

B00004Z7F0

[I can not believe how stiff these keys are. I thought that this was not going to be a big deal, but it was a deal-killer for me. On the plus side, it is angled nicely with a comfortable hand pad. Unfortunately, the hand pad takes up a lot of real estate and can not be removed.', "I have looked at the others, even bought a different one when I mistakenly thought it wouldn't work on an xp machine. I much prefer this style of keypad to the flat wafer looking ones on the market. For anyone used to a regular adding machine style calculator layout, this is the best one I've seen. I think I have an older model but it looks exactly like this one. It says its a KU-9880. Now, a usb hub would be a cool addition to it, but... I'll sacrifice it for the ergonomics.", 'The price tag always put me off. It was so much more than the bargain ones. But I spent so much more on bargains than if I had just bought this one in the first place. This doesn't mean I will stop buying bargain prices in other products, as most of them end up being great products. But in number pads, the cheap ones were cheap for a reason. They didn't work, didn't last, and were uncomfortable to use. This one takes care of all that. It is solidly built, the numbers depress and return like a dream and is extremely comfortable to use. Don't waste any more time on the junk. IBM got this right and it is well worth the price. Don't let the "for Thinkpad" stop you. It works on my Dell and my Asus and I would guess on any computer that has a USB port. IBM Numeric Keypad For Thinkpad USB', 'Works great, easy to use, no complaints, except I wish there was some indication of when the number lock was on or off. A little light maybe.', 'I am an accountant who uses my laptop in the field regularly. The larger numerical keys are much easier to use than smaller external numerical keypads. I use it on a non-IBM laptop running Windows XP. No additional software required.', 'Unfortunately, Lenovo has not yet seen fit to release a Vista-compatible driver, so the laptop's keyboard and the numeric keypad's number lock feature are in sync under Vista. In other words, if you want to type numbers on the numeric keypad (why else would you buy it?) using Windows Vista, the portion of your laptop's keyboard that substitutes for a numeric keypad will also type numbers. Obviously, for quick data entry, it quickly becomes annoying to have to constantly toggle the "Num Lock" key. Targus makes a similar keypad that does include a Vista driver to avoid this annoying behavior, so that you can input text on your laptop keyboard and numbers on your numeric keypad. It does not, however, have the standard 10-key layout, which is the feature I like most about this model. Updated (Sept. 2007): Lenovo has released a Vista driver for this keypad, so it now works as it should. You can activate Num Lock on the keypad and still type properly on the laptop keyboard.', 'This was a great purchase for my Dell XPS laptop since the laptop does not have a keypad and I use the number function often. This worked great when I plugged it in and the XPS recognized it with no problems.', 'gotloaded program from cd.....worked right away.....really nice.....wanted it for 14" laptop without the number keys on the end of the keyboard', 'This keypad layout is the same as the keypad on desktop. Good touch and resistance. It is larger than many of the other numeric keypads but that is what makes it stable. I have only used it with XP and Windows 2000.', 'Unfortunately, the usb is only 2 feet long and will not reach my desktop PC which is literally under my desk. The product appears to be ok other than that. I only took it out of the box and realized there was no way to connect to my computer with such a short cable.']

B00008Z1AA

["Has a total of 4 pockets. I like the quality, but have to return it cuz it's too small for my camcorder with charger, extra batteries, tapes, wide-angle lense, & video light.", "I received my bags, which were packed as new, and on time. One, however, was missing the accessory shoulder straps and accessories packed inside for shipping. To me, the package was not tampered with, and the issue was likely a mistake on Samsonite's packing line. In an e mail, 47 Street simply replaced the shipment on a rush basis, no delay or request for return. The old rule is true. Everyone can make a mistake. it's how we handle the mistake that we distinguish ourselves. Yes, this is a review about the bag, and it is an excellent piece, and a great value. But it took 47 Street to get it right, and that

they did. Boy did they. Five stars for each!", 'As many of the other reviewers have said this bag is roomy without being bulky. It is made of quality material and should hold up quite well to all kinds of use and travel. I have room now in one bag for my digital camera and my little video camera, plus a host of accessories. The movable separators makes it nice so that you can vary the amount of space necessary for any item. All in all a great bag!!', 'This bag fits my Panasonic Camcorder sdr-h18 and all peripherals perfectly. Plus, room for a separate digital camera. Very high quality.', 'I've had this for over a year and it has been serving it's purpose pretty well. It obviously isn't the same quality as most SLR bags which start at over \$50, but it's hard to beat for the price. The strap on mine started ripping a few months after I got it, but it's still hanging on and can be replaced cheaply. It's a great bag for amateurs like myself who just want something to hold a DSLR and don't need anything fancy.', 'Since my digital camera and dv cam are both canon, I can carry one power cord and the 2 bricks. This small bag fits my G1 and my optura 30, 2 bricks, 1 powercord, usb cable and 6 tapes. It all fits perfectly.', 'fits canon camcorder and accsesories nicely, appears to be well made. so far happy with purchase', 'I purchased this camera bag for my new Canon Powershot S5 IS and couldn't be happier with it. It is made very durable and has plenty of space for anything that you will need. There are many compartments to keep your extras separated. The camera fits in it with plenty of room, yet is well protected. The strap is very nice and padded, too. I have small shoulders, but it works for me. I am sure that this bag will last for a long time. I would highly recommend it to anyone!Samsonite 708BK Microfiber Compact Video Bag", 'This bag has plenty of room for our camcorder, both our digital cameras and all the goodies we need to operate and charge them both. Very nice looking bag and good quality.', 'Bought this for my Nikon D40 and used it for 2 years. The build quality is Samsonite worthy, no question there. There are plenty of modular pockets with Velcro attachments that you can move as you see fit, to accommodate objects of different sizes.I could fit in my Nikon D40 with a 200mm lens, the charger, the cables, another 55mm lens, wipes, SD cards, and a cleaning spray.The only reason I gave it 4 stars, is because after a couple of years of use, I would have preferred a more longitudinal shape for the bag rather than a rectangular one that keeps bumping into people and corners when you walk.For a regular, non intensive use, this bag works just fine. However, if you will be doing some hiking, walking, traveling around with your camera, a backpack or vertically shaped bag would work best.', 'The bag itself looks good, price is unbeatable, but if you're just going to buy this because of the price, then you might consider other bags in the market. If you buy this online and have it shipped, shipping will cost almost the same amount as the bag itself.You could try to buy another bag and have Amazon ship it for free!!', 'This bag I bought it for Nikon D80 camera. Nikon D80 and all its accessories fits it. Worth for the amount.']

B00009R89V

['Good design but... I was using to hold a camcorder. Next thing I know the belt loop rips and the whole thing drops onto concrete. No undue pressure was placed on the loop.', 'The slip-lock system works well, having a few different LowPro bags which have the systems loops allows me to expand as needed readily and fast. These bags while not all weather have a pouch covering with a draw string at the top opening and when cinched should deter much rain or winding conditions etc. Well made and securely attached. Hold my GPS, wallet and walkie-talkie well. Using mine with the fanny pack AW 100 and 200.', 'It WILL connect to your Tech belt. But it's a pretty cheap build. It almost looks like a knock-off. A small strip of Velcro holds the flap down and underneath is a drawstring pocket. There is no cool little rain shield that pops out from underneath so use my favorite and yours, Scotch Guard (I should get a commission eery time I mention their name). Even with Scotch Guard, i wouldn't put anything more expensive than a really, really good sandwich in this case.', 'As promoted, this item is suggested for use with binoculars. The draw tight hood is a constant pain when trying to replace your field glasses back into the pouch. If the draw cord opening were off to one side this would greatly improve the design, but because of its location, there is no way to really get around it, or to fold it out of the way. This problem seems to be an annoying

design oversight. The size of this pouch is also too tight or narrow to insert or remove a mid to full-sized pair of binoculars easily. Slightly larger width and depth (1/2") would have been better. Using the Lowepro S&F Technical Belt (an excellent product), I was hopeful that this pouch would have become a primary tool when birding. I learned otherwise.', 'Purchased these Sliplock pouches (#30) to go with the lowe pro system (I have 2 back packs for my Nikon camera gear - a Slingshot 100AW, and the CompuTrekker AW. These pouches are constructed of durable materials, and attach very securely to the backpacks. They have an additional drawstring closure system under the flap that provides water resistance and addition safety for your equipment. It adds to the capacity of the backpacks, without increasing the overall size by much. Great system, and a total 10 out of 10 to Lowepro on their design, system, and construction.', 'Use this on my Lowepro belt and love it,, its very durable and has a strong velcro latch system to attach it to anything,', 'This is my 2nd pouch and Lowepro is my vendor of choice and has been for a number of years. I have over 7 Lowepro bags and a lot of accessories. As a matter of fact I just bought another item on Saturday.Nothing against the other brands I love Lowepro!', 'Built Lowe tough like other Lowe products, this pouch is indispensable and customizable. I have never lost an item that used the Lowe sliplock system. Whether this pouch or Lowe lens pouches, I swear by them. This item also has a draw string that you can cinch tight that helps keep water out of the pouch. The sliplock system is also not specific to Lowe products. You can use the entire Lowe sliplock line in conjunction with other outdoor gear such as Mountainsmith. Most photogs will want two of these to really customize their system, especially of using the S&F; system.Lowe wins again.', 'Since I bought my camera I bough so many attachments and accessories. My camera bag just ran out of space. This attaches nicely to my camera bag and adds more space. The reason I gave it 4 stars and not 5 is that It is not easy getting things out of it sometimes when you are on the move. Otherwise it is a nice product that can attach easily to lowepro bags.', 'I bought this as an add on to my Lowepro system. I use it as a "purse" to hold keys, cash etc. It is easily removable and has it's own shoulder strap, so I can use as a shoulder bag when going out to dinner (and not taking my camera). I travel a fair amount, so having to pack one less thing is great.']

B0007SPMUS

['Ended up throwing out the phone and purchasing a new set, but battery was of correct fit. No issues with it besides it dying prematurely.', "It is what it is. I ordered this product to replace a battery in a cordless phone. I has worked well and holds it's charge as expected. This is certainly less expensive than purchasing a new phone.", 'Bought a phone at helping hands type store that needed a battery for \$1. Put this battery in and the phone is perfect.', "This battery seems great for the price. At Radio Shack, I pay \$15 for a phone battery and it usually lasts 2-3 years. This one has lasted 8 months. That's not good. I'd rather pay more and get a longer life. Maybe I got a bad one, except I see another consumer only had it for 4 months before going.", 'My battery was dying after 90 sec of use. I can now talk an hour and a half with still a full charge. I feel like I have another phone in the house now.', 'what a JOKE!!!! "Battery must be professionally replaced to qualify for Lifetime warranty with proof of installation (Receipt, work order, etc)." WHO gets a phone battery professionally replaced or installed? give me a break. this company should not be allowed to put "lifetime warranty" in their heading. seller is shady!', 'The delivery was fast and the price was cheaper than anywhere local.They have been working fine since I put them in the phone.Thanks Mike', 'The Product is working great. A little slow on deliverly. But over all very satisfied at present time.', 'Not sure if anyone is still ordering this, but it worked as advertised. Just match the battery up with your phone before ordering.', 'I got three of these batteries, (one because seller failed to honor cancellation request(s) minutes after order & two days before shipped) to replace a battery ordered from Amazon in October 2011 that failed after four months use.All three batteries I received with this order have the same green shrink wrap and the same ID number as the failed battery. MODEL AT&T2422; DC 3.6V 400mAH in smaller print now.Very expensive for CHEAP,USLESS batteries.', "Bought three of these batteries. All worked great! The phones didn't

last this long when they were new!! They charge fast and talk time is hours!", "I give the battery 4-stars for being a decent battery, and I give myself only 1-star for being such an idiot and not checking the amperage rating. The battery I removed from the phone is a very large 2000 ma battery which fits properly. This new battery is only 400 ma, and is so small it rattles around (about 50% the size of the old one). I should have looked at the photo more carefully, and I should have bought a battery that lists the amps. All that being said, the battery arrived pre-charged, and holds a charge okay, just don't expect to talk for too long."]

B000FFV1VW

["I've had a Boxwave USB AC/12V combo charger for years that's worked fine for my older iPod and other devices. When I got a 4G iPod touch I ran into the problem that I couldn't charge it using my old charger, which was simply ignored. It wasn't 100% clear if this device would solve the problem, but for the price figured it was worth a shot. And it works, sort of. Maybe 1/3 of the time I plug it in and it charges fine. Sometimes I plug it in and it says charging is not supported with this device, but it works if I unplug it and plug it back in. Then sometimes it charges for awhile, and at some point it stops and the iPod says the device is not supported. Once, after appearing to charge for awhile, I came back to discover it had proceeded to almost completely discharge the iPod. So it's sort of useful to me, but not reliable, and I'll probably have to do what I was trying to avoid and buy yet another charger.", 'I have an older version of the HyperMac MBP-100 that was made prior to the iPad and I use to use it with my original Macbook Pro, then I really never used the thing. Well after having my iPad for a good while and having to find alternative ways to keep it charged when not around regular 110V outlets, I started searching for answers. To my dismay HyperMac had upgraded their backup batteries to be able to accept and charge iPads, so I thought it was awesome since I already had one. Yeah I was mistaken because my version was old and couldn't handle the amperage needed to charge the iPad, so I went along with life and found a few other options. Recently I was putting together a kit of things to take with me on my honeymoon and I started thinking that there had to be a work around. There was; called the "BoxWave iPad Charging Adapter" which worked with Generic Chargers and USB Hubs and would charge them. I just got my 2 adapters in a couple of days before my wedding and I just tried it out and it works flawlessly. I couldn't be happier because this reduces the amount of crap I need to take with me on the trip!! plugged the iPad3 and my older iPad1 directly into the HyperMac with the Apple Sync Cable and the BoxWave USB Adapter and both of them worked directly connected. From there I hooked up a travel size Belkin USB Hub and plugged the hub directly into the HyperMac and then from there plugged the BoxWave Adapters to 2 of the open ports on the hub and connected both the iPads to them and they both again worked. I am not talking about syncing/transferring data, but I am talking about actually charging the two units. I recently purchased a CloudFTP as well and have tried hooking up the HyperMac to it with a Hard Drive and it works without the BoxWave but I am going to order a couple more of these just to have in my bag. To me they are worth their weight in gold for what they are going to be used for and have saved me headaches with. If and when I find other methods of using this little gem, I will be glad to update this post with those. I am going through and trying to figure out what other hurdles I have come across and will see if any of these help. My next stop is to see if it will charge my Nikon AW100 Camera, because otherwise I will have to take a charger pack for it, because the USB cables do not work to charge.', 'Yes, it allows me to charge from a standard USB port. Handy. It will not, however, allow syncing. This was reported by some purchasers, but not stated in the product description. It is decidedly not handy to remove the adapter and plug the cable back in to a USB port to sync. Mixed bag...', 'Perfect for charging my iPad off any USB port. I have recommended this to several friends and they love it', "I've been searching high and low for a good quality charging adapter for my Samsung Galaxy Tab to allow for high-power charging off a standard USB port. I picked one up from fleaBay and it works but it's flimsy and I don't feel comfortable carrying it around so it just stays on my desk. I had hoped this cable would work with my Tab but alas, it does not. I'm not saying it doesn't work, just not with the Tab. If you've

got an iDevice clearly the other reviews here indicate it works just fine. I can comment on the quality of the adapter in that it is very solid and well made. I would have no concerns about it getting broken while being thrown around in my bag. So it's back to the hunt for the perfect charging adapter for my Tab. If anyone knows of one that works, is durable and doesn't cost \$40, drop me a line...", 'Years ago I had a USB hub that would charge devices even when the computer was off. When it died I looked for a replacement and was unable to find anything that worked. With this adapter, my A/C supplied USB hubs now charge my iPhone and iPad 2 even when the computer is off or disconnected from the hubs. I can finally turn my computer off at night and still charge my devices. I made a second purchase to have two extra just in case these adapters die and the manufacturer stops making the adapter.', 'This BoxWave charging adapter does exactly what it says it does, nothing more. That is to say, it "tricks" Apple devices into charging from USB power sources that otherwise do not provide sufficient power to do so. This is particularly handy for the iPad, which has a knack for being picky about which USB ports and chargers it thinks are "good enough" to get juice from. If you throw this adapter into the equation, it'll charge. (It may take longer than with a high-power charging brick, but it WILL charge.) For me, this is a perfect addition to my travel kit. I try to travel light so I typically leave all of my charging bricks at home and just charge my devices from the USB ports on my Asus netbook. That plan worked great for my GPS and my iPhone, but my new iPad 2 didn't like that plan much and refused to charge. This BoxWave adapter gets it charging, though. Some reviews mention that syncing is not possible with this adapter in place, and that's true ... but then the item description never said it was. (It says it's a "charging" adapter, right?) Really, I don't see this as an issue. I first plug in my iPad normally to let it sync. Then, when it's done syncing I unplug it and plug it back in with this adapter so it'll charge. Really, it's not a hassle once you get used to it.', "I bought this with some skepticism that it would work at all. After using it for several months, it works well with both my iPad 2 and my iPhone 4. It even allows me to use a Duracell USB backup battery pack to charge my iPad when no power is available. You have to keep in mind that it doesn't charge as fast as the iPads charger, which is expected since most USB port output is limited to .5 amp (500 ma) and the iPad charger is rated at 2.1 amp (2100 ma), so theoretically it will only charge at 1/4 speed. I don't use it as the regular charger since it is better for the iPad battery to charge at the higher current rate, but it does save the day when that isn't an option.", 'Took awhile hunting through page-after-page of flames directed at Verizon's on their self-help message board. While ragging on a vendor like Verizon has cathartic benefits, it detracts from solutions. One lonely voice in the wilderness suggested the BoxWave "iPod Charger Adapter" as the solution to overcome the poor engineering that prevents the otherwise wonderful mobile WiFi device, the Verizon MiFi, from charging while in use. Suggestions on the Verizon site included dozens of people who seemed more interested in how clever they were in the fine art of cable-cobbling. Hey, it's simple. Why pay \$5 for some dumb cable made in an Asian factory when all you need is duct tape, a flame thrower, a meat cleaver and half-day rental of a front end loader? I love this cable. I don't like duct tape. If you have a MiFi, get this cable. it works perfectly. Now I can use my MiFi and charge it, even plug it in or pull out the cable without resetting the device (the original problem).', 'This device appears to work in that it makes the iPad think that it is being charged in full-charge mode. The iPad is NOT being charged in full-charge mode, however. This device simply does not function at all, at least not on the iPad 2. When plugged in, the iPad will show as charging but the device does not provide for or allow any additional power so the iPad just charges in trickle just like it would without this adapter. All that this thing does is change the charging icon on the display. It does nothing else whatsoever. The other reviewers are simply being fooled into thinking that this device is doing something just because it fools an Apple device into thinking that it is connected to a high-power USB port. They also do not know that an Apple device DOES charge with normal USB connections (without this adapter) even though the display shows "Not Charging". Just plug an iPad into a normal USB port and leave it overnight. Does it charge? Of course it does. It just charges in trickle mode and this adapter does NOT CHANGE THAT. All it does is flip a bit to make the iPad think that it is connected to a high-power USB port. It does NOTHING else. As an added bonus, this adapter will not allow syncing. Know why? Because it is using the data line to give a signal to the "Apple device" line to fool the Apple device into thinking that it is

connected to a "high power" USB source. All that is cable does is literally cross-connect one wire. Cables are copper wire, people. They are not "magic". This thing is useless. For all of those reviewers who think that this thing actually works....I have a bridge in Brooklyn that I can sell you.....', 'This adapter makes it possible to use any USB power to charge your iPhone/iPad device. For an iPad you will need to make sure the USB device can supply enough power. I recommend at least 1.2 amps for charging an iPad when not in use, and 2.1 amps for charging while being used. The 1.2 amp charger should handle an iPhone while in use.', 'Great device: PROS: 1. Small. Great for traveling. 2. Works well. Fully charges both my iPhone and iPad in about an hour or two. 3. Works even when used with a "USB 2.0 A-Male to A-Female Extension Cable". CONS: 1. You cannot sync an iPad or iPhone with iTunes when charging with this device. I compared this adapter to the "USB Charging/ Charger Adapter for Apple iPad - Allows you to charge your iPad with any computer or USB hub + Free Stripes Stars Silicone Wristband". Since I travel a lot, I prefer this iPad charging adapter. Unlike the other device, you won't have to worry about losing the cap. This adapter would get the 5 stars, if you could sync the iPad/iPhone with the adapter.', 'This adapter does what it says. It will allow me to charge my iPad on the computer USB port. Nothing more, nothing less. It is slow, as expected, since you do not get as much current from the USB ports but it does work as designed.', 'I have a Brunton Explorer solar panel. I was disappointed originally to find that an iPod touch firmly refuses to be charged by it. The panel works fine with any other USB powered device, but for some bad tempered reason, Apple decided it would make their products not function with it. When I found the BoxWave iPad charging adapter, I thought "what the heck". For less than 10 dollars it's worth a try. When it came, I plugged it into my solar panel, plugged the iPod docking cable into it and the iPod, and after a 30 second or so delay (why, I don't know) it started charging my iPod! Success! It also allows the panel to charge my iPad. I don't use this item the way it was intended, because I have been told that trying to draw more power from your PC's USB port than it was designed to put out can damage it, but in true Mythbusters fashion, it works very well indeed for another purpose entirely.']

B000MCKA5Q

["I purchased this unit Jan 2 of 2014. Put it on my truck, which I barely drive as I have a company vehicle, the middle of January. The truck stays garaged and I don't believe the camera has seen rain. I tried to use the back up camera today and it would not come on. I checked the connections, all were fine. Swapped it out for another camera and I had video. I logged in to Amazon as it clearly states a one year warranty. When I try to return the item for a replacement, it says return window closed (30 days). I gave it one star as I feel I threw \$22 down the drain. I can not figure out how to use the warranty and will be thinking twice about purchasing from Amazon unless this is cleared up quickly.", 'I bought this rear view camera to be used on my Pioneer Car AVHP4000DVD Double Din AV Multimedia Receiver that I have on my Lancer 2008. The camera images look GREAT, it also has infrared sensors for an AMAZING night vision, you don't even need your reverse lights to be turned on to see in complete darkness, I can ASSURE you that. It is waterproof, and this feature I did test it already, since it rains a lot in my country and haven't had a single problem with the camera. UPDATE: 2 years later, this low budget camera is still working great. The only thing I've noticed is that when the camera gets too much sun light, the image may get a little red/pink and I guess is because of the IR sensors. Once it cools down, the image is displayed correctly. Anyway, couldn't ask a \$20-\$40 camera to be ultra high quality so I'm still glad with the purchase. If anyone else had problems with "water", you surely got a defective product, I take my car to the carwash every week (they wash it with high pressure water) and it rains a lot in here, not a single problem with water so far.', 'I'm pretty impressed with this little camera thus far, it's better than I expected it to be. The hole saw included in the packaging worked like a dream, and the camera itself was a quick and painless install. I've only had it for a week so I can't comment on the longevity, but I can say the picture quality and the night vision quality are great for the price.****EDIT -03/31/11 Not waterproof. When it rains this thing fogs up for days, only to become clear and crisp after it dries out. It's like that

emotionally unstable ex that you want to love, but just can't.", "not useful as backup camera as first you need to drill holes, then after you go through all that you realize that it doesn't have enough viewing angle so you miss to see the critical corners. Sitting in my garage since I uninstalled it.", 'I got this as a second camera for my system in my offroad support truck. The image is much more grainy than my original camera, and although it is clear enough to use, it doesn't like nighttime. It is useless for any distance viewing, but up-close should be ok such as hitching up your trailer, etc. Can't give it more than 3 stars due to grainy image. Used it for about 6 months so far in harsh conditions and still works fine. The lens is rather large, so easier to get waterspots and mud on it. have to drill a large hole, and it comes with a holesaw which will work for light material(plastic, thin sheet metal, etc.)Don't expect to drill thru heavy gauge steel. Still a nice touch to include it! I used my good hole saw to mount in 3/16 plate steel.', "Not a bad camera. No installation instructions in the box. But saying that it was easy to install. Only down fall is that the picture doesn't seem as clear as I expected. But for the cost I can't complain.", "Received on time, works fine, image is quite OK. One thing - it's quite tricky to install, because it's round and it tends to rotate, when you screw it's ring on.", 'What a difference from my previous camera. This was inexpensive yet provided a clear picture in most lighting conditions. I will buy another one of these if I need more.', 'With this camera I have no blind spot. I ran 75 feet of coaxial line from it and no drop in signal. The infrared feature allows to see the road even when there are no cars coming from behind.', 'I just mounted this camera and do not yet know about its durability over time, but will update this post if anything changes.The picture is more than adequate in daytime, but I do notice a slight flicker when I hit bumps (I can turn on the camera independently of just being in reverse with my Pioneer Nav unit). The flicker makes me wonder if it will last. It more than suits its purpose of a back-up camera. It is not meant to shoot movies or anything. My observations:I tried to test locations using a 13VDC transformer that works on pretty much everything else I have tried including Lowrance Marine Chart Plotters, but it did not power this camera and it only showed a white screen with lines on it. I almost wrote it off as defective, but tried battery power as a last resort. Worked fine... IDK why the transformer didn't work with it...Camera seems well built. I read a thread where a guy said he disassembled one of these and replaced the O-rings... I have no idea how he did that. This is like a solid machined piece of aluminum. I don't see any way to open it up. It seems like it should not leak though as there are no holes or visible screw heads.My mounting notes:I mounted it where the license plate light does aim pretty much at it, but it doesn't seem to affect it that much. If you can avoid this, it probably makes the night viewing better.Check behind your bumper before drilling. My spare is right behind my bumper. Even if it is not your spare, there is often wiring back there. Make sure you have adequate depth before you drill. 1.5" or so of this camera will be behind the bumper.If you want it to be flush mounted and aimed straight back, place both rings behind your bumper after passing the camera through the hole.If you need to angle the camera, place the smaller angled ring on the camera (flat side toward the camera, angled side toward the bumper) before passing it through the hole in your bumper and place the larger angled ring behind the bumper (angled side toward the bumper, flat side toward the nut). My mounting sticks out a quarter inch or so as I do have it on an angle to aim it at my trailer hitch. It would stick out an eighth or less if flush mounted with a straight back view.To get power to the light, most factory tow packages have both positive and negative wires at the trailer wiring plug. I tapped into these. The camera now turns on and off with my ignition.Anywhere the RCA connectors plug into each other, tape the connection with electrical tape. This helps seal out water and also prevents these from coming unplugged over time.The video wire from my NAV unit was pushed through the firewall by putting a small hole in an existing rubber boot. I put mine directly below the steering wheel through the boot. I put RTV black around it for good measure to seal out water (although it looked tightly sealed around the wire without it).I ran the video wire down the top of my truck frame with other wires. When it came close to the muffler, I ran it through/behind the heat shielding along with the factory wiring harness. I zip tied it in place about every 18".Avoid pinch points like leaf springs, shocks, or any moving parts. Only attach the video wire to fixed parts and route it around moving parts.The video cable will likely be too short. Use an RCA male to male adapter and add another wire if necessary. I did.If you need to find your reverse light wire to activate the camera, google it like I did.

A simple search for "Tundra wiring diagram reverse wire backup camera" led me to a page that said it was the blue wire in the white 11 pin plug in the passenger side kick panel. I found it in 2 minutes with this info. I checked for my GF's 370Z and found the same info immediately... if you have to know, it is in the driver's side kick panel on her car. (I forget the plug and wire color)...I gave it 4 stars because: It comes with no instructions (not that you really need any though) It does flicker a little when I hit bumps The night vision is pretty lousy', "I bought a stereo that had option for a reverse camera. This little unit is hooked up to it and works nicely. Daytime use is great however it struggles at nighttime but if your reverse lights are good it should work fine for you. It came with a hole saw to drill a hole where it needs to mount. I mounted mine in the center of my rear license plate. It also helps when hooking up trailers to my hitch. My truck is extremely tall so it is comforting being able to see when backing up, especially in public parking areas. I have a winch front bumper that protrudes out about a foot or more which I plan on mounting another camera there also. As one reviewer mentioned it does better if mounted high if you are using it for 'close contact' prevention. The bottom line: I would buy another one if/when I needed one. UPDATE: I've had this camera for a little over 2 years now and it is still working fine.", "I would have given 5 stars but the hole saw that came with the camera caused some minor damage. WHY? I was drilling and the bit broke out of the hole saw causing the teeth to run astray. otherwise \$30 for a reverse camera that has decent quality I'm content with the purchase.", 'I do not installed yet, but this camera will help me a lot in my car.', 'It works well but the picture is as close to a black and white as it can be. It should be color..', "Overall this seems like a very good camera. The quality seems good and so far has not had any issues due to weather like previous cameras. I didn't want to drill a hole in the body of my truck to accommodate this camera so I installed it into a plastic housing under the bumper. It gets a good view, but surprisingly it can't actually see to the corners of the vehicle. The viewing angle of the camera almost makes it, but objects have to be 3-4 feet away (behind) the corners in order for the camera to pick them up. In the worst case, if something were right at the bumper on either side but just out of view of the side mirrors, you wouldn't be able to see it and could hit it. Other than this, if you're starting out somewhere that you know to be clear, then you're OK and can use your mirrors and camera to make it all work. The image quality is quite good, and at night can see well too.", 'How did they come up with .5 lux for this camera? While it maybe true, the chip they use is rated at less than 5 lux which makes me wonder if this then became .5 lux by accident or if it really is .5 lux. I suspect you might get some image at .5 lux but it would probably be very poor. Has anyone has tried to verify this spec.?', "It's very cloudy in the night. It's an okay camera. Needs improvement for the night vision especially for very dark areas.", 'A good value for the price paid. Easy to install. Night range is at least 10 feet. A clear picture. We are using it to monitor a function on a piece of machinery. It is not affected by moderate vibration.', "I got this because it was cheap and I wanted an IR camera to mess around with. It's very good, the picture is not super sharp but definitely clear enough not to be a big deal, especially considering the price. The switching from visible-spectrum to IR is automatic and seamless. Literally no delay, it's sweet.", 'Not and HD camera but sure has a resolution that can make things look like you are looking right out your window. Has a sturdy construction and connectors have a snug fit. Night vision actually works.', "The PYLE PLCM22IR Flush Mount Rear View Camera with 0.5 Lux Night Vision for the price this camera is OK. At day light the vision quality is good but at night with lights at the back the vision is acceptable and with no lights at the back the vision is unacceptable. I also have a backup sensor installed and that's makes me feel more secure at the time of backup at night time. Some time ago I had been hit from the back (It was not a Big impact) and the impact was not over the camera, but after that, the Video comes with some distortions or interferences. But the my daily issue is the dust and dirty that the camera gets on the crystal, so in the Night is a big deal because view is blocked. Thank You...", 'I say it works great because as I was building my car I had pre-fitted it to my rear hatch before painting the car and wired it up to test it. Vision is perfect, colors is great as well. Only problem I have with it is I lost the darn cable while putting the car together for the last time LOL. Oh well, it did work great that one day tho :)', "It is a very usefull camera, easy to install and works in any condition that is required, the only problem is that you loose the perspective and you can't see the distance", 'Universal mount about anywhere. A good rear view camera for the money. The tool included is a plus but take it

slow or it will wonder and the hole you cut will be bigger than you need.', "Could not use camera because I didn't have a monitor for it. Sent it back", 'It has been now more than 3 months, i have installed this camera and rear view lcd screen and. When it rains, or in dark, it image looks blurry. I did have a camera on my other car, it never has this problem. I think you need good strong reverse lights to see during dark.']

B000OPWSYM

[This attaches very securely to myManfrotto 035RL Super Clampand reasonably well to a tripod. Support is very good for compact cameras, flashes, or what I mainly use it for, a digital microscope. If you want something capable of holding more, for example a dSLR, I would suggest theManfrotto 396B- 2 2- Section Double Articulated Arm.I find making adjustments can be a bit tricky with this model. When you loosen one of the screws to raise/lower an arm it also frees that arm to pivot. That can be a feature if you want to pivot the rod and a pain in the butt if you don't. (That is a "problem" that is also solved with the double arm model.)I mentioned it works reasonably well on a tripod. The supplied stud, which is permanently fixed to the lower arm, is tapped to accept a mounting screw from a tripod. The problem is that there's not a lot of stud to come in contact with the tripod and that makes it difficult to get it screwed down tight enough to keep it securely screwed down tight. :)The camera bracket mount is as you would expect. There is a rubber(ish) pad that helps keep what your are attaching from spinning around.Another nice feature is that you can only use one rod if that's all you need and that give you an even more stable platform.', 'This item was used in combination with the manfrotto super clamp with stud to attach to my boom poles for my AUTO RIG setup.The poles were attached to suction cups and extended over and away from vehicle, then the manfrotto super clamp is used to attach the single section, single articulated arm to the boom pole.Attach a camera and shoot away when the car is rolling!Fast, free 2 day shipping as always from Amazon! (prime)', 'We use this mount for a camcorder at the Church, This provides a lot of versitility for our sound booth and love the ability to clean up a tight space and options for extending and bending. the finger locks are easy to use and firm fitting...Opportunities:- needs a handle to control the tilt and pan for a camera thatneeds to follow a subject- can not flip it sideways while mounted- since it is a single pole extension, this will have a littlevibration if touched as opposed to the stability of a tripod.', "We use this arm clamped to the edge of a bench. We've mounted a pocket projector to it.Pro'sStableInexpensiveHighly adjustableCon'sNot easy to adjust. You have to loosen all of the points to get the exact position that you want. Also, you have to undo the bolts quite a bit as the clamping points stick, and you need the room to break them free. That being said, there is a nicer model that addresses this, and for the price, it is not worth knocking a star off.Other thoughtsI wish the arms were just a bit longer", 'This is good but it could be better if the polls holding it together were not hollow. Other than that this is great!', 'Works perfectly for our application. We use it to mount a few pocket projectors in an installation. Screws nicely into the bottom of the projector and holds it firmly in place. Adjustment is easy and sturdy. Would highly recommend.', "I bought one of these to hold my field monitor while shooting video and also as an additional mount for my GoPro Hero 3. It mates with the Manfrotto 035RL Super Clamp really well and you can clamp down pretty hard on anything you need to mount. Except maybe a 757 jet airliner. I probably wouldn't try to mount it on one of those. Especially with the airport security being so uppity about people hanging around the jets out on the tarmac.", 'Worth the price. Will hold things virtually any way you want. I use it with them iPad mount and a copy stand for copying documents. Very satisfied.', "I have a somewhat unique use for this arm. It allows me to put my camera directly in front of my central monitor when podcasting so I don't appear to be staring off into space when reading something on the screen...", "I run the video cameras during our church service every Sunday using three cameras. The two church-owned cameras are mounted and remote controlled. The third camera, my own, is mounted onto a tripod in the back of the sanctuary. My problem was getting enough camera height to shoot over peoples' heads when the congregation is standing. To gain additional height, I first bought a tripod dolly that added eight inches. This was not enough, so I

tried the Manfrotto Single Articulated Arm mounted onto the tripod for an additional twelve inches. The twenty inches of additional height made a big difference. My camera weighs about 3.4 pounds, making it right at the maximum load. I am only using the one arm for the added twelve inches. I was afraid that by extending it to the maximum 23.8 inches, it would not be stable enough. It works well, and is as stable as the camera without the extension. The quality is very good. It is all metal except for the plastic knobs. The fitting for mounting onto a tripod screw is also metal. It is not the cheapest piece of hardware, but anything that is all metal will cost more.", 'I use a couple of these with superclamps for mounting lightweight LED lights (including the batteries). It is well made and stronger than one might expect.', "If you think you are securely going to hold a DSLR with this - don't - because you won't. This plus a superclamp and a compact like a Canon PowerShot G11 10MP Digital Camera with 5x Wide Angle Optical Stabilized Zoom and 2.8-inch articulating LCD though and its very useful. In the end - I really wish I bought the double arm version (two rods per section) because it tightens down on teeth not friction."]

B000V6ZTWW

[I bought these just because that they come with the small wire organizing block, which make it so much easier to align the wires and put them in the connector.', 'The key to using these two piece and similar 3 piece category 6 connectors is to make sure that the sleeve or sled whatever it is called gets pushed all the way forward. That tiny little piece that the individual wires are threaded through must be seated in order to make the best connection. In addition to making sure that all of the 4 pairs of wires are pushed forward the blades must make contact when the final crimp is made with the crimp tool. I finally found that out after several failures. The failure was on me. One simple tool such as a paper clip, tiny screwdriver, etc. can be used to slide in between the cable jacket and the wall of the connector. After making the final trim and correct arrangement of the wires insert them into the connector. Push that sled (or whatever) the final fraction of an inch forward while holding the assembly together. This system turned me into a pro overnight.', "I put a bunch of CAT6 lines in my house (new construction) and networked it for POE Phone system, 32 Surveillance Cameras, 24 CAT6 internet connections in the bedrooms and for all the TV's. I used these on all of them and they worked like a charm. Would order more in a heartbeat. Good quality and easy to install if you know how to wire them and have the crimping tool.", "I have used these connectors to replace many loose connectors that have no load bar which were installed by someone who was in a hurry. The load bar makes using these connectors much easier and faster to wire. Strip off about an inch of jacket. Thread the appropriate color wire through the holes in the load bar. Use pliers on the section of wire to be cut and use gloved fingers to pull the load bar as close to the jacketed section as you can. Use electrician or kitchen scissors to trim the excess wire length. Slide the load bar into the connector. Crimp. You're done. I got perfect connections every time. If you want strain relief, slide a piece of FP-301 heat shrink over the wire (big enough to fit over the connector under the press tab) before you start, and then heat shrink it after crimping. I think they are excellent and I would buy them again.", 'The photo of this item is not complete. The outer connector is shown, but the wire guide or load bar is not. I am wiring at home and have had great results with another product from a local retail store. The other product included two internal components. This one includes only the internal component that seems less helpful to me. I am hopeful that I can work with this and improve my results, but the "out-of-the-package" experience has been a bit disappointing. The product arrived in two zip-seal bags in a mailing envelope; one contained the outer connectors and one contained the inner guides. No wiring diagrams or instructions were included. The connector that I used before was the "Ideal Cat6 modular plug." It appears to be offered on Amazon: CAT 6 MODULAR PLUG RJ45 25PC. The "Ideal" product is significantly more expensive than this Cables Unlimited product. There is no product image for the "Ideal" item on Amazon at present, but a Google search on that phrase yields an image of the 3-piece "Ideal" set. The Cables Unlimited version contains the standard outer RJ45 connector. It also contains the wire guide that resembles two parallel rectangles connected by a bar. In the "Ideal" image, this

would be the piece on the lower right. With the Cables Unlimited product, the most distant walls of the rectangles are open (in other words, you can bring the wires into each rectangle from the side, rather than threading the length of your wire through). The Cables Unlimited item does NOT contain the flatter bar shown in the Ideal image, through which one threads the ordered wires before placing them into the connector and crimping. I miss that flatter guide. I visited the Cables Unlimited website to look for any additional tips in using these connectors efficiently, or to see if the flatter guides might be purchased separately. I was not able to locate any product on the website. At the top of the page is the following statement: "Thanks for your interest in Cables Unlimited products. Your business is extremely important to us. We are in a period of reorganization. During this period we are not accepting any new orders. This is an exciting time for Cables Unlimited and will be making an announcement soon regarding our future. We apologize for any inconvenience and thank you for your continuing support." Folks who build cables on a daily basis might find these to be a wonderful item. If my experience with them improves with practice, I will certainly update this review. My purpose in posting it at this point is to provide an "enhanced product description," because the product listing simply did not include enough information for me to shop as carefully as I would have liked. If you have tips on making good connections with this type of connector and guide, I'd be happy to learn more.', "Great price for 100 of these. And the little spacers that you first put the wires through (before inserting it all into the plug) are handy, compared to the older method that required a little more luck / practice. I found that due to normal friction, the spacers themselves sometimes don't easily slide all the way into the tip of the plug. But I just unfolded a paper clip, and slide that in/down each side to push the spacer snugly the last millimeter.", 'As a service center owner creating my own patch cables is not a new concept to me. I recently thought we'd give these a try and they are nice! At first I wasn't sure how to assemble them since there is no paperwork on them, but a quick minute inspection made it clear. 1. Strip about 2" of your cable's outer coating back and cut away any exposed fiber or plastic sheathing (used to strengthen the cable) 2. Hold the small wire retainer in one hand with the corrugated side up 3. Insert your wires one at a time in order through the thicker side of the wire retainer 4. With all wires fed through the retainer, slide the retainer all the way back till its tight against the cables exterior coating 5. with a good pair of wire cutters cut away the excess wire sticking out of the end of the retainer 6. Lastly insert the loaded retainer into the back of the jack so that the corrugated side of the retainer will match up with the copper pins on the jack 7. Push the wire and retainer into the jack firmly until the retainer is fully seated into the jack 8. Lastly use your jack tool to crimp and that's it. It may sound loaded but even though there are a few extra steps from traditional capping, we ultimately saved a lot of time and had 100% termination on our last project! This concept eliminates cross wires and short wires so that you get a solid connection every time, with a little practice we are now able to build our cables more quickly than we used to with traditional jacks.', 'These are priced right and easy to use and install. Cat6 cable fits smoothly and the material used is in high quality. Able to obtain gig speed with the cables that I make with these plugs.', "With the lack of any documentation, it was up to me to figure out how these worked. After some looking around on Google and on the earlier reviews here, I found that these are remarkably easier to work with than traditional RJ45s I've used in the past. If you're curious, you thread the wires through the wide end of the load bar (corrugated side up) in order, then cut the extra wires flush to the load bar on the other side and slip that whole thing all the way into the connector and crimp. I got these connectors to crimp onto Southwire CAT6 solid core from Home Depot using standard RJ45 crimpers and I couldn't be more pleased. Wiring my new house is boatloads easier thanks to these puppies and I'll definitely get them again when the time comes.", 'Terminated my own home network. Saved \$[...] bucks in labor. These terminals are easy to use, are of good quality, the cable guides are easy to thread. The price is right!', "This was my first time wiring Cat 6, so also my first experience with the new spacer that this uses. I used to be able to whip out a patch cable in a minute or so from start to finish, very easy to do with just wires and a plug. But the insert that these use to maintain the separation that allows for the Cat-6 name screwed my speed up. I was using copper Cat-6 cables and the green and blue pairs were really twisted a lot more than the brown or orange. So the first two and last two went in here relatively easily, but the really twisted pairs were more of a pain since I had to straighten them out more to get

the spacer to slide down them right. Granted, they worked fine once I did those extra bits of work for the two pairs, but it REALLY made slow going. I don't know if there are any out there that didn't have this spacer, but next time I'll look for those first as long as they can provide the same separation needed for cat 6.", 'this 2 piece setup doesn't inspire confidence, but does get the job done. i've (only) used 3 or 4 to date, but all of them work. putting the inner piece on take some getting used to, since it will get "knocked off place" once you put the outter piece on.', "If you are new at making cables this might work for you. I don't make a lot of cables but I found these to be a royal pain on Cat6. The Cat 6 cables are stiffer than Cat5 and tough to get into the little holes of the small adapter. I could easily make 3 cable connections with regular ends in the time it took me to make one end. So if you're a newbie or don't make cables very often these might be for you, otherwise save the extra costs for these.", "I've wired about six cables with these now, and the two-piece design requires quite the learning curve. The first cable must have taken me at least 30 minutes to complete, and now I'm down to just 10 minutes. Still not as quick as I have been with traditional Cat5 connectors, but I've wired way more of those. Now that I'm improving with speed, I can say that accuracy is much higher and sore thumbs are much lower. Really happy with this purchase and the best news? I didn't have to buy a new crimper. My old RJ45 crimper worked like a charm.", 'I am trying to use this product with solid core CAT6 cables. I am getting inconsistent crimps wherein not every wire is connected, which should be impossible as the wires are fed through the guide bar before it's inserted into the plug. The crimps are "positional": as you move the crimped cable the cable tester can report success in one position, partial failure in another position, and complete failure in another position. There were no instructions, I figured out it was easiest to leave the wires long, feed them through the guide, then trim to fit. I really like the idea of these connectors and I'm going to try them on stranded cable, I may edit my review at that time.', '***This review may seem negative, but I would still recommend this product*** Using a load bar can be kinda tricky. Once you get the hang of it you'll produce working cables almost every time. I got these because they are supposed to work with Solid Core cables as well. They do. The plastic part that gets crimped down is different than what I'm used to. Normally there is a solid plastic piece that crimps down on the insulation of the cabling, but with these it's two separate pieces of plastics that crimp down on either side of the cable, so the cabling and the insulation isn't even touched at all. It gives the insulation room to wiggle and I'm not sure this is a benefit. It could potentially prevent incidents where cables are damaged due to crimping with the original style termination. I also feel that the picture is misleading and the description of the product isn't done very well. My first 3 cables with these did not work at all. the second set of three worked fine. So far 50% success rate. It could just be user error, or me getting used to the load bar. There is a different connector that I love so much, but it's really expensive. It has an integrated load bar assembly that is part of the interior plastic. Overall: For the Price though I think this product is a good value. I just wish there were some proper instructions for those who have never used a load bar before when crimping their own cable. Cables Unlimited has been liquidated and "Cables to Go" has taken over their liquidated stock. Which makes it harder to get any proper info about this product at all. In the end I'd recommend it if you need to make some cables, but expect to learn how to use the load bar first before you make working cables.', 'These simply work, I work for a low voltage company and use these all the time. The two piece design will irritate you to no end but there is no choice. No one that I have found makes a one piece cat6 rj45 connector. Save yourself or your company money and buy these here as apposed to your local distributor. I have not had one issue with them, no bent or missing pins. They all test out just fine.', 'First time doing cable termination, and I was surprised to see a two-piece design - i missed that when I was ordering. But it was pretty easy to understand, and not that hard to do. I recommend using needle nose pliers to insert small cables into the little piece, then insert the little piece into the big one and crimp it. I made a few cables, used cable tested and they were all working. Pretty good result for doing it for the first time. I would love to see some kind of instructions come with the product though, including straight-through and cross-over wire order, direction from where to look at the connector and a simple diagram of these pieces.', 'I have to say, after reading some of the reviews, I was a little skeptical on getting these. I used to make cables many moons ago, and I just started making cables again, for my house. Anyway, long story short, the best way I

got this to work for me, was to expose about 1" 1/2 to 2" of wire. Line everything up either 568A or 568B and cut the tips at a 45 degree angle. That is the key to putting the loading bar on. Once you can do that, double check the wires, then slide it all the way down and cut straight across, and insert the loading bar into the connector. Make sure it's secure. Then crimp. I would recommend using a good crimper. Test your cable and viola, you should be good to go.']

B000ZN0D04

[This is a good radio that also plays CD & MP3 (with a adapter.) For a small footprint, the sound quality of this radio is very good. My only complaint is that the removal of a CD from the slot is a bit awkward.', 'I have loved my 745 CD/Radio/Ipod player, good sound and it has been reliable. It is only 3 years old. There is a disk stuck in the CD player and I have tried several of the suggested methods to release it to no avail. I am finding by checking around on message boards that this is a very common problem with Cambridge Works products. I was just told by a tech guy at Cambridge Works that my unit is an "unrepairable" model and if I am unable to release the CD with one more unlikely method thentoo bad. I still have the radio I know and the Ipod dock works fine but I hate having something that doesn't function properly. Funny, I never saw the word "unrepairable" on their promotional material.', "Overall I am very satisfied with this unit and do recommend it. Love the docking station obviously, and its great to know that some day I can hook up a TV to it (S-video out) to play DVDs/iTunes videos. (Currently its in the kitchen, so not much need for video at present). The sound quality is there, I give it two thumbs up there, rich sound with good bass. The front layout and the remote are both intuitively designed, in my opinion. I could be wrong but they might have built one too many features into this unit. It feels and operates more like a computer than a radio. It takes a second to output audio after you turn it on and takes a second to turn off - both just long enough for you to think that maybe you didn't press the power button hard or long enough. Also, there were two times since I've had it (3 months now) that the front buttons didn't work (i.e., I tried to turn it off or switch from Ipod to radio and go nothing). First time I grabbed the remote and the unit responded to that command. Second time I just unplugged it and plugged it back in. When it powered back up, everything was fine. Haven't bothered to call the company and have them swap it out, as I can deal with the occasional hiccup. If you need a radio/cd player with an IPod dock and want quality sound, this is the best value for the money, IMO. The DVD and video features expand your options (and possibly the price point) but they weren't pivotal in my decision. 4 stars.", "An update: When I purchased this radio, I read many of the reviews and some said that the CD/DVD player was a weak link. I can now say that I agree, as mine started making clicking sounds after less than 15 hours use. I have returned the unit and am now looking for a replacement. (other than Cambridge). After working with the radio for a couple of weeks, I find that I like it with some reservations. As others have stated, it has some areas that could be improved, and at the same time it has a lot to like. Pros: Sound is great. I compared it to a Wave and I think it was a toss up. I like having both the CD player and Ipod dock. Like having multiple alarms, with lots of flexibility on setting them. I like having front panel controls and not having to depend on the remote. Cons: As others have said, the front panel controls are impossible to read in low light. I hate the fact that after playing a CD, the radio just sits there at the end of the last track. The radio does not turn off or go to any other settings. If you listen to a CD while going to sleep, don't expect to have the alarm wake you up in the morning. I did find a workaround - set the sleep mode to shut off the radio after the CD is finished, say 90 minutes or whatever length fits. Do this after inserting the CD. The CD player is trying to do too much. I think that some of the troubles with it could be because people are not waiting for it to read the disk, etc. and pushing buttons too fast??? I know I confused it once and it locked up. I am sure I did this by not waiting for it to complete a previous action and pushing buttons too fast. I had to unplug the radio to get it back. (I just hope that is the worst problem I have with the CD player) Overall: I liked it until it broke.", 'I have used this unit for a couple of years. It has many good points, but also some quirks and a serious reliability issue. Pro: It is extremely versatile, just about as close as you can get to "does everything". Sound is good, with plenty of volume and

powerful bass. (No, it's not as good as a quality living room stereo, but did you expect it to be?) It even plays DVDs! (I never hooked up a video display, but I enjoy listening to concert DVDs). Con: I discovered that not all commercial CD formats are the same, and some of your CD's probably won't play. The majority of mine work, but it is irritating that some won't. The big downer: the CD player's reliability. Read the reviews and you will see that a lot of folks have had problems with this. My unit worked OK for about a year, then I started experiencing "read" problems more and more often. It may fail to read a disk (and inform you that there is no disc, when there is). It may lock up in the middle of play. The CD function may fail entirely, and then re-appear some later time. From all the comments, this is clearly a design issue. I can't recommend the unit because of this. If you buy one, you are gambling and I hope you get lucky. It is a pretty nice unit when it works.', "Unbelievable sound out of a table radio. Whether you are using Ipod, CD or radio, the sound is outstanding. I usually don't write reviews, but the sound is just so incredible, I had to say something. As a point of reference my other systems are Harman Kardon/Klipsch setups. In my opinion you will not be disappointed with this radio. I don't like the external power supply either, but that's life and it probably does help with noise isolation in this configuration.", "I have owned this unit for several months now and have never regretted paying the price. The sound is just stunning. Hard to believe the sound is coming from a clock radio! I have read two criticisms of the unit: 1) the clock display is too small and, 2) radio reception is weak. First, I have found the FM radio reception to be VERY good. I have no problem pulling in stations from 60 miles. I admit, the clock numbers are small. You won't be able to read them from across the room. But once you listen to this unit you will forget about any small shortcomings. Worth the price.", "I am not inclined to give five-star reviews, but it has become clear that at Amazon, five-stars doesn't mean "perfect." It just seems to mean, "extremely great." By that standard, I think this system merits a five-star rating. I paid \$300 for it, and the price seems to have dipped a bit since then. The sound is terrific. We just bought a house that came with one of those under the cupboard systems, and I thought, "What the heck." I'll save counter space and use this thing and put the Cambridge system in another room, but I couldn't do it. I missed the Cambridge sound and ended up putting the thing on the counter. I can't say for sure whether it sounds better than the Bose. Audiophile types seem to hate the Bose. I like it a lot (have one at work) and would say this unit is comparable soundwise but a bit different. The sound is a bit "tighter" than the Bose, but the Bose's slightly airier sound may be appealing to some (It has been referred to as an Audio "gimmick," but I disagree. All audio reproduction is a gimmick. You just pick the nature of the inevitable distortion, and there are times when I like Bose's "airiness" ...sounds vaguely like you're in an orchestra hall.) I turn the bass down to -3. I've never touched a bass adjustment before, but this guy really is bassy, particularly DJ's on radio stations. At low volumes, the "loud" setting is nice. The features are what set it apart from the Bose, however. For less than the price of a Bose wave radio CD player combo, you get comparable sound, plus the extremely handy integrated iPod connection. I have not used the DVD player as it is not HD, and I currently have an HD TV. However, it is yet another feature Bose does not have. As for whether or not it fills a room, or can replace a component system, that's a judgment call. It can fill a decent sized room with clear sound, but the speakers are just too close together to give it the resonance of a good component system (or the Tivoli Radio Stereo System for example). At any sort of volume, it does sound like it is trying hard to fill the room up. It succeeds, but the effort is palpable. Still, if you're on a budget, and aren't a bona-fide audiophile, this would make a fairly decent main sound system for an average sized living room, or even a largish one. Update 11/28/2012: Dropped a star. The CD died, as it has apparently done for many folks. We didn't even use the CD that much. Great product marred by a serious quality control problem. (My 13 year old Bose' CD player works fine...)', 'Hi, First of all I have to thank Carrie Roemer for helping me with all my questions about this radio. I have always been hesitant to buy this radio because it does not have HD Radio which is why I gave it 4 stars and not 5. I used to have the Bose 3-2-1 system before this which costs double the cost of this radio but for me I prefer this one. When I had the Bose I just kept thinking dam I can't believe I paid this much for "virtual surround" that does not sound surround at all. That is the reason I purchased the Bose because they fooled me with the marketing of the with only 2 speakers you get the sound of 5. Then I came across this, which surprisingly they only market as a radio but then

when you read that it also plays DVD I was like wow so this basically can compete head on with the Bose line all the way upto the 3-2-1 system. I had considered purchasing the Bose Wave Radio with CD before I found this but I don't like the fact that all the controls are on the remote, what if something happens to the remote or I can't find it? This radio has controls both on the radio itself & the remote. At first sight, the remote is very ugly, but the buttons are color coded by segment, like radio, ipod, dvd, all have their own dedicated colors which is very useful. It has 2 alarms that you can use to go on with radio or with the tone that sounds like a smoke alarm. They work great. I use one in the morning to wake up with the radio, the 2nd one with the tone alarm to remind me "hey you should be in bed by now to get good sleep." The DVD I have not been able to use much because I am barely home but it does work good! I work full time & then at night I go to school full time. On the weekends I sleep like a bear only getting up to eat & bathroom stuff. Which I hope to change & go running on weekend mornings. The only part I have not tested yet is the iPod dock because I don't have an iPod. I am going to see if I can borrow one to test it out & make sure this works before the 30 day return period runs out, just to be safe. Unlike the Cambridge Soundworks 705 that I purchased for my desk at work, this does come with an external antenna. You can go read my review for the 705, it is a great sexy little radio I highly recommend it, I highly recommend both of these the 705 & the i765! As for the slot load dvd tray, I love it! I understand why the other reviewer might find it weird, as in weird is something that is not normal. I remember when I used to be into modifying computers, I purchased a slot load dvd drive for my computers I was like OMG!!! Those things to me are so cool. Everybody has their preferences though and I respect that. Check this out in the store if you can. J&R is great. I kept going every week to their local store to check this radio out. I was about to order on Amazon, gave them a call to see if they would price match & they did. Thanks J&R! I would have purchased the 705 from them too but they did not have it in stock. I got the 705 straight from Cambridge for \$79, fast shipping! One thing I have to add that is I would have purchased the Creative MP3 player as well, but this radio is made for iPod, the box says Made for iPod all over it, it's like come on people you make a bunch of mp3 players, maybe you might want to note that it also works with your mp3 players. I understand the iPod aftermarket is HUGE, but it's like saying we know you are going to buy an iPod not one of ours. That only further convinces me not to buy a Creative mp3 player, & to get the black nano.', 'After several experiences with Cambridge Soundworks table radios I would recommend not buying them and instead purchasing the Bose. I have had two units fail from static electric charges caused by the user walking across a carpeted bedroom. Cambridge Soundworks no longer offers telephone support and does not make the calls that they indicate that they will do in their emails. And they have offered me no help when my CD 745 was wiped out due to the static electric charge. Their products who be robust enough to withstand something as prevalent as users in carpeted rooms.', "I'm not a Bose hater; in fact I have several other products from Bose to include 2 sets of noise cancelation headphones, life style music system, and some computer speakers. However, as I started looking for a good table top radio it was hard to justify Bose's price compared to Cambridge Soundworks i765. The i765 DVD/CD/IPOD/Radio is incredible. A side note, I was able to catch one of Cambridge's open box sales and I picked this system up with additional discounts for \$150. This system is usually compared to Bose Sound Wave but, it should also be compared to the Bose SoundDock systems too. Here is why, the i765 basically combines the two Bose's systems in to one. Let's compare: Cambridge Soundworks Radio i765 Cost: \$299 (However, Cambridge SoundWorks has open box systems for \$199 when available) Features: + Integrated iPod dock + Plays video from iPod and DVDs for full audio/video entertainment + Supports CDs, MP3/WMA on writable CDs + AM/FM radio entertainment with 16 FM/8AM presets (If you listen to the radio) + Radio Data Service (RDS) text displays station information - song titles, artist names + Dual alarms with wake from iPod + Intuitive menu adjusts Bass, Treble, Stereo/Wide/Mono, Loudness + Can operate all functions of your iPod from the remote (convenient only if you can see the screen to navigate through albums, genres, etc, but very usually when navigating through album tracks from across the room) + Comes standard with a dual voltage power plug, very important if you travel outside of the US. Lacks: - HD Radio - Not as visually appealing as the Bose Wave - Front panel buttons are impossible to operate in the dark. - Remote control is also impossible to operate in the

dark- Not officially certified compatible with the iPhoneBose Wave music system:Cost:Wave CD - \$499Wave Premium Bundle for Ipod - Reg. 639.98 now on sale until 9/30/10 for 579.95. Comes with a better remote.Wave Ipod Connect Kit- 599.90Features:+ Supports MP3/WMA on writable CDs.+ AM/FM radio (If you listen to the radio)+ Alarm wake up+ Can operate all entertainment functions without remoteLacks:- HD Radio- Cannot play video from iPod or DVDs- No integrated iPod dock. This has to be purchased separately, thus the various prices listed above.- Cannot operate all functions of your iPod from the remote (unless you purchase the premium upgrade)- Cannot operate all entertainment functions without remote- AM/FM radio entertainment only stores 6 FM/6AM presets vs. 16 FM/8 AM of the i765 (If you listen to the radio)- Does not allow Radio Data Service (RDS) text displays station information - song titles, artist names- Does not allow for dual alarms with wake from iPod, unless you purchased the Ipod Kit.- Doesn't come with a dual voltage charger standard.- Cannot adjust Bass or Treble.- Does not have Stereo/Wide/Mono, LoudnessBose SoundDock music systemCost:SoundDock II - \$299.95SoundDock 10- \$599.95Features:+ Integrated iPod dock+ Can operate basic iPod functions with remoteLacks:- AM/FM radio (If you listen to the radio)- Cannot play DVDs or CDs- Cannot adjust Bass or Treble.- Does not have Stereo/Wide/Mono, LoudnessSince I will eventually make this system wireless with an Apple AirPort express base station, additional comparisons are as follows:Cambridge Soundworks Radio i765 + AirPort express:Cost: \$299 + \$99= \$400Features:+ Can operate the i765 from your iPhone or iPod. This allows you see the albums or radio station you are selecting.+ Can control the i765 music selection from your computer.Disadvantage:- Additional cost for the AirPort express- Music controls are limited by the distance from the player.Bose Systems:SoundDock wireless music systemCost: \$549.95Wave music system- SoundlinkCost: \$549.95Features:+ Can control the SoundDock music selection from your computer.+ Very simple setup.Disadvantage:- Cannot visually select an album or radio station without going to your computer.- Music controls are limited by the distance from the player.To be honest Cambridge Soundworks offers a wireless iTunes system for \$149, which is very similar to the Soundlink from Bose. If I purchased that system my features and disadvantages would be the same.Summary, when you compare sound quality I can't see Bose's Wave, SoundDock II or the Soundlink wireless system beating it by much if at all. I'm sure there would be some sound quality differences between the SoundDock 10 and the i765, how much I do not know. The sound of the i765 is absolutely unbelievable. If you don't care about the CD/DVD features then the i755 is \$50 cheaper. This is a no brainer if you are looking for a great Table Top radio that can double has a great home entertainment system. I hope his helped.", 'My CSW i765 is 2+ years old and so far I have not experienced any outages or issues. It has been an average performer though, and there is not much that stands out in trying to do all things at once:- Excellent looks from the front, the CSW pictures are really good to look at- Video performance is so-so, you can use it in a pinch, but it is dated (no HDMI or Blu-Ray) as the best you can get is S-Video, not even component video.- Audio performs moderately well when the volume is kept low, but at slightly higher volume, it becomes apparent that the bass is artificially enhanced and the sound gets muddy- Flat remote belies common sense - the buttons do not have any tactile differences for commonly used ones, only their clustering and color distinguishes the functions. Ugh!- Radio reception is good, RDS works well- iPhone connection produces "not certified" warning; perhaps it has been changed recently but I have to click OK on mine to proceedI compared this with Mirage Ombivibe dock and Bose Sounddock. Both performed better in sound quality, as they kept the bass controlled and the vocals and mid-range clear. However, both Mirage and Bose lacked the controls for bass/treble.The CSW i765 was bought from CSW directly for 2 C-notes plus tax. I would hesitate to pay even that much today. I would not recommend it.', 'I held off on this review, and I'm glad I did because my NEW unit (purchased from Amazon on Feb. 14 and not shipped to me until March 2, 2011). Okay, here goes... first of all, the unit is very heavy and attractive and uses high quality plastics. The sound is very impressive, but not quite "shockingly" impressive... just very impressive for such a small unit. That's the good news about the product; here comes the bad news.The bad news -- First of all, my unit is DEAD, just this morning my NEW unit went completely dark. I checked the power supply and the light was still on the power supply and the cord was plugged into back of radio. Before I get into what happened next, let me step back and bullet point

some of my other disappointments w/ this unit: o wake-up time alarm (dual alarm) is unnecessarily difficult to set o an extremely disappointing aspect for me was the clock itself... the numbers were extremely difficult to read at an angle (very clear straight-on, but most people have their alarm radios on their nightstand and clock radio is NOT directly in front of them) o reception was poor... give me a break, for this price there should be HD included, but I'd settle for just good FM reception at this point. This also extends to AM reception... I had to mount the AM receiver around my bed post to get it to obtain clear reception o buttons are all the same size and this makes it difficult to find one button from the other by touch or size o the snooze button was awkwardly in an almost flush-like manner and made it difficult to manipulate in the middle of night (I'm sure many reading this are probably rolling their eyes about me being too critical, but if you buy the unit, then you'll find out for yourself) Okay, now let me get back to my non-functioning unit and what I found out about Cambridge Soundworks customer service. Well, I called them up and told them what happened and I was asked to take the power block to Radio Shack for testing (as though Radio Shack wants bothered with this for free). I advised her that I had my own OHM meter and could test myself. She also recommended disconnecting power pack and waiting some time and then pressing power button to "discharge internal capacitors." Really???... theoretically I guess it's possible, but this seems like something that might work to fix a unit, maybe, once out of ten thousand tries. I haven't tried it yet, but if it works, then I will update this post and let everyone know. Finally, to add insult to injury... I am informed that if it is broken, then I will have to ship it back to Cambridge Soundworks at *my cost* even though it's less than 90 days old and that I would repair it or (more likely) ship me back a refurbished unit (not a brand new unit as I had purchased). This is just ridiculous and I'm not really happy w/ Amazon, either, as Amazon said that they only have a 30 day policy (don't recall that ever being disclosed during my purchase, but I'd rather deal w/ Amazon than Cambridge at this point). So, Caveat Emptor... my radio went in less than 90 days of sporadic (at best) usage. Now, I'm looking at probably at least \$15 in shipping charges given weight of unit and probably a refurbished unit for a unit that was purchased brand new. If only the Bose unit were even in the stratosphere of the Cambridge in terms of price, I'd have considered the Bose. At any rate, when you read those other negative reviews, don't discount them too quickly... there appears to be a very good reason why Cambridge Soundworks website has SO MANY refurbished products for sale.]

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[I bought the TT 330 XL as my second GPS. The first is a TomTom GO 910 which has been great. The plus of the 330 XL is that it has most of the features of the GO 910 - the features you really use anyway. The minuses of the 330 XL are: #0 TomTom Home application is poorly architected. TomTom Home can only talk to 1 GPS. So, because I like the GO 910 and bought my wife the 330 XL, I can't maintain my two GPSs on one computer. #1 TomTom's customer support is simple to experience and explain: BLAME THE CUSTOMER. There are no workarounds, after you've bought, they tell you that they don't support what you intended to buy. This will catch up with TomTom. By the way, I found a work around for the 2 GPS on one computer. If you PLUG BOTH GPS UNITS IN AT THE SAME TIME then the software will ask which one you want to use when it starts. #2 330 XL has no expandability. For example, I bought the \$99 detailed USA map for my GO 910. Every time I start the TomTom Home application it prompts me to install this map on the 330 XL. ***News*** You can only install the map on 1 GPS, so I can't install the map on the 330 XL. AND because the 330 XL does not have an internal memory card that can be upgraded (I opened mine and looked), you don't even have room to install the map! #3 The 330 XL has not cured me of listening to my buddy who said "Buy Garmin, you'll be happier." I think he was correct. Bill Meade', 'Every once in a while, the device takes forever to start up. No explanation or anything. Then acts as if it's the first time you're using the device and makes you click through agreement boxes ("using this device while driving can cause distractions..." etc.) When the device does start up, it takes a really long time to find the satellite, even after installing the online fix. The web site is also extremely buggy. Buying a map is annoying and non-intuitive. Once purchased, the new map takes forever to

download from their super slow servers. When calling support, you have to struggle to have the voice-activated system understand you, all the while fighting to suppress any background noise that may cause it to re-route you to the Afghanistan branch. Stay away from this device and this company.'

'I have a Garmin c320 GPS unit and wanted to upgrade to a model with more features - particularly coordinates and "Where Am I" features. After reading the reviews, I really liked the features in the TomTom XL 330. The only hesitation I had was with the speaker volume. The Amazon reviews showed some buyers that had speaker problems with their units. There were enough positive reviews to make me buy it.

PROS:

1. Lots of customization. You can change color schemes, choose your voice, change viewing angles (Garmin c320 & 205W can't do that).
2. "Where Am I?" This is far superior than Garmin. It shows in what City, Township, Municipality, etc. you are and the nearest address. This can be very valuable when calling for help. Garmin only gives nearest address and nearest intersection (which I like to call "some random intersection within a few miles").
3. Alternative routes. If you don't like the route you're given, you can ask for a new one. Read more in the Cons.
4. Tons of route control. You can look through a list of every turn ahead of time and ask it to avoid a certain place on that route.
5. Compact, attached mount. I didn't use it, but it was a cool idea. The mount would detach from the unit or you could leave it on and fold it in.
6. Fixing map errors. I never got to see this in action, but it sounded really cool.
7. Results as you type. I loved this feature and will really miss it with my new Garmin. As you type a street name or city, it will show you the results as you narrow them down. This can really save time and effort.

CONS:

1. Routing. (Deal-breaker one) The routing seemed to have a large bias toward driving on interstates. It seemed to me that the reason was insufficient non-interstate speed limit information. For example, I asked the Garmin and TomTom for a route from Irwin, PA to Oakland, MD. The Garmin used state routes and backroads to get us there in 2 hours. The TomTom insisted we take mostly interstate (and adding many, many miles) at an estimate of 2.5 hours. The TomTom alternate route was even longer. (Google Maps, Yahoo! Maps, Mapquest all were similar to Garmin's route.) When we took the Garmin route, the TomTom said it would take over 2.5 hours (adding existing travel time + time left), but as we drove, the time remaining kept decreasing super fast. The Garmin's arrival time was rock steady all the way.
2. Address entry without City. (Deal-breaker two) There are many occasions in which I have a street address, but don't know the city. You know -- maybe someone lives in a Township with a city's mailing address, or any area known as "North Hills" has many post office names, but you don't know which one. Garmins give you a "Search all cities" option. TomTom has no option. You must enter a city. If you don't know it, you won't get there.
3. SPEAKER. (Deal-breaker three) I had read two problems with the speaker; 1) too quiet, 2) garbled. I figured that if I got a bad one, I'd exchange it and I'd get a good one. How widespread could the problem be? Well -- the first unit was very quiet. If you have the radio on, you can't hear this thing. I called TomTom and the nice rep seemed to be very familiar with the problem and suggested returning it to the store. So fine, I shipped it back to Amazon. The second unit was much louder. Wait -- you couldn't understand it, it was all garbled. Well, third time should work. NOPE -- just like the first, you couldn't hear it.
4. POI annoyances. On my first unit, when searching for a POI, it would show the distance you were from the POI, but not which direction it was from you. This made it unusable. I won't make a big deal of this, because my unit #2 did have a directional arrow for each POI. This may have to do with software version on the unit. Secondly, though, it only listed a few pages of POIs. I would have liked to see more choices.
5. Graphics. The graphics rendering was very jagged and old-looking. Garmin is far ahead here.

After doing all this testing, my decision was easy. Even if the speaker actually worked, the first two cons make it unusable for me. I returned them all. I recommend the Garmin nuvi 205W 4.3-Inch Portable GPS Navigator (although it has it's own weaknesses, watch for my review there). My final question is -- TomTom, don't manufacturers test products before they get shipped to poor American consumers??'

'Good buy for the money Bought it for my wife to keep in her car, came without a dash mount but was refunded money to purchase one on Amazon', 'This item worked OK for the first few months. Every time I connected to the computer I'd get updates. Suddenly a few months ago the updates suddenly stopped. I tried contacting Tom Tom and that's when the nightmare began. They send you a boilerplate response. It says if you need to follow up to follow the link

"below." The link just takes you to your account page and leaves you hanging. I keep trying however with the same infuriating results. I must be a glutton for punishment.', 'Cons: The Tomtom XL 330 comes in a plastic container which is very difficult to open. It cannot be opened with your bare hands, instead you need to use a sharp knife, and even then you are pretty much performing surgery to extract the unit and manuals from the plastic jail of now sharp plastic this comes in. The new "Easy Port" mount that this comes with is a great idea, but it does not make this unit something you can stick in your pocket like their ads lead you to believe. This mount is very bulky when you fold it onto the unit. Also, it is nearly impossible to set the unit level on the windshield so you will have a gps that always looks crooked when it's mounted. The audio on the XL 330 is barely audible even on the highest level. You will need to turn your radio way down (almost off) if you want to hear any directions. It does not turn on or off with your ignition like many other comparable units, instead you are forced to press and hold a button for 2 seconds to turn it on and off. Pros: The unit functions perfectly for navigation. The stelites are almost instantly acquired when you turn it on and rerouting if you miss a turn is almost instant as well. Tons of POI's let you find almost everything you might be looking for, The menu is very easy to navigate. Great price. The same, great interface that is on almost every new Tomtom Unit (even their most expensive one) conclusion: Possibly the worst unit to buy in this price range. This is Tomtom's replacement for the One XL which is being discontinued. It's a shame because the One XL is a MUCH better unit than this. If you can get your hand on the One XL get that instead', 'I had the XL330 for 18 months. I went to update the data on the device and was advised to download new maps which were selected by TomTom with device connected. I Paid \$69.95 for maps and tried to install them. The device malfunctioned, TomTom said that the device was bad. TomTom will not refund the map prices because of the waiver you sign to download the maps. If you download the maps you own them even if you have no device to use them. This is an overall TomTom rule and they are unwavering. Buyers beware. TomTom XL 330 4.3-Inch Widescreen Portable GPS Navigator', 'Bought this for our Daughter, and I tested it out, and it seemed to work great. Our Daughter has used it some, and is verry happy, so far. So overall, I would say, it is a great product.', 'I bought this unit in advance of a recent trip from western Wisconsin to the the east side of Michigan's Lower Penninsula...a trip with my father to a family reunion. The interface and software were all user friendly, although I did download a full user's guide before starting. I also downloaded the most current maps...good thing I had a high speed connection, since the files were almost a gig. The unit routed us right through the heart of Chicago without a hitch, and I have to say, it's the first time I've EVER driven the Windy City without white knuckles. Everything on the screen was right there in front of us and it constantly reminded me to change lanes, keep right or left and take exits or make turns when needed. My father was absolutely in a state of awe. The volume levels were just fine for me, plenty loud, in fact. Dad often asked me what it said, but he is quite short in the hearing department these days. Now, the quirk. I've had the unit about a month, and I don't keep it installed in the car all the time. When it's not in the car, it's sitting with the power off on my workstation or desk. However, twice now, I have come into the room only to find that TomTom has turned himself on! Today, I found it on and the battery almost drained. Now, I'm telling you, nothing or no one was near the unit to hit the on button. It just came on randomly, like HAL in "2001 A Space Oddessey" or something, with a mind of its own. (I'm afraid one day I'll try turning it off and it will say "I'm sorry Dave, I can't do that." And my name isn't even Dave!) This quirk is no skin off my back, since I would only need the unit in the car and would be plugged in for power. However, if someone knows something regarding this issue, I'd appreciate knowing! It's just a little unsettling! Other than that, I really have to say that it's more than I expected, and then some. For 200 bucks, it's a no brainer. Even though I'm considering changing the name of it to HAL.', 'Usually helpful, but see what happens in familiar territory. In my own neighborhood, it brought me to a dead end on a street whereon someone decided to build a house, dead ending what was once a thru street. (I know TomTom's not responsible for building permits - read on.) My attempt to tell them about this and other errors was met with a rather terse reply to pay more for updates and to report the errors in a different format. I don't believe it's the GPS company's fault if a guy driving a truck on a parkway hits an overpass lower than the height of the truck. The driver knows the truck and can read. I DO believe the GPS company should make every

effort to ensure that routes are Correct. The way to sell more TomToms is to provide accurate up to date maps without charging extra. Product support will more than be worth the effort in sales, good reputation and becoming the "standard", the Jell-O, the Scotch Tape of GPS systems. Did that seem a negative review? It isn't. I'm not complaining about not having the unit speak Mandarin when I gave a young lady from China a lift - (really) - that would be nit picking. On the whole, this unit has helped me make deliveries at night and in bad weather, given great visual cues about upcoming odd twists and turns in the road and been extremely helpful with occasional glitches. It was cost effective and as long as you use it as a backup for your own brain, not a primary system, it's really good.", 'I absolutely love my Tom Tome. So much so that I have bought 3 others and given them as gifts to people who just keep thanking me and saying "The best gift I ever got" and "Love it, didn't even know I needed it till I got it." Even if you know where your going it can't be beat for getting you around traffic or construction. The deal is a good one . Fast shipping and courteous service. Spoil yourself get one today!', "I bought this model for my wife and she has been pretty happy with it. Compared to the built-in GPS in my Mazda this unit is inferior. It is slower and has fewer features and the turn-by-turn directions are not as accurate. It is very easy to use and does a reasonable job. A couple of times it had the last turn to a destination wrong as it told us to turn right when it was a left turn. I suppose when you're within a couple of blocks of your destination it doesn't really matter much under most circumstances, but it was a bit disappointing as my Mazda's unit has never done that. Another flaw is that it will not let you look up rural addresses. So, if you are looking for a rural route address such as 3W121 it will let you look up an address with that format. This is a huge flaw. Again, the built-in unit in my car has no trouble doing this. The unit is very easy to use and the touch-screen is nice. Be sure to at least get a wide-screen unit it makes a pretty big difference.", 'This is my 3rd Tom Tom, I am happy with all of them since its easy to use, and simple. This one in particular is better in a lot of aspects, here are some. PROs: 1. Larger display make it very useful 2. Spoken Street names are very useful. So it will say "Take 95 North towards Baltimore" rather than "Take the next right" CONs: 1. Slow to respond. This is one of the biggest disadvantage I think. 2. "Clear Route" option is moved somewhere else, not easy to find. In summary, it provides you a familiar Tom-Tom environment, with large display but slow response.', "I get lost in a paper bag with air holes in it. It's a sad fact of life I have to deal with, and when some friends introduced me to a GPS I saw my life coming back to me. No longer would I be limited to well traveled areas and wasting gas looping back around paths familiar because I was sure to be lost, otherwise. What price can you put on freedom? I tested all the different brands at Best Buy. The TomTom line found the most addresses which I personally used, including my home. Garmin didn't seem to realize there was such a street. There were some places which eluded all brands, but TomTom seemed to have better maps for me. I read all the reviews and noticed the main complaints about the sound on the TomToms and the slow connection to satellite on the Garmins. They seemed to have their strengths and weaknesses, so I decided to take the gamble on getting a decent speaker. And I did. I have no trouble hearing Darth Vader directing me to the Dark Side. In using it to take the paths I'm familiar with it seems to pick a good route. If it's good for long distance... well, just get me there. If I knew how to get there in long vs. short routes I wouldn't need the thing to begin with. I understand the gas price issue, but for me this hasn't been a problem. Sound is fine. Easy set up. Quick connection and route plots. Even the software started out just fine. It was easy to download and use. Yes, you do have to adjust the screen if you use 800x600 but that's becoming more and more common with larger monitors and smaller settings. I connected, updated my map, and played with a few of the free voices for fun. Everything was delightful, until I upgraded Windows XP Home with the standard required / recommended update from Microsoft. XP no longer recognizes the TomTom is connected and declares there's an unidentified device that may be malfunctioning. I've attached 2 scanners, 2 different printers, my MP3 player, and my digital camera. Those are still recognized just fine. I've gone through all the troubleshooting tips with TomTom Home as well as Win XP. I realize XP Home is becoming a dinosaur, but there's which went awry in the update. My map is current for now, but this issue will have to be resolved if I ever want to update it again."]

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[I purchased this item hoping for a small, highly portable second laptop to take with me when I travel for business. What I got, however, is a PC that takes 20 minutes to boot, hour-glasses every time you move the mouse, and is generally completely worthless. Returned and went with the Eee PC1000 and it is a much better machine.', "This is my third eee pc [my other two went to my twins each who are happy with them]Only one of the three PC's came with a mouse. Two did not.The hard disk of 20G is split into 4/16G but so far it is not a problem.The recovery feature is excellent after I thoroughly messed with the os trying to install gcc. ;-)Some things that could stand improvement include a better mouse pad, a touch screen and easier instructions on how to install another linux distribution. Creative Zen support would be nice too.All in all it's great for the price. I really like the light weight and the ease during traveling. Don't use it for serious development though.", "This is one of the best purchases I've made. It is the perfect travel computer for checking emails and archiving digital photos without lugging a big heavy laptop through the airport.", 'i havent purchased a eee900 as of yet working on the funds. But its simply amazing how people treat tech toys like this. When u buy this yeah it has a small keyboard, but its alot better then say using a txt msg phone like the env2 from verizone. its a full blown computer that will do just about anything you want it to do i unlocked the xandros desktop on my 2g surf. That was so easy it wasnt funny and i am not even a linux person. There are so many forms and blogs that will walk u through the whole process all u have to be able to do is read. You can unlock it while u are useing it. the touch pad is a little sensitive and the clicks not very responsive. Thats an easy fix all u have to do is go in to the settings tab and adjust it just like a regular notebook.Plain and simple if you want a machine that is easy light weight dang near indestructable this is for you.If you cant handle this the hope over to your local walmart they have the acer aspire with a 14.1 screen 2gb ram and 120gb h/d for about 500.00 and guess what it has windows vista which makes it a great paper weight.All in all the eee pc is great for kids to adults to seniors simple and easy to use. shoot you can even hook it up to a pc monitor with a vga cable slap in a usb mouse and keyboard and go to town as if it was a full desktop. Nothing expensive required.So stop your crying and stop expecting that this is something more then it is because it is exactly what is shows to be.viva la eee revolution', 'I love the idea of the Asus Eee PC. I've long wanted a nearly full-featured laptop in this size.So after reading so many positive reviews for this I decided to go ahead and get one. Sadly, after a mere two days playing with it, I have an RMA to get a refund.So what's my gripe with it?Several things. Firstly, though this machine has "20GB" of storage, its 20GB is spanning two storage devices, it's not a single drive. The formatted capacity here is 3.74GB for the main faster SSD that the OS runs from, and 15GB for the slower secondary storage.I purchased this version and installed XP Pro on it (since the XP version only comes with 12GB). 4GB is simply too small. After installing and updating XP, there was just no room left to install any apps I wanted, even after cleaning up the drive.Secondly, the touch pad and buttons. The touch pad is WAY too sensitive and finicky, frankly it's just terrible. Even knowing this and trying to carefully tap click, it would way too often instead perform an extremely fast double click, and it would often repeatedly/consecutively do this. This gets extremely irritating very fast. Updating the touch pad driver had no effect for me.As for the touch pad buttons, they are way too stiff. Perhaps they wear down after a lot of use, but I'd go insane before ever finding out.Lastly, and the least excusable, is the battery life. For a device like this it's simply inexcusably awful. This is with the 5800mAh battery: with wireless OFF (FN + F2) and the screen dimmed down to its second most dark setting (which is really unacceptably dark for all but the very best-lit environments), this thing barely lasted over 2 hours. One more battery cycle to confirm this pathetic performance and I was ready to box it up and send it back.I can forgive a lot of things regarding a tiny laptop, the small screen, small keyboards that are tricky to type on, etc. That is totally excusable.But what a tiny laptop with a small screen, no optical drive, and a solid state hard drive should absolutely excel at is battery life, and this fails horribly. Less than 2.5hrs with a darkened screen and disabled wifi is just inexcusable.If you're still really intent on a micro laptop, I still wouldn't recommend the 900, I'd highly recommend you just wait a few weeks for the Eee PC 901. It features the new highly efficient Intel Atom which uses far less energy and therefore improves

battery life (hopefully Intel will develop a new efficient chipset to go along with it). I still love the idea of an Eee PC and look forward to what Asus and other companies will have to offer over the coming year or so. If this had a minimum 8GB primary SSD, a far better touch pad and buttons, and the battery lasted 4+ hours with wifi enabled and the brightness halfway up, I'd love it.', 'This is it the second generation EEE PC. You should be glad that you waited and did not buy the first generation with the tiny screen. This version is awesome. Nice larger readable screen, larger trackpad and more memory and storage space. Linux runs wonderful and everything you need is included. Very nice !! This is a perfect laptop for students, moms, travelers, everyone !! Buy it !!', 'The asus eee is light has enough power for the OS that comes with it. It lacks the required flexibility for hardcore users. There are several online resources to successfully install windows xp or ubuntu. The hardware is really good in the sense that you get a lot considering the price. The keyboard is for small sized hands. ofcourse after using it for quite some time, i eventually got used to the size of the keyboard.', 'Size: 5 Stars Looking: 5 Stars Gaming Performance: Sorry, you look into the wrong product. It's a super nice PC between a regular heavy 6 lbs laptop and less functional PDA. If you aren't in world of warcraft raid guild and need to go for 25 men raid every day, it's nice small laptop for you to do many things and go everywhere because the convenience talks and that's what you paid for. Well, I like window XP more than Linux due to using Microsoft OS and software when work to be used into that for a long time. Why I bought the Asus EEE PC 900 Linux 20G instead of another Asus EEE PC 900 Window XP Home? Because I could get 8GB more internal SSD space providing flexibility to install software or storage personal files. The key for installaion OS is change "OS Installaion" from "Finished" to "Start" in the BIOS. Get it? Enjoy it!', 'Asus created a hit with these machines for a very simple reason - it is what a lot of people want and need in a small, simple computer. As a writer, I have been looking for something like this for years, even trying to use a Dell Axim 51 PDA and folding keyboard (way too awkward - long life battery wouldn't work with keyboard, etc.). I knew that a small, simple computer could be done far more cheaply than was currently being offered, and that a lot of people wanted it. The subsequent overwhelming success of "netbooks" or "net tops" has proven Asus right and all the industry pundits not only wrong, but totally out of touch with their customers. (Not unusual for marketing in a captive industry.) I waited an entire year while Asus and others worked out the bugs in these designs, did my research, and thought I was getting a good deal. I was wrong. While I was reasonably happy with the machine at first (when it was still working), I quickly became aware of serious faults. The touchpad was way too sensitive and would frequently launch applications when I was simply trying to move the cursor. I tried adjusting the pad sensitivity but that didn't help much. I eventually went to an outboard mouse. I was happy to have Linux instead of Windows, but soon became annoyed that the particular mix Asus was using was awkward and tied me into using only the software they provided (unless I wanted to install another Linux distro - or dig into the command line). The interface was laid out oddly and included a bunch of children's junk I didn't want or need and couldn't get rid of. Even with those problems I was reasonably happy with the machine. I found the screen usable (far bigger than the Axim PDA), and the keyboard not too difficult to type on (I am no speed typist). And while the instructions for moving files in the (small, inadequate) manual had errors, I was able to find out the proper information online and in Linux books. More problems began to crop up. It didn't like USB devices much, and tended to lock up when I tried to use any. I tried upgrading the OS on the Asus site, and that only caused more trouble. The machine began to hang on bootup, and the battery began to fail to hold a charge when the machine was off. When the problems became so severe that I could not get the machine to boot up at all, I tried to contact Asus to RMA it for a working machine. I have sat on the phone for up to 45 minutes, only to be greeted by a person telling me there were no people to help me, and could they call back. Right. I'm going to take time off from work to wait around until they decide to help me. Then I tried their online help. I tried looking up the problem in their online FAQ and database, and got the message that "their server was busy, please try again later." Okay, things can happen, so I tried to email their techs, and found that the only way I could do that was to "join the community" by filling out a long online form that asked for all kinds of personal information (marketing crap) which had nothing to do with my computer or its problem. That is not only stupid, it is illegal (FTC, Title 16 part 700.7). At this point, I was fed up. I can understand that a few lemons get out despite

the best quality control. I can understand a reasonable amount of delay in getting help exchanging the machine for one that works. But Asus simply puts up way too many barriers to good customer service in this matter, and they have created one very unhappy (and vocal) EX-customer. For a \$[...] item, I would just write it off. For a \$[...] item, this is completely unacceptable, and I intend to take my complaint further. I looked around and found that MSI had a barebone desktop version of their netbook, and I bought it (for HALF the price of the 20g, I might add). I have had no such problems with it. Just for chuckles, I looked at the MSI online trouble reporting and it was far easier and less invasive than Asus. Asus has been a very good marketer for MSI in this case. I am extremely disappointed in Asus. I have had great luck in the past with their motherboards, drives, cards, and support for same. I understand from articles online that the laptops go through a different customer service process than their computer components, and that it is riddled with serious problems. Roger that! I will no longer recommend Asus products, and will give my business to companies like MSI, who try harder to do things right. The only power I have as an individual consumer is to vote with my hard-earned cash. I am very patient, but I do have my limits, and my brand loyalty is extremely hard to win back once lost. I don't like getting burned or wasting my valuable time. Bad job, Asus.

UPDATE: July 2009 Well, after 6 months of trying, I am still no further along on the path to having a working 20g. I will regale you with the gory details: Using a search engine, I was able to drill into the Asus web site and find a place to report laptop trouble directly. I filled out the (this time) reasonable form and was assigned a case number and given phone numbers to call (not toll free, by the way). I called one of the numbers and got a real live human in just 90 seconds. I began to get hopeful. When I gave my case number, there was silence for a bit, then I was asked if my laptop was an Eee product. As it was, I was informed that I was at the wrong Customer Service (confirming that Eee products are not handled by regular Asus CS), and would have to call the toll free number on my machine. The person was very apologetic and I sensed a touch of familiar disappointment in his voice. I think he really wanted to help me, and was frustrated that he couldn't. This is the kind of service I had come to expect from Asus in the past. I tried, yet again, to reach someone at the other number, and after 8 minutes of waiting, was speaking to a person. Not a native English speaker by any means, but I could understand her with some effort. She could not find my case number and had no idea what it was, so she asked for the serial number of the machine. I gave it to her, but she could find no record of it. (Odd, considering they had built it, shipped it, invoiced it, been paid for it, and even paid me a rebate based on that number.) When I told her how long I had been trying to get help, she asked why. I told her that it had taken me that long (6 months at this point) to reach someone. Dead silence on her end. After having me try several times to do all the reboot and reset procedures I had already done many times before I even called, she finally gave up and took my phone number, promising a call in 24 hours. I gave her information about my work schedule so they could reach me at home, and waited. A week later (on a Sunday) I got a call from another woman who wanted all the same information and procedures done all over again. At this point, I stated I had already done all that, and that what I needed was an RMA number to ship it in and get it repaired. I was fairly certain it was a hardware problem, and no amount of rebooting would help. She agreed and gave me an RMA number. She asked for my email to send instructions for returning the machine and told me I would get an email in about 20 minutes. That was three weeks ago today, and guess what? No email, and no call about my email bouncing and did they maybe have the address wrong. This has been going on for so long that I am beyond anger into laughter. Customer service this bad is the stuff of comedy routines. Contrast this with the nearly immediate replacement of a web cam I got from HDE, a much smaller firm (who obviously cares about its customers, UNLIKE Asus). Customer service this bad is beyond incompetence and into deliberate malevolence. I am now going to turn this situation over to any and all legal processes and agencies, and complain to all the customer rights groups. I am even considering legal action against Asus. I would love to drag them all the way into rural Oregon small claims court, just for the aggravation of costing them 10 times the money they have stolen from me. (And I do consider it theft/fraud at this point. They have violated at least two federal laws.) I estimate that, including my time in dealing with this, my non-working 20g has now cost me nearly one thousand dollars. Oh, and my warranty is almost up, as if that means anything with these people. I have also confirmed reports

on the Net that Eee buyers are considered second-class citizens by Asus. I'm not happy. Asus has taken a loyal customer and turned them into a bitter enemy. How stupid is that? Not only that, aside from my reviews here, I advise a non-trivial number of other people on technology - Asus have lost my vote of confidence forever, and I will be VERY vocal about it. Brilliant marketing strategy. Avoid Asus products like the plague.

UPDATE August 2009: Got a Dell Mini 9 with Ubuntu Hardy Heron, and it blows the Asus away, even when it worked right. I should have just waited. At this point, I don't know if I will waste any more of my time on the Asus or not. Not much likelihood of their honoring the warranty. ON the other hand, that's why they continue to get away with this kind of garbage.', 'One bad comment, the 20GB is a "lie". The device actually has a primary 4GB SSD and a secondary 16GB SSD. Windows requires boot files to be written to the 4GB drive, though you can still install to the 16GB and have it as your C drive. In the end this did not end up being a problem as I am using it for my local i386 copy and for my swap file. I picked up one of these for \$258, then 2 days later picked up a second one for \$250. I am planning on using them as domain controllers running Windows 2003. They are cheap, have their own "UPS", and the Wi-Fi lets me put them anywhere I need them. They perform great, especially since I am only using them for DNS, DHCP, and login. The drivers were all found automatically once I was connected to the internet, but none of the driver installs on the supplied CD would work as they wanted XP, I don't know how they would feel if you tried to install Vista but since they were all found automatically for 2003 I would guess that you would be fine. I am considering buying a 3rd one for my 6 year old daughter to use, I think the keyboard would be fine for her fingers, but the keyboard is definitely problematic for me even when using hunt-and-peck. That said, since I am using them more as appliances than every day computers it works great. Aside from the previously mentioned 20GB "lie" it is a great device. I highly recommend it.', 'I've never really had all that much experience with Linux, but this thing makes it so easy, straight out of the box, that it's almost as easy to use as a Mac. I use my portable computers for their quick boot up speed and wireless connectivity. This does just as good as my Macbook Pro but with a much smaller footprint. While there is no DVD/CD the other ports are ample and conveniently placed. 3 different USB ports, a monitor port, memory card slot, and audio and mic jack is really great. Plus a traditional network plug for a physical connection if needed. I've never really used public wireless access points before, and today, that seemed a little slow. But on my home wireless network, this thing flies! It comes already loaded up with Open office so you don't need to invest MS-office to get work done, and it opened several office documents. The interface has a bare bones mac feel, without feeling bogged down, like most windows PC's. It also seems like a much smarter move than a Windows PC, at this price point. I did purchase mine refurbished, so I'll need to watch it closely, but so far it really seems like a slick and fully loaded product.', 'Asus is a great company that has push the Low Coast UMPC market into the future. The Only thing I can say bad about the Eee PC 900 is that the Eee pc 901 is now coming out with more features. Although you could install Windows XP on this unit I would advise against it. Of course I advise installing Windows on and computer. Not only is Windows slower and bulkier the Linux, you have to worry about viruses due to the lack of security on a Microsoft System. The Webcam works great, better then I expected. You can very easily install a full desktop if you don't like the default easy mode. You know it's a good product when all the other big name companies are scrambling to make products that are competitive for it.', 'Don't read bad reviews (one star ones), are from people with bad skills in computers.

THE GOOD:> Little machine that you can put even under your long coat> Low power consumption (my powerful desktop pc is like a dragon)[note: imagine a world with 34 Watts computers, this will cause more inexpensive energy prices, low oil prices, less CO2 = less hurricanes and inundations, my powerful desktop pc consumes 350 Watts. Now my energy bill goes down using the eee pc, and I can leave it downloading stuff 24 hours]> High screen resolution with small pixels (1024 x 600 8.9")> Browse web pages without need the horizontal scrolling (due to 1024px)> Easy to handle with your hands (very comfortable at the pivot)> Web cam and microphone integrated> Jacks for your earphones and microphone> VGA output> 3 USB ports, 1 SD/MMC card port, 1 ethernet port> Wifi integrated> You can upgrade it (ram, etc. I buy a touch screen for this little machine)[note: there are unused/used internals usb ports. if you know about electronics (im engineer) you can use it to put some internal upgrades and/or use usbhubs, look for instructions on

the web]> Perfect and easy to read instructions> You can install windows xp using a usb memory or a sd card (instructions in the web), even with ubuntu and compiz ;-), or if you are not so skilled in computers, using a usb-dvd unit> Video hardware supports 3D applications (not a nVidia card but works)> very light (two pounds)THE BAD:> Heatsinks are below of the keyboard and the pad (you can feel the heat), video processor and bridge chips consumes a lot of power = HEAT> You need like a week to use the keyboard like a pro (of course, is little)> Battery life 2.5 hours only (I buy this and not the eee 901 since I don't care about battery life because *I use it at home* and the celeron processor is faster than the atom). Anyway you can find a 10400mAH battery for 40 dollars (7 hours of battery life!)[note: I'm not totally sure about performance vs atom, since some benchmarks said that the 901 is faster, and others said that the celeron is faster than the atom, but then WHY THEY CHANGE BACK TO THE CELERON M with the advanced models like eee pc 904HD ?]> Pads buttons feels cheap> No caps led diodes indicators (you need to install a app like firstcap in xp) and for linux there is one in the dvd (included)> No integrated bluetooth (the eee pc 901 have it)> No DVD burner/reader (of course, there is no space to put one)RECOMENDATIONS:> Change the desktop colors to 16 bits (increase performance a little, battery life a little too, and reduce heat)> Reduce the screen brightness> Turn off virtual memory (with 1GB of RAM, it is not necessary)> Turn off unnecessary windows services (annoying and memory eaters)> Delete all windows unnecessary files (like drivers that you will never need, like virtual memory, they use a lot of hard disk space)> Buy a inexpensive usb bluetooth device if you need it (you can find it at amazon, they are very tiny *for laptops*)> Buy the 10400mAH battery if you need more battery life (more money *40* but it worth)> Install both, windows xp and linux [...] with compiz too for 3d desktop stuff> Buy a 32 GB SD card or extra storage if you need it (not necessary at all) = more money> Get and install the touch screen (optional but trekkies like me love it) = more money too> Buy a slim usb dvd-rw, usb powered (more bucks, not necessary at all)> Asus are launching advanced eee pcs every month, SO YOU CAN REPENT OF WASTE YOUR MONEY and not wait a little bit. VERY BAD TACTIC MARKET. Anyway THIS IS THE MOST SUPPORTED EEE PC now, you can find a lot of things from fans to touch screens and internal upgrades.OVERALL 4.8 OF 5THIS LITTLE NOTEBOOK, IT IS A ULTRAPORTABLE DEVICE ! some people expect 120GB or hard disk, 2GB of ram, 256MB of video memory, etc. If this is your desire, buy a laptop with thats features, not this one.

EXTRA: [How to see HD 720p hardly encoded video without frameskipping]Intel Graphics Media Accelerator (GMA) = crap, and in this era HD videos are more and more common. You will realize, that you actually can't play high definition videos with the wife of the Atom processor, the Intel Graphics Media "Accelerator" (GMA). Frame skipping and audio cuts, will be totally a mess.Can be frustrating, but there is a solution:> Deactivate deblocking filter on all the codecs that support it (H.264/MPEG-4 AVC)How ?Install klite codec pack, and at the end of the setup, choose deactivate deblocking. If you use build-in codecs player programs such GOMPlayer, there are options for quit deblocking filters. This way you can play even 720p hardly encoded videos, you will see some blocks here and there, but no frame skipping or audio cuts.Enjoy your hardware.'

'These is a great computer, read on what it can do and dont expect a lot more, for those that install windows XP i recomend that first they try the computer with the professional desktop, it is very XP like and runs great, if you dont have the need for gaming or other heavy stuff, and are tired of carrying a heavy laptop around, and dont have thousands of dollars to get an air, then give Asus a try', "Update July 29, 2008:Exchanged my Asus Eee PC 900. If you read my stuff below you'll see the problems I encountered. Because it was within 14 days of purchasing my Eee PC Best Buy just did an Exchange, very easy. I opted NOT to have them optimize it which I think was a good decision. I think I either had a lemon or their optimization caused some issues. On the old one some of the Fn functions did not work: Toggling, WiFi on and off, Volume Control and Mute. What I said below about installing iTunes to the correct drive may not be true. I'm not seeing a second hard drive, logical or physical. The last straw was when I attempted the Recovery (following the iTunes fiasco) I got an error: Bad Block(s) Encountered During Read. Could be a small problem or a big one but whatever it was I got a brand new Asus Eee PC 900 from Best Buy and set it up myself. I've got Verizon Wireless Broadband installed on the new Eee and it's working great.Initial Review:I can understand why one of the reviewers was

disappointed with his Asus eee 900. I got mine at Best Buy for \$[...] and a trimmed down version of Windows XP Home was pre-installed. It cannot handle Vista or a full version of XP and especially XP Pro. I also won't be adding MS Office products. If I need to work on something like that I will use the pre-installed Star Office or Works and save it in the appropriate format. For my needs, surfing the net at starbucks, etc. it will work great. I was also able to install VZAccess Manager and connect to Verizon Broadband with my USB720 modem. It has 3 USB Ports which is great, more than I expected. The speakers work great. Sound better than my Gateway Solo laptop. I used my iPod to transfer files like VZAccess Manager exe to the Asus. I'm on the road and forgot to bring a USB Stick. Also it comes with a nice padded sleeve although the small power supply/cord will not fit in that. A ZDNet review says the battery will last 3+ hours and that's with playing a DVD (external drive). That would be great on an airplane. I wish they had internet access on the plane :b...Update - July 23, 2008:I have the Eee PC 900 with XP and decided to install iTunes in order to add a few of my songs from my iPod. (Not the whole library.) The install went fine and the computer restarted without a hitch. When I tried to open iTunes it ran thru some configuration set up and ended with an error message about a 'bad shortcut'. Next I got a taskbar pop up message about a memory location error (ewww). I tried to remove iTunes but got an error about not enough space (ewww). I shut it down and later tried to boot it back up: Disk Error (Ctrl + Alt + Del). Just an infinite cycle there. My Recovery Disk is 200 miles away so I'll have to wait till I get back home to fix. I am guessing that will take it back to factory settings(???)Yes I would still get this UMPC. I'd love to wait around for the 901 or 1000 but that's life isn't it. My advice is to always Google before you install anything to see what others have learned. There is info and recommendations about installing iTunes on the Eee PC, if only I'd done my homework.Adding RAM and the Warranty. While on the phone with Asus I asked about adding RAM and voiding the Warranty. He stated that it would not void the warranty as long as I replaced the original RAM before sending my Eee PC back to Asus. I don't have our conversation recorded or notarized but for what it's worth....", "I liked everything about it except the keyboard. I just can't seem to get used to the small keyboard. But it is everything it's advertised to be and quite convenient to carry around. Access to the internet and ability to create and edit MS Office files is sufficient for almost everything I would want to do and Linux does it with much less demand for resources and much quicker than Vista.", 'Asus like made this unit as a hold over til the atom models where released. It is a bigger version of the 701. I thought the quality was not as good as the 701. The power cord kept falling out. The unit used more battery. Spend a little more and get the atom processor. I returned this unit, faulty charging is not a good for a laptop. The battery was not holding a charge either', 'Tis an amazing system, the larger screen is a delight. The Linux operating system is good and always works, great Coffee Cruiser... The native Linux operating system is fast and makes this computer less susceptible to drive by viruses now it is reported that 1 in a 1000 web pages are poisoned...This computer is not a Desktop replacement, but it is lightweight and everything else for your mobile computing needs. This and the smaller unit are expensive and should be price for less, but presume there will be more competition for the consumer with adjusted pricing in the near future. I am guessing, but feel the falling dollar value can be blamed for 25% of the current price...The new unit with the larger screen should have come to market at the \$399 price and the older Asus EEE should have dropped to the \$199 price point.The first released Asus EEE unit was a fabulous success with Linux as its operating system, but add Microsoft XP to the unit and watch the system slow down and become almost non-usable with all the malware. This is a take with you system, and if you do not spend an hour each and every day keeping the system virus and advertisement free any windows XP system is going to be a problem... This is a wireless system, completely open to every predator in every library, public WiFi and school setting.Only area I feel has been neglected at the current price level, where is the bluetooth & internat Cell phone that needs to be part of this \$599 EEE PC 900... The size is approaching and above full laptops, and other systems are ready scheduled to arrive on market near or at the \$400 price...I love it the easy, safety and speed of the Linux operating system, and enjoy its amazing ability to locate a wireless signal and be web surfing while my on-line messenger and e-mail is ready almost in the blink of an eye...Overall it is a very expensive small form system, maybe I stepped up to the counter a bit early to secure the best Coffee Cruiser for my after tax dollars...The hardware

Asus decided upon makes it easy to install almost any Linux operating system you enjoy using.MT', "A netbook that won't run on battery only is basically a tiny desktop, so that's what I got with this ASUS out of the box. Technical support was contradictory, everyone had a different fix, no one could ever find my service record and they wanted me to pay for all shipping. I finally updated all the bios, went into setup and changed the settings and now it works fine, I even like it a lot. HOWEVER I suspect that this is why we see so many refurbished ASUS netbooks. You have to be really stubborn to get it to work and I came within an inch of just sending it back.", 'This netbook is a great value for \$200. It works well for keeping up with e-mail on the move and is very adequate for surfing the internet. The solid state memory is adequate and eliminates the sometimes fragile compact hard drive. The small size and light weight makes it especially convenient for travel. Recommended.', 'Good basic PC for internet, email, and word processing. Battery life not very good, less than 2 hours. Also when not in use the battery, even though fully charged when turned off, loses 80% of the stored power within a week. Best to remove battery when not in use.', "I bought this laptop for my daughter to take to school. She's dyslexic, and keyboarding is a lot easier for her than handwriting.The keyboard is small and a bit cramped for an adult, but it's a perfect computer for kids. It's great for taking notes, doing homework, emailing and surfing the web. It's extremely compact and light, and it hooks up to the Internet at hot spots fairly easily. Don't worry about the Linux operating system. The set up here could not be easier to use. This laptop (or netbook or whatever you want to call it) is designed specifically for kids, and I think it does its job perfectly.One small drawback: my daughter figured out that she can stream TV shows over the Internet on her Asus EEE. The plus side is that this makes her love her little computer even more, but the negative side is she's watching TV.Still, I'm really glad we bought her this computer. I can't think of any portable, lightweight one that could do the job quite as well for the price. Kind of wish I had bought myself one too, instead of the heavy, slow thing I've got that I'm reluctant to schlep around.", 'When I originally was looking to buy a new computer about 2 years ago, I wanted something small and lightweight. I was not sure what I would buy. I happened to be at Whole Foods and saw someone using a small computer. I liked the size of it and asked the brand, so I can look it up. He said it was an ASUS. I checked it out on amazon.com and found it for a great price and weighed only 2 pounds. At the time there was also an offer where I did not have to pay for it at all for 6 months.I am still very happy with it after 2 years, but the one problem I have had from the beginning was the battery - it does not stay powered up once it is charged and I did have the company send me a replacement while it was still on the warranty, but the problem still persists.It does not have a cd/dvd rom, so you would need to get an external one, if that matters to you or not get a netbook computer.I will probably use this computer for many more years before getting another one.It is sturdy and portable and know it will last a long time.', 'This is one of the best ideas and pieces of hardware I have seen in a long time. The 9" screen is just about the right size for laptop. The keyboard is a little odd at first being small, but once you are used to it, you can easily type with both hands just as fast as you can on a normal keyboard. I also recommend for anyone who uses Linux to look up how to unlock the "Full desktop" feature it will enhance the experience quite a bit. For a normal user who just wants to surf, type up documents and IM, or chat on Skype and have both pictures and music portable it is excellent. Also, if you buy the Linux version and have a copy of Windows XP spare, the Linux manual gives instructions to install XP instead and back up the Linux part, so you will benefit getting this model over the XP one, as you will get the larger drive and the option to add XP if you ever feel like it (the Xnados based Linux works just great though!). Awesome device and best buy I've made in the last few years.', 'I wish that I could give 4.5 stars rating, with the condition that EEE PC 900 is used as a secondary computer. And I have used my wife's MBA for quite a while so I will compare the two. (Yes it's unfair but interesting, right?)Good things first. I ordered 900 with a clear mind that it's going to be my secondary notebook computer and my usage is email, web browsing, remote connect and a few other things. I had a two-year old Dell D620 which still works fine. The 900 is light, with slightly better battery life (3+ hours), fast booting, extremely fast shutdown, inexpensive, and with camera builtin (good for video conferences on a trip). After the 900 arrives, it's just what I expected.Now bad things first, most of which I already knew when I ordered the 900. First the keyboard is small. I am

typing this review with 900. I guess I would type 20-30% faster with my D620 (or a desktop). Moreover, I pay more attention to my typing and that affects my writing/thinking a little bit. Not a big deal though. Most time I will write on my D620. On a trip or a working day full of meetings, fast booting and fast shutdown are more important than typing speed. And hopefully I can improve my typing on the 900 over time. The battery life could be better. I wished that a single charge would be good for a whole day (5-6 working hours). This one is about 3-4 hours, so I will still need to take the power adapter with me and search (and sometimes compete) for a power outlet. The EEE PC 901 will do it, but I ordered 900 before I knew 901 would be coming (and don't want the trouble to return this fine looking 900). It is warm and sometimes can be called hot. When the fan is turned on, there is a whipping sound. Not terrible at all but definitely noticeable. But in that measure it's better than the D620 and the MBA. The D620's fan is loud and non-stopping. The MBA can be very hot and the fan can spin crazily, much louder than the 900. (But both the 900 and the MBA are fine in a cool room.) Now more comparison between the 900 and the MBA (Macbook Air, 13" display). First the comparison is unfair because the MBA is priced at \$1800 and the 900 \$550; please keep that in mind. The MBA works fine as either the primary or secondary computer. The keyboard is full size and first class quality. Typing on it is no different from a large notebook or a desktop. Actually, the MBA is thin and light but NOT small in area -- it is a full "area" notebook computer. If the price is not an issue and one wants just one notebook, MBA is the choice (and it's much better than 12" sub-notebooks from other vendors). The 900 is thick, twice the thickness of the MBA and slight more than that of the D620 (the D620 has 14" display). A strange thing is that when holding the MBA and the 900, the MBA feels the same weight as the 900 but the actual weights are 3lbs vs 2lbs. I am not sure why, but possibly because of how they can be held. Holding the 900 at the battery compartment is the most comfortable. I also feel 900 has at least the same volume than MBA. Is the thickness a bad thing or not? Hard to say. When I put them in bags both are just fine. Overall, I think 900 is almost perfect as a secondary computer (and perfect with 5-6 batter time). However, I won't use it as a primary computer. Keyboard and display are two reasons. Another reason is software. I have installed many software on the D620; I can do that because of its large hard drive and memory. And the D620 runs windows XP. I won't install Windows XP on the 900 -- that will slow it down and defeat the purpose of having fast booting and shutdown times.']

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["Good quality product, it's our second computer case of this brand, very satisfied the product. The functionality of this was just what I was looking for.", 'Purchased this for my Toshiba C650D 15.6" laptop, and it's great. Lightweight, adequate padding, convenient pockets & storage, and looks great. Shoulder strap appears strong and has metal (not plastic) hooks. This lists for quite a bit more on the Targus website, and was priced slightly less at Fry's Electronics (+ sales tax, of course), but I am happy to have it.', 'I've had this for 6 months now and if I had to do it over again, I would have sprung more money for a better briefcase. If you travel by air a lot, it might be worth your while with all the TSA bull**** you have to go through. But for everyday use, there are better. This case has velcros galore! I mean, it's okay for little pockets here and there, but the entire front pocket sleeve is lined with a long velcro strip that need two hands to open! It would have been better just to put a button there for one-hand ease but to get something out of the front, you have to literally pull the cover open and everytime it lets out a loud, rrrlllllllPPPPPP! And then, for the main compartment, there's another velcro flap that always gets in the way everytime you zip the bag closed. Velcro really killed this briefcase for me. Like I said, there are better out there. Go with those instead.', 'I got this bag primarily for airplane traveling and it is perfect for the job! I can zip it through airport security without having to remove my laptop. The bag has a slim profile while still providing ample space for things. It's an ideal carry-on. There is plenty of room for other items to keep you busy on flights, and everything remains tidy. Of course, it's equally good as an every-day, computer bag as well. It has nice tidy paper storing areas to keep organized for meetings or conferences. This is my second Targus computer bag and they continue to satisfy me. My other Targus is a backpack style

computer bag which went through college with me and shows no ill signs of wear. These are great bags, I recommend them.", "I bought this bag, based off the other reviews that were praising it. Love the professional look of the bag, however, the love stops there. At first, I thought I would like the fact of how secure the laptop is within, but it turns out to be really inconvenient. If you want a bag that you just leave on it's side and can take the laptop in and out, this is not the bag for you, nor me. The bag must be sprawled out, opened, cover unvelcro'ed as well as the strap. Again, not really convenient and maybe a bit overdone, but it might be what the bag is aimed at, concealment, nor functionality. I've had this bag for 6 months and it's used, what I consider, lightly. Few times a week, not banged around, not throw on the floor while on the subway, nothing of that sort and it is showing signs of wear and tear. Actually, was showing them after 2 months. Handle stitching is fraying, shoulder pad has ripped and stitching on the underside is also fraying. If I used this bag, daily, to travel into the city, it wouldn't last 3-4 months. If you want a bag that doesn't look like a laptop bag, then this is it. If you want a bag with actual functionality and durable [who doesn't?!], then look elsewhere.", 'I had seen this bag at Staples, and found the best price here on Amazon. The space for the laptop is generous, there is plenty of room for accessories, and the zipper, shoulder strap, and hardware seem quite sturdy. Very satisfied!', 'I bought this item months ago. I use it five days a week. I carry work documents and other items. It works great and I have had absolutely no negative issues with this product.', 'Quick and easy: my 16" Toshiba fits fine in this bag, even with the extended battery (even though it creates a small bulge, it works). The padding is nice on this bag, however I was hoping that my laptop with my zipper case already on it would fit inside this case (for added protection), but the zippercase made my laptop justttt a bit too big for the compartment on this bag. Has plenty of compartments for accessories/office supplies, and would be easy to lay flat at the airport as advertised. Sturdy shoulder strap as well. No complaints!', "My primary concern when buying a laptop bag or case is that it protect the laptop. Second, that it doesn't look like 'thief bait.' This Targus bag meets both of those criteria. It's a nice subdued looking bag, modern enough with clean lines, but not glamorous in a way that will attract attention. It's a professional bag, with adequate storage options for your peripherals (mouse, charger, pens, paper, etc). The quality of the build is better than average if not perfect. I would have liked a heavier gauge zipper, since those always seem to be the first thing to go on the bags I've owned in the past. I also would have liked a thicker, longer shoulder pad. The attached pad is barely adequate for a large man. The storage compartments are laid out logically and the bag clam-shells to allow easy security check pass through at the airport. Overall I'm quite pleased with the bag, especially since it matches the color of my new Dell Studio 15 notebook. For the price, this is a great option. *****UPDATE

02/26/2010*****The foam padded shoulder strap of the bag failed a few weeks ago. The stitching along one seam came out and with it the interior foam. I contacted Targus through their web-page to see about getting a replacement. They contacted me back within hours, and sent me a shipping notice for the replacement strap the next day. The new strap arrived and is actually better than the original (leather pad vs. vinyl). I am extremely impressed with both the promptness of Targus' communication and with the ease of requesting support through their webpage. I was expecting a headache to get a new shoulder strap and instead it was remarkably easy. I'll be giving them more business in the future knowing that: A. they stand behind their products, and B. they are very quick in assisting the customer. Well done Targus!", 'very nice and useful bag; lots of sections, perfect for travels. item received exactly as expected! Thanks to the seller', 'Background: this product was purchased for the express purpose of achieving one mission: to get through Airport Security as quickly as possible. Consequently, this review will be written from that perspective. If penetrating Airport Security with speed and ease is not a priority for you, skip this product and choose one of the umpteen-million computer bags that don't feature the "airport checkpoint-friendly" feature. Still here? Good. Here we go: This is the only checkpoint-friendly bag that has a single handle on the top. Why is that important? Because bags with 2 handles are inferior. You will inevitably wind up grabbing only one from time to time, and that will cause the following to happen: 1) the bag will flop open, dropping its contents on the floor 2) the handle will begin tearing out of the fabric, shortening life. Single handle is the way to go, which makes this bag the only game in town. Pros: Computer pocket is a decent size, with an acceptable level of padding. Bag seems well-made and is

tasteful. The bag does make it through TSA screening with a computer in it, as advertised. Strap for sliding over the handle of rollaboard bag works well. Single handle, as explained above. Cons (explanations follow): Slow unzip to open & close for screening Too much use of velcro Flimsy velcro flap holds laptop in computer compartment Additional storage space is small, unexpandable, and inadequate Lacks compartment for computer charger Explanations: Slow unzip to open & close for screening The crucial purpose of a bag such as this is to facilitate QUICKLY prepping for the airport xray belt, and then quickly get going again. Ideally, this would be done with a quick-release clip that was augmented by zippers. This bag, however, requires unzipping the whole thing to flop it open for the xray, and then re-zipping it closed afterward. Slow and weak, like the airport neophytes you bought this bag to blow past at the security checkpoint. No other bag seems to have it right either, however, so until someone builds one that does, we'll have to make do. Perhaps we can modify this bag with such a clip... Too much use of velcro Velcro is a mediocre fastener at best. It is ok for certain applications; this is not one of them. One of its limitations: over time, the soft side (the "loop" fabric, in the industry parlance, "velcro" is technically a brand name) will get worn by the "hook" side, and turn into a bushy mass with no grip. Considering this bag should last for years, the velcro on the computer pouch basically designed-in failure. Add to that the annoying noise of velcro (have fun getting your computer out quietly during a meeting) and the fact that it basically belongs on children's shoes, and you have a losing proposition. Flimsy velcro flap holds laptop in computer compartment So, as you read above, I don't care for velcro. What compounds the issue in this bag is that a padded flap held shut by a 5-inch strip of velcro is all that holds your computer in place. If it is a particularly thin model, under the wrong circumstances it might slide out the side and onto the hard floor of the airport checkpoint. It should be zippered in a secure compartment. There IS a nylon strap inside the computer compartment that can be used to further secure the computer (again, held shut by my beloved velcro), but these straps are a pain and consequently are almost never used. Additional storage space is small, unexpandable, and inadequate Lacks compartment for computer charger I am combining these two, because they are variations on the same theme. Space for other items is essential. You are limited both by TSA rules and practicality on the bags you bring on a plane; this one will count as "purse, briefcase, or personal item," therefore you better make it count. It should have room for papers, pens, 1 or more books, and, of course, since laptops do not live by battery power alone, a designated compartment for your computer's CHARGER. This bag fails. The interior pocket that's large enough for papers has no sealing mechanism when the bag is open for xray, so they can flop out. The exterior pocket has not particularly useful and exceedingly tiny compartments, so most things in there turn into a jumbled mess. There ARE clear plastic slots for business cards on BOTH, so if you can't remember who you are, you can quickly check either one to find out. Also, the front pocket seals with our old friend velcro, so it's nice & noisy to open, will fail prematurely, and lets items potentially fall out the ends of the flaps when the bag is on end or inverted (as all bags over the course of road-warrior battle-hardening will be, sooner or later). In spite of all my harsh criticism, I give this bag 3 stars because every other bag out there is even worse. If you want to incorporate my design improvements in a future bag, I will be happy to give it a glowing review. Good luck, and see you at the airport.

'This is the Second Targus Laptop bag I bought. It is more than my expectation. Worth Buying.'

'The Targus Zip-Thru case a very nice laptop case. Just like it says, it makes going through the security line easier since all you have to is unzip the bag and lay it flat. It might not seem like a big deal to take your laptop out and place it in the tray, but this is just so much easier when you're dealing with crowds and you already have to worry about emptying your pockets. There are 2 very strong pieces of velcro on the inside that keep the laptop secure, and only these need to be undone when going through security. Appearance wise it is a very slick looking bag. It is what I would describe as a satin black with a hint of gray, so it is not pure black. I guess I would say it looks smaller than it is, but you just squeeze a 16.4" laptop in here while a 15.4" laptop leaves a bit of room. The thinner the laptop, the more you can fit in the storage pockets which have several small compartments for various items including an ID pocket and a key clasp. Based on how the case is constructed, I believe it will last. The material is strong and the zipper is fairly heavy-duty. The strap is strong with aluminum clips and a nice shoulder pad. The velcro is very strong on this bag which is good, but it makes opening the front pocket very loud.

That is the only negative I've had with the case, but a very minor one. It is a little pricey, but put together much better than some of the less expensive bags out there. Overall, I would highly recommend this bag, even more so if you fly frequently.', "I considered some of the less expensive bags, but decided to go with this one and I'm glad that I did. It is quite sturdy and worth the extra money for the quality. Easy to open for airport inspection. I ordered this 16 inch bag for a 13 inch laptop; it appears that the smaller size would have been fine. It doesn't seem to be too heavily padded, but I've looked in stores and they all seem the same. It was at least somewhat less expensive on Amazon than it was in the stores where I looked.", "This bag has a sleek sexy look to it but yet is also durable, spacious, and made to fit quite a few accessories. I was skeptical about buying a laptop case online being that I wasn't able to scrutinize it completely and verify it passes all of my expectations. I'm pleasantly surprised, however, it has more than surpassed them, and is worth getting even if you already have a case but are searching for a better one. 5/5 stars for sure thanks Targus/Amazon I'll recommend this to everyone."]

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[I bought this Acer Aspire One as a second laptop for the house, specifically for my wife. I like it a lot. It starts up quickly, it's stable and loads all programs without problems, it's light and manual... it's amazing!. It has 6 GB of RAM and no hard drive. Laptops under \$1K and the few in that range were big and heavy. The only negative of this Netbook is that it gets quite hot... I estimate, for everything I do, it's no complaint, it's excellent.', "I got this laptop about three weeks ago. It's running flawlessly. I've even tried putting Vista on it (worked fine, but it was slower than XP; so I reverted). Battery life is about 2.5 to 3 hours depending on workload (I'm mainly typing notes for class when it's not plugged into a wall). The only problem I have ever had with this unit was the audio; a driver update from Acer's website fixed the problem. This computer runs fairly fast for what I use it for, and can even run some 3D applications such as Google Earth or Quake Live. For the price, it's definitely worth it.", 'The Acer Aspire One is one awesome product. I was not certain that I wanted to buy a netbook based on some negative review in the press that I had read. The Acer exceeded all my expectations as far as screen resolution, ease of use, features, weight and capabilities. An absolutely awesome product at a great price.', 'My son purchased one of these so I decided to do likewise after he used his for a few weeks. He is a pilot and the smallness of the unit was the selling point. I use mine for travel only and do not try to do heavy work. I have three other laptops that I can use for that. Using the Acer on trips has been excellent. It is lightweight and easy to use. Mine has a 160 GB Harddrive. Some of these netbooks have smaller hard drives and some use a chip of up to 8 GB. I find the 160 to be more than I need. There is no software on this unit when you purchase it. I downloaded a free office suite that is working fine. You will not be able to take a CD and load software yourself as there is no CD/DVD reader. You can always download many kinds of software from the internet but what clutter up such a nice little travel item which I primarily use for the internet and e-mail. It is very light weight. Some folks have an issue with the "mouse" but I've gotten used to that and it is not a problem. The screen is bright and the Windows Vista powers up the machine quite well. You need a case for this as it will not quite fit in your pocket. Get a padded one in place of the skin tight case that comes with some units. I don't believe much in extended warranties and since this one only cost \$299 I did not purchase. After a month I am very well pleased and will be taking it instead of a larger laptop on my 38 day cruise this month. The internet hookup has been great as has the built in camera. Is there anything I don't like? Not that I can find!', "Fan & vent get really hