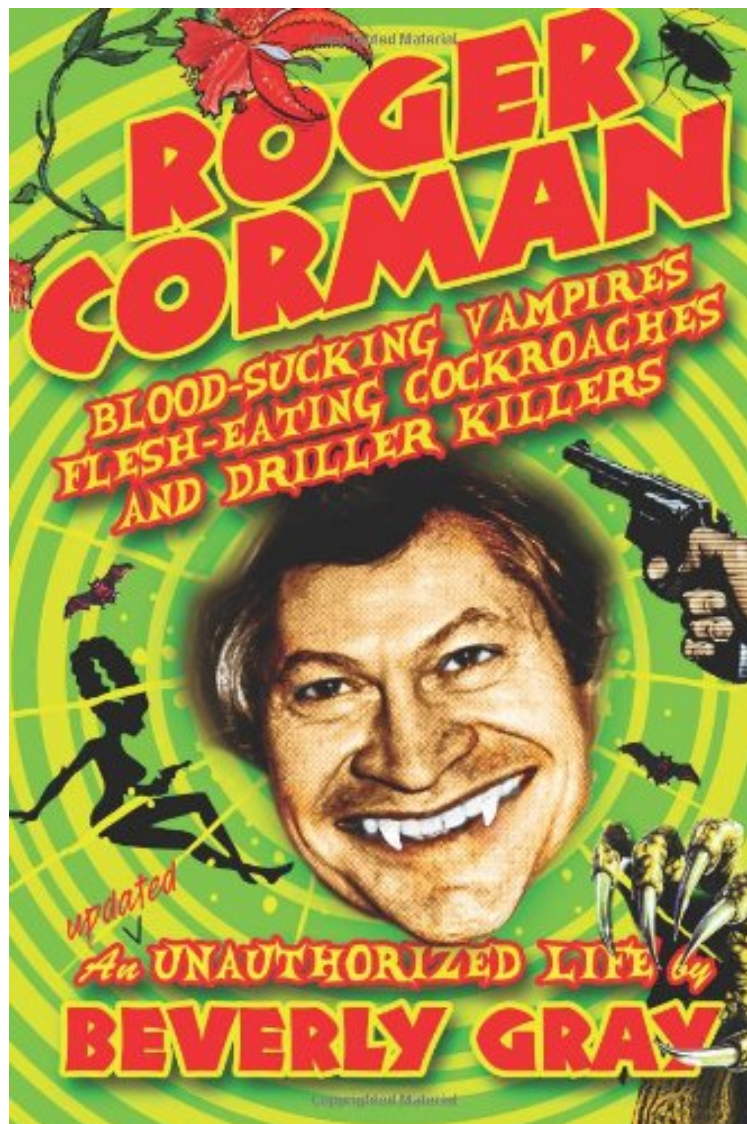


(Free pdf) Roger Corman: Blood-Sucking Vampires, Flesh-Eating Cockroaches, and Driller Killers: 3rd edition

Roger Corman: Blood-Sucking Vampires, Flesh-Eating Cockroaches, and Driller Killers: 3rd edition

