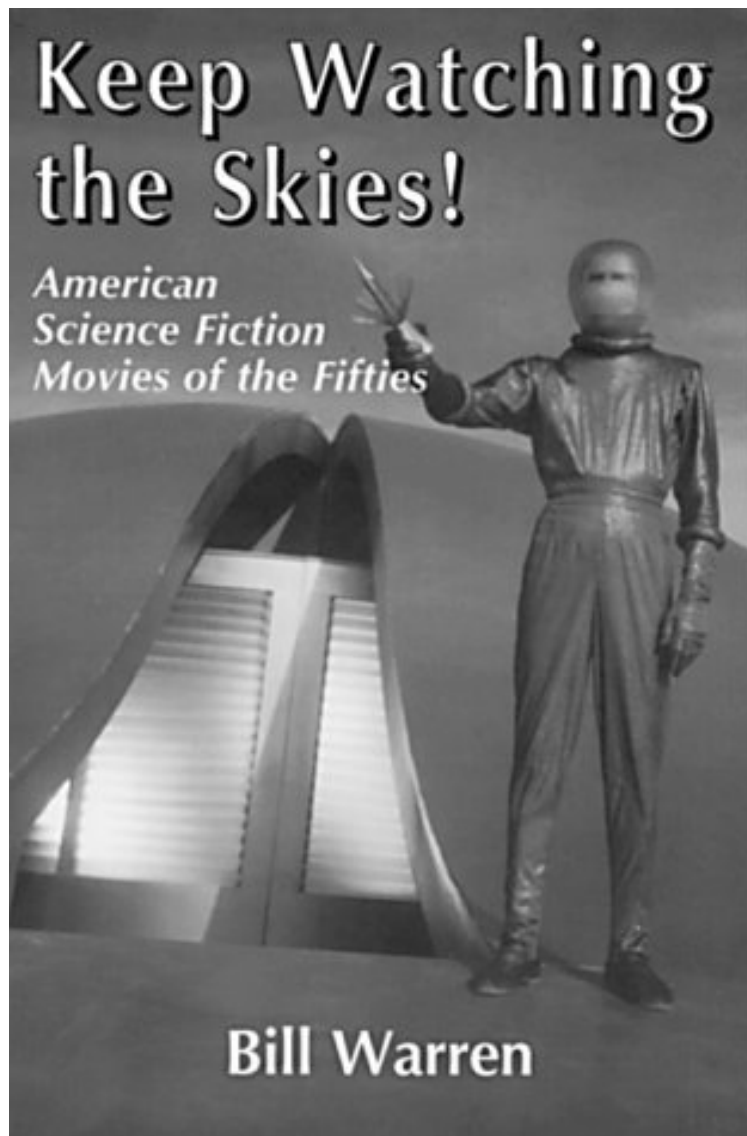


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Bill Warren

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Bill Warren : Keep Watching the Skies! American Science Fiction Movies of the Fifties (2 Volumes in 1) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Keep Watching the Skies! American Science Fiction Movies of the Fifties (2 Volumes in 1):

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Everything You Need To Know About Every SF Film of the Decade By James Elfers Bill Warren does a spectacular job ferreting out every SF movie made between 1950 and 1962. A massive work, the main difference between this edition, (aside from corrections of errors and so forth) is that it was originally arranged by year; now it is arranged alphabetically. This sometimes results in odd placement. The second sequel to "The Creature From the Black Lagoon," "The Creature Walks Among Us" appearing before the first sequel, "Revenge of the Creature." Since these were originally published in different order, it causes some confusion among the reader. That quibble is minor however. For the most part this book is a joy to read. Not every film merits or receives equal coverage but anything at all that you want to know about these films is collected here; cast lists, production credits, release dates and critical reactions. If you grew up in the fifties or, like me grew up watching nearly all of these movies on 1970's "creature Features" You will really enjoy this book. For those of you who have only seen these movies on Mystery Science Theater 3000, here is a chance to appreciate the films on their own merits without the snark of Mike, Joel and the 'bots. As Warren rightly points out if MST3K wanted a color movie to spoof for its own big screen incarnation, why didn't they choose "The Queen Of Outer Space" which is truly terrible instead of "This Island Earth which is one of the best SF films of the 1950's? Recommended for SF films of all stripes, especially baby boomers.

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. A massive labor of love for all to enjoy By Book lover This is not a conventional cataloging of movies; it is an intensely personal view of a class of movies, and the fascinating stories of their conception and production. One reviewer found this approach confusing and boring; I found it highly entertaining and insightful. One must simply respect the years of research involved in assembling this nearly 1,000-page work, given the difficulty of locating original sources of material many years after the fact. The terms "prodigious", "phenomenal" and "extraordinary" come to mind, and that doesn't begin to exhaust the laudatory adjectives I could apply. Put simply, I found this book fascinating and fun to read. The author does an astounding job of narration, assembling a widely diverse group of facts and weaving them into a tapestry which heavily reflects his own personal preferences and views. Since I agree with most of the latter, this book is a compelling read for me. I didn't read it from front to back, but selected the sections on the movies I remember most fondly and read them first. I am now working my way through the sections which discuss movies I am less familiar with, and find them equally entertaining. This is a book to be read over months and years, not in a few sittings. There are plenty of photos in the book (including a central color section of movie posters), but as one critic pointed out, it would have been nice to have a few more. But this book is already so big and heavy it is hard enough to hold while reading it. If any more material were added, it would have to be split into two volumes, to avoid an increase in hernias in the general population. Thank you, Bill Warren, for a true labor of love.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Well Done! By Stargazer The number of movies reviewed and the background information provided is phenomenal. I can appreciate how much time and work was involved in writing this book. Although I did not agree with all of Mr. Warren's reviews, I liked this book a lot. I was disappointed with his comments about John Agar. I always thought movies were better because he was in them. His review of Teenagers From Outer Space was disheartening - it's still my favorite movie after many years of watching it. I always wondered what happened to David Love. Thanks to Mr. Warren, I now know -- nobody knows. I thoroughly enjoyed his review of Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea. The title of this book is what attracted me and the cover art is great.

