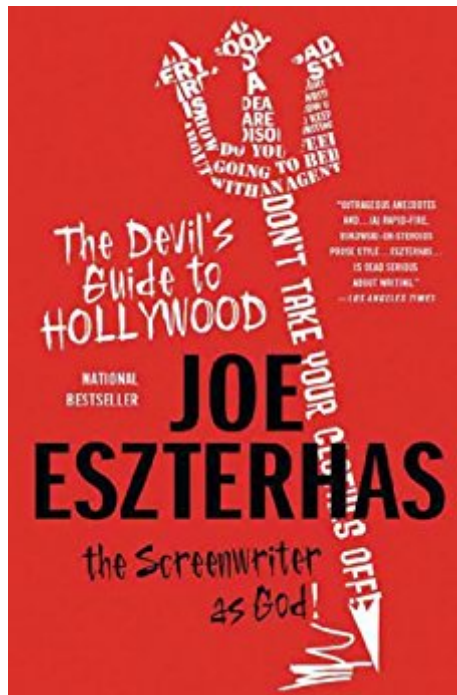




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# The Devil's Guide To Hollywood: The Screenwriter As God!



## Synopsis

Mike Ovitz told him his Wilshire Blvd. "foot soldiers" would hunt him down. He's antagonized almost everyone at the top in Tinseltown. And now, Joe Eszterhas tells everything he knows -- in brief, quotable bursts -- about the business, the history of Hollywood, and how to write screenplays that make millions. Idiosyncratic, gruff and as shaggy as Eszterhas himself, *The Devil's Guide to Hollywood* makes a character/leitmotif of Eszterhas' fellow Hungarian Zsa Zsa Gabor ("Money is like a sixth sense that makes it possible for you to fully enjoy the other five."), and makes the case that Marilyn Monroe was the sharpest tack in Hollywood ("Hollywood is a place where they'll pay you a thousand dollars for a kiss and fifty cents for your soul. I know, because I turned down the first offer often enough and held out for the fifty cents."). Refreshing, dirty, tough, there's no book like it.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I expected something completely different. This is kind of a quote/advice book written in the style of one of the 'Idiot's Guide' books about how to get into screen writing. It rehashes lots of the same old stories Joe tells in *Hollywood Animal*, which was more of an actual story vs. A collection of a couple

sentences and quotes. Some of the quotes are interesting and relevant but for the most part the stories will be repetitive if you read Hollywood Animal. The author is clearly in deep love with himself ... The bragging in this book and diminishing others as an example of how great the author is gets old after page 8. You'd think that this writer's head could get no bigger but then you flip a page and it does. The book is borderline annoying but clearly the author has done his research (days of being a reporter paid off) and uses some pretty topical quotes. Around halfway, the book feels like it runs in circles and gets super repetitive and you just want to finish it. It is not an easy or quick read despite the format because it wears you out. I would give this as a gift to anyone who is entering the movie industry. I feel like the tone and some of the tips would be relevant to an industry person. However talking about movie execs from the 1930s - 1990s, you do feel that the book is a bit dated. Worth the read for an industry person but the bragging and self exaltation really wears thin early on with this book.

I enjoyed this book very much. The book is basically a collection of micro-anecdotes or lessons about Hollywood and screenwriting. Some of the lessons are quite detailed for the aspiring screenwriter. And there are many amusing factoids/quotes for the lay person as well. What crosses my mind was this book's content and organization naturally lends itself to a "Museum of Hollywood and Screenplay." Many of the bite-sized content could each fill a text panel/plate to accompany a display piece, memorabilia, A/V booth, etc. I for one would love to see the Robert McKee corner.

Nothing changes. I work in Hollywood. It's just as rotten today as it is in the past. Joe Eszterhas paints an accurate, often painful reality check. Forget everything you think you know about studio movies (and the hierarchy). Instead, stick to your YouTube videos, lest you get beaten, battered and left for dead. A cautionary tale people should really take to heart. Unless, you're impervious to irrational behavior. In which case, this town is for you. A great fast read.

Joe Eszterhas' name was previously unknown to me as are the names of most screenwriters who are not also directors. I had, however, heard of many of the movies he had written such as Basic Instinct, Jagged Edge, Flashdance and Showgirls. His book is interesting at times, long winded at others but mostly just a collection of seemingly unconnected anecdotes about screenwriters and the people they deal with. That's pretty much it. Not a really great read as far as I'm concerned.

Excellent book full of sound and fury and signifying quite a bit! The tiny chunks of paragraphs make

the book a quick read, but would have liked a bit of a more substantial thought every now and then. But, it is the style of the book. Too bad not every screenwriter can get away with the way Joe operated (we would all be better off and wield more power...hence the title of this enjoyable book).

Joe Eszterhas is a very successful screen writer and this is a must-read book for anyone interested in screen writing. It spends little time dealing with the writing itself. Instead, by use of a thousand examples which include the names of the people and studios involved, it immerses you in the environment that screen writers must deal with in Hollywood. It shows you approaches that work and approaches that fail. You'd better be prepared if you want to succeed. For non-screen writers, the book offers a fascinating, unparalleled view of the way Hollywood works and of the lives of named people: writers, actors, directors, producers, etc. I myself am not an aspiring screen writer, so did not need to read the whole book to get a good sense of the Hollywood world. I am very glad I read the first two thirds, though. I've seen nothing like it anywhere. Gross language appears everywhere in the book. This is because gross language is endemic in Hollywood. You couldn't describe Hollywood honestly without it.

I'm a big fan of Eszterhas' writing. His memoir, "Hollywood Animal," is one of my favorites. "The Devil's Guide to Hollywood" is like a cliff noted version of his memoir, plus a plethora of random sayings and stories from numerous celebrities. If you're using this book as a how-to for screenwriting, you're not going to find much here in the way of pointers or inspiration: Write 6 pages a day, 8 hours a day for 20 days, wait a few weeks, edit. I recommend "Hollywood Animal" over "The Devil's Guide..." by far. In the former, at least, Eszterhas mentions his first hand experience from his early days as a screenwriter, and the reader could garner some sort of appreciation at the dedicated intensity in which screenplays are written.

Wild life story!!!

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