Beverly Gray

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Beverly Gray : Roger Corman: Blood-Sucking Vampires, Flesh-Eating Cockroaches, and Driller Killers: 3rd edition before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Roger Corman: Blood-Sucking Vampires, Flesh-Eating Cockroaches, and Driller Killers: 3rd edition:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Portrait of the Artist as the King of Pop Cinema By Craig Edwards I first read this book back in 2001 or 2002 - when it came out in a trade paperback edition. I was then working in a bookstore, and I made a habit of grabbing lunch from the food court and dashing back to the store to read a book in the back of the store. I read Ms. Gray's book across a few of those lunches and thoroughly enjoyed it - but I didn't end up purchasing it as money was very tight in those days. (Booksellers do not make crazy crazy money, believe it or not.) In the late 90's, having been out of his employ for four or five years, Ms. Gray went to work on a biography of Roger Corman. Catching wind of it, he summoned her to a meeting. In that meeting he advised he would only participate in the book's writing if the end result would cast him in a mostly favorable light. Ms. Gray advised she was going to follow advice he'd once given her and use her own best judgment. And so she did. She proceeded with the book - ending up with a fair and balanced look at Roger Corman - his strengths, his idiosyncracies; his foibles, and even his feet of clay. Meticulous research and interviews with dozens of people who worked for Corman across his decades in the film business make up the bulk of the book - and it's a pretty fascinating story for anyone remotely interested in independent filmmaking or the production of what are now thought of as "B movies" - an appellation that Roger Corman would be quick to scoff at in most cases - as he still believes pretty much the only true B films are those that played as the second feature to a larger budgeted A picture in movie theaters of the 30's and 40's. I think he's softened on this a bit in more recent years as the meaning of the phrase has shifted through use (or misuse). The resulting biography came out in 2000, and sold very well, landing high on the Los Angeles Times bestseller list in its first week of publication. The paperback edition sold well too. Now, a dozen years later, Ms. Gray has gone back and reworked the original book into an expanded ebook - with new information and interviews conducted as recently as October 2012 figuring into the expanded edition. Ms. Gray's writing is terrific - taking us from Corman's birth through his reception of an honorary Oscar in 2009 and the recent Syuh-Fyuh channel movies he's been cranking out the last couple of years. There was obviously a boatload of work that went into the research and interviews - and what's really cool is that nearly every quotation is on the record and attributed - with only a half dozen or dozen quotes (out of hundreds) that are assigned to "a New Concorde staffer" or "a veteran of the New World days." This alone presents a solid picture of the book's balance in its representation of Mr. Corman's life and career. If the book was a hatchet job - there would be far fewer names quoted in the book and much more anonymous attribution. Unfortunately, Mr. Corman did not agree with this assessment - and after Ms. Gray's refusal to let him edit the manuscript of anything he felt to be negative or derogatory - he apparently spread the word that the book was to be a hatchet job, though it seems to have prevented few of his former employees from sitting down with Ms. Gray. He also wrote off whatever friendship they had at that point - though Ms. Gray still expresses warmth and respect for her former boss - he does not share that warmth. She indicates that their few happenstance meetings since the book's publication have been cordial - but it's also true that two different interviews with Ms. Gray about her former boss - one for a Corman documentary and one for a DVD special feature - have been cut from the finished projects at Mr. Corman's - or his office's - insistence. If anyone were to ask me what to read to know more about Roger Corman - I would absolutely recommend this book - and I'd offer the suggestion (as does Ms. Gray) to pair it up with Roger Corman's own memoir - How I Made a Hundred Movies in Hollywood and Never Lost a Dime - as the two books together do offer the most in-depth portrait of an intensely private man that you're ever likely to get. (I would also offer Ms. Gray's advice to enjoy Mr. Corman's book with a grain of salt, as his own recollections of his past actions might be skewed a bit by his ego and memory - which can get a bit fuzzy at times according to others present at the time.) Currently the book is only offered in Kindle format - if you don't have a Kindle - there are computer and smartphone app versions that would still allow you to purchase and read this terrific biography - so what are you waiting for?

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Roger Corman Redux, and Blood-sucking Vampires, Flesh-eating cockroaches and Driller Killers By Brian B. If you're a fan of Roger Corman and his special blend of exploitation filmmaking, you should fast and furiously add Beverly Gray's third edition of her Corman bio bestseller to your cart. Among other things, the author has affixed an entirely new epilogue (over 20 pages worth) covering the filmmakers recent endeavors. This new revised edition (containing 16 pages of new photos) couldn't have come at a better time considering the famed producer/director has found renewed success over at the SyFy Channel with an onslaught of giant animal programmers. Gray tackles her subject in an intriguing fashion by presenting not only Corman the movie mogul, but Corman the man and his fascinating personality. Along with her own personal recollections (and many of those who worked for him), Gray shines a spotlight on Corman's generous nature, but never neglects to balance that with his penchant for pinching pennies. Through the authors experiences and observations, the reader gets a remarkable vision of a larger than life Hollywood figure that is sometimes more sensational than the wild and wooly films he produced. There are flashier, more visually appealing books on Corman out there; but word for word, Beverly Gray's 336 page delectation is the best book on one of Hollywood's most integral success stories.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. For both laymen and film aficionados. By Book and film lover This is a book equally for the layman and the film aficionado. Beverly Gray has done a fabulous job telling the uncensored story of Roger Corman and showing how it is the story of the history of Hollywood. Corman was there at the beginning of the modern era, was the first to hire film school grads for his low budget epics and a long list of Hollywood notables from William Shatner to Robert DeNiro to

Francis Ford Coppola worked early in their careers for and learned from Corman. I found it particularly interesting how Corman's background in engineering taught him the efficiencies of film production that he passed on to a legion of directors. Corman too was at the vanguard of hiring women to high level posts through his motivations were not always exemplary. This book is an endless feast, and movable too as Corman jumped from horror to Edgar Allen Poe to biker films to more mainstream as the times changed.

Roger Corman reigns supreme as the godfather of independent filmmaking. Since 1954, he has produced four-hundred-plus movies on shoestring budgets, blending action, sex, humor, and social message into hip (and profitable) entertainments. He has also demonstrated an uncanny eye for talent, launching the Hollywood careers of Jack Nicholson, Peter Fonda, Martin Scorsese, Jonathan Demme, and James Cameron, to name just a few. Thanks to a campaign supported by generations of grateful alumni, he was honored with an Oscar in 2009. It was a fitting valedictory, but Corman himself is still going strong, churning out monster mash-ups like "Sharktopus" and promoting them via today's social media. Beverly Gray served as Corman's story editor for nearly a decade. Through far-reaching conversations with over one hundred fellow Cormanites, she takes you behind the cameras for an insider's look at the man and the mogul. This third edition of Gray's now-classic unauthorized biography, first published in 2000, advances the Corman saga into the present day. Previously suppressed material has been restored, and a new assortment of vintage photographs enhances this edition. Gray's work has been hailed by critics like Steven Gaydos, Executive Editor of *Weekly Variety*, who wrote, Beverly Gray's terrific bio of Corman explains his colorful career both as an amazing business tale and a strange, even mournful, personal journey. A development exec for Corman for many years, Gray knows both the business side of the low-budget mogul and something of Corman's almost-forgotten high-minded soul.

"...an absorbing peek into a unique era in motion picture history . . . a must for anyone who loves movies." -- Mel Welles, actor in several Corman films
"Beverly Gray nails both sides of the complex Corman, the tame and the wild, the cheap and the generous..." -- Chuck Griffith, screenwriter for *Little Shop of Horrors*
"Gray's sensitive combination of scholarly detachment and firsthand observation have made [Corman] come alive in all his wily brilliance." -- L.A. Weekly
"Kudos to Gray for her exhaustive work on the pop-culture icon who's given us all years of guilty cinematic pleasure" -- Total Movie
"[Corman's] supreme talent is a rare ability to liberate talent in others. He liberated an excellent film historian in Gray." -- L.A. Weekly
Roger Corman, director/producer of hundreds of low-budget, popular and influential genre films and cult classics, appears in all his tawdry splendor in Beverly Gray's deftly told unauthorized biography. -- Carl Rollyson, *Wall Street Journal*
"For a more thoughtful account of the tensions in Corman's career - he was, it turns out, as committed to hiring women in positions of power as he was to filming them nude - check out *Roger Corman: Blood-Sucking Vampires, Flesh-Eating Cockroaches, and Driller Killers*, a recently updated insider's account by Beverly Gray, who worked for him." -- Jason Zinoman, *New York Times Sunday Book*
About the Author
Beverly Gray unexpectedly became Roger Corman's assistant while finishing a PhD in Contemporary American Fiction at UCLA. Since then, her career has swung between academia and the film industry. At Corman's New World Pictures and Concorde-New Horizons, she developed 170 low-budget features, earned 6 screenwriting credits, and played several cameo roles (in all of which she kept her clothes on). Currently she teaches screenwriting workshops for UCLA Extension and blogs at Beverly in Movieland, covering movies, moviemaking, and growing up Hollywood-adjacent. She has also published *"Ron Howard: From Mayberry to the Moon . . . and Beyond."*