Relive and thrill to the science fiction movies of the 50s (through 1962), when jujubes and popcorn with extra butter went arm and arm with mad women (Attack of the 50 Foot Woman), weird teenagers (I Was a Teenage Frankenstein, Teenage Zombies), ill-fated matches (I Married a Monster from Outer Space), victims of scientific experiments (The Fly), and all those things that kept dropping in from outer space (The Blob, The Brain Eaters). As Warren meticulously and unfailingly points out, special effects were infantile (They fall into a huge spider web which strongly resembles a cargo net, Earth vs. The Spider), budgets incredibly small (As Jack Moffitt noted, the giant spaceman must be a fugitive from medieval France since, on his chest, he wears a shield bearing the fleur-de-lis. On his back, is an Assyrian bull, indicating he may have had his cleaning, pressing and mending done in Babylon, Attack of the 50 Foot Woman). From The Astounding She-Monster, another small budget reminder: In the first day of filming, the She-Monster bent over to kill one of the characters and ripped (her) suit in the back ... so in all subsequent scenes, the She-Monster makes exits and entrances facing the camera. Of course, this means she is walking backward much of the time, but aliens are weird. The book is filled with witty, fanatically in-depth critiques, with insider anecdotes. In addition to detailed plot synopses and production data, Warren cites good and bad reviews from the period, then adds his own analysis of how the film stands up after two or three decades. Credits add to and correct other published sources. Fantastic photographs, drawings, appendices and index are included.

From School Library Journal Grade 6 Up This long-overdue revision of the magisterial original (volume one, 1982; volume two, 1986) offers lengthy, richly informative, and extensively revised essays on hundreds of films, packing the entries into one hefty volume and rearranging them from chronological to a more accessible alphabetical order. Film scholar Warren opens with perceptive reflections on the history, common motifs, and enduring appeal of the era's

science-fiction movies, then in an unfailingly lively style goes on to examine releases from the renowned *The Day the Earth Stood Still* and *The Manchurian Candidate* to the likes of *Teenagers from Outer Space* and *Attack of the Crab Monsters*. While limiting his purview to feature films (not serials) with at least perfunctory scientific content released theatrically in the U.S. from 1950 to 1962, Warren includes within extensive back matter a long list of excluded films from the period, with explanations as to why they were left out. Other extras include a release-date index, a list of announced-but-never-made titles, and a huge multimedia resource list. Enhanced by hundreds of black-and-white stills, plus two arresting sections of posters in color, this opinionated but clear-eyed and authoritative labor of love will not only draw scuttling hordes of researchers but also turn even casual browsers into rabid fans. It is a significant addition to any pop-culture collection, even those including such broader but far shallower guides as C. J. Henderson's *Encyclopedia of Science Fiction Movies* (Facts On File, 2001) or Phil Hardy's *The Overlook Film Encyclopedia: Science Fiction* (Overlook, 1995).

John Peters, New York Public Library Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist*Starred * Warren's reference on 1950s science-fiction cinema receives a revised edition, following volumes published in 1982 and 1986. Covering nearly 300 films released between 1950 and 1962, this handsomely produced new volume is the premier reference for this subject. Although prominent films like *Forbidden Planet*, *Them!*, *The Time Machine*, and *The Fly* receive more extensive coverage, all of the essays are newly revised and include production, cast, and distribution credits; a plot synopsis; production details and fun background facts; discussion of the direction, acting, effects, and other prominent elements of the film; and information about public and critical reaction. Attractive photos accompany most of the essays, and posters for the best-known films are reproduced in 35 color plates. Nine appendixes cover release dates; films considered but ultimately not listed (and why); films announced but never made; films that have been remade; and a list of science-fiction serials of the period. A large bibliography and careful indexing of titles and all credited individuals show the research effort made on the book. This revision puts films in alphabetical rather than chronological order, improving ease of use. Although the audience for 1950s science fiction may be dwindling, this is the kind of reference that not only informs but also creates new fans. Warren's essays show not only his knowledge but also his love of the subject matter. Even though, as the author openly admits, gems are rare among the dross in these cheaply made films, he is good at identifying details, moments, and subtexts that make watching them entertaining. Highly recommended, especially for libraries that don't own earlier editions. Put this in the circulating collection, where fans can fully enjoy its compulsively readable essays. --Neil Hollands Intelligent --Booklist/RBBHighly recommended --Library JournalImpressive --Choice