embellished, it's hard not to be charmed by Friedman's story, even if you wouldn't buy a used car from him. The conversations and events recounted in "A Youth in Babylon" often read like they were lifted from a script to one of his movies. Friedman even details a conversation that occurred between his wife Carol and his business partner--while he was out of town! As interesting as Friedman's autobiography is, I was disappointed by what he chose to leave out. I could've done with less history on Kroger Babb and the "Forty Thieves" in favor of Friedman sharing his experiences on his post-Hershell Gordon Lewis movies like "A Smell of Honey, A Swallow of Brine" and "Brand of Shame." He hypes a sequel to his bio (called "Kings of Babylon") in the final pages of this book, but to my knowledge it's never been published. Nevertheless, "A Youth in Babylon" is a must-read for fans of the movies that were so trashy even Hollywood wouldn't make them.

They sold sin and sensation with the magic words "Uncut! Uncensored! Adults Only!" and the most happily shameless of them all was David F. Friedman, the emperor of "exploitation" films. Friedman perfected the fine art of sleaze and delightfully admits that he has hurled more garbage at the public than anyone else before or since. This book is as much his story as it is the history of an idea that in recent times has enjoyed a remarkable rebirth. Friedman writes with gusto of the glory days when there were taboos to be broken and untold amounts of money to be made. He fondly remembers his cinematic forebears, who sold titillation under the guise of moral instruction. Friedman brought the genre to new highs (and lows), producing such films as She Freak, Blood Feast, The Defilers, Scum of the Earth, Space Thing, Color Me Blood Red, and the classic Two Thousand Maniacs. Whether sexy, gory, or merely shocking, these films played for years to packed theaters and drive-ins. Though Friedman is considered a folk-hero of the sexual revolution, it was when the "adults only" business lost its uncertain innocence and the movies really began to get dirty that he lost all interest. Hardcore porn - ritualized, explicit, and deadly serious - pulled the rug out from under the adult-film industry and, according to Friedman, ended the fun. For Friedman really did have fun - never more than when he was perpetrating a con or flying in the face of convention. This book captures the core of basic integrity, the wicked sense of humor, and the unerring sense of showmanship of this American original. A Youth in Babylon is the definitive book on the history of American "exploitation" films and a unique contribution to motion picture history.

From Publishers Weekly As one might expect, "trash" filmmaker Friedman's memoir, written with freelancer DeNevi, has about as much subtlety as a Las Vegas bump-and-grind. In this entertaining, self-indulgent confession, he chronicles his entry into show biz as a press agent for "educational" sex-hygiene reels, to his later work as creator/promotor of smuttier, more gruesome celluloid fare including Boin-n-g! and Blood Feast. Adventures with exploitation-movie producers such as Herschell Lewis and Kroger Babb are recounted, as are promotion schemes; we're told about the investments and brainstorming behind low-budget productions and see the huckster's talent for turning censorship boycotts into publicity hype. Though Friedman is often condescending and macho, he proves himself here to be resourceful; and his enchantment with the carney tradition is infectious, making even the book's unrelenting, ring-masteresque alliterations ("circulating salesmen of cinema sleaze") bearable. "America's Most Notorious Carpetbagger of Cinemadom" gleefully proves H. L. Mencken's axiom: "Nobody ever went broke underestimating the taste of the American public." Photos not seen by PW. 40,000 first printing; \$40,000 ad/promo. Copyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc.