



Down from the Attic: Rare Thrillers of the Silent Era through the 1950s

John T. Soister, Henry Nicolella

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Much has been written (and rewritten) about classic horror and science fiction films like *Nosferatu* and *Metropolis*, as well as not-so-classic pictures like *Bride of the Monster* and *The Hideous Sun Demon*. Yet some genre films have fallen through the cracks. The 24 films--some elusive, some easily found on YouTube--examined in this book all suffered critical neglect and were prematurely stacked in the attic. The authors bring them back into the light, beginning with *Der Tunnel* (1915), about the building of a transatlantic tunnel, and ending with *The Emperor's Baker--The Baker's Emperor* (1951), a bizarre Marxist take on the Golem legend.

A variety of thrillers are covered--*Fog* (1933), *Return of the Terror* (1934), *Forgotten Faces* (1928)--along with such sci-fi leaps into the future as *The Sky Ranger* (1921), *High Treason* (1929) and *Just Imagine* (1930). Early adaptations include *The Man Who Laughs* (1928), *The Monkey's Paw* (1923), *Hound of the Baskervilles* (1937) and *Sweeney Todd* (1928). Rare stills and background material are included in a discussion of Hispanic vintage horror. The career of exploitation auteur, Bud Pollard (*The Horror*, 1933) is examined.

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