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Andy Richards

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Andy Richards : Asian Horror (Kamera Books) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Asian Horror (Kamera Books):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Good Intro Into Asian Horror By Jenny Leigh This book is a great introduction for those unfamiliar with Asian Horror or those who want to dig little deeper into its beginnings. I have some criticisms, though. The book primarily focuses on J-horror and divulged very little into Korean, Chinese/Hong Kong and Thai horror. While it is true that J-horror is king, Korean horror is also extremely popular, and Thai and Hong Kong are equally weighted in great themes. The book goes over some great films, but sometimes it feels like the

writer is reviewing them rather than digging into their deeper meanings. This is a fantastic book for beginning the journey, but for those who have a little background on the subject, it's just a light review. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good intro..By Jason Bl'Ve just started getting into Asian horror, and this book is a nice steppingstone. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. good readBy Norrin RaddThis book is a good read not great. It does get a bit slow at times unless you have an idea about all the movies that it is speaking of. I enjoyed the way it was written and I did learn a bit about the history of the Asian horror movies that I didn't expect to. I still say it is an interesting read if you are trying to learn and follow the Asian horror scene.

Since Japanese horror sensations *The Ring* and *Audition* first terrified Western audiences at the turn of the millennium, there's been a growing appreciation of Asia as the hotbed of the world's best horror movies. Over the last decade, Japan, South Korea, Thailand, and Hong Kong have all produced a steady stream of stylish supernatural thrillers and psychological chillers that have set new benchmarks for cinematic scares. Hollywood soon followed suit, producing high-profile remakes of films such as *The Ring*, *Dark Water*, *The Grudge*, and *The Eye*. With scores of Asian horror films now available to Western audiences, this guide helps viewers navigate the eclectic mix of vengeful spooks, yakuza zombies, feuding warlocks, and devilish dumplings, discussing the grand themes of Asian horror cinema and the distinctive national histories that give the films their special resonance. Tracing the long and noble tradition of horror stories in Eastern cultures, it also delves into some of the folktales that have influenced this latest wave of shockers, paying tribute to classic Asian ghost films throughout the ages.

From Publishers WeeklyThis survey of Asian horror movies is unlikely to work either for the casual filmgoer or the devoted fan. Orotund pronouncements ("Godzilla demonstrates that a giant monster movie is one of the most effective ways of dramatizing social, political and ecological crises") are coupled with sketchy summaries of dozens of movies from the last 50 years and uneven commentary. While Richards clearly has an exhaustive knowledge of his subject matter, his expertise shines through most clearly in an introductory chapter about the view of supernatural forces in Eastern culture that manages to convey a lot of useful information in just four pages. Readers unfamiliar with the films discussed are likely to find too little information about their plots to make an intelligent decision about whether they are worth their while, and his "verdicts" ("Splatter hounds have a host of creatively executed gougings, garrottings, impalements and decapitations to enjoy") aren't sophisticated or detailed enough. (Dec.) (c) Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved.From BooklistIn this look at the history and influence of Asian horror cinema, Richards begins by tracing the genre's origins back to the end of the nineteenth century and explaining how the modern Asian horror film began after the end of WWII, showing, for example, how the Japanese monster movie cycle of the 1950s, which began with *Godzilla*, reflected and reenacted the destruction of the war, the mutant monsters being reminders of the horrors of radiation damage and environmental pollution. With the scene set, Richards discusses various examples in a simple, orderly format: a brief description of the story followed by background on the film's production and a verdict assessing the movie's influence and importance. Some of the movies will be familiar to Western readers (*Godzilla*, *The Ring*, *The Grudge*) but others probably won't. The book isn't for casual readers, however, but rather for serious horror-film fans. That crowd will have a ball reliving some of the genre's greatest havoc-wreakers. --David PittAbout the AuthorAndy Richards is a freelance film journalist and television producer who has written for *The DVD Stack*, *Filmfour.com*, *The Observer*, *Sight Sound*, *Time Out*, and *Uncut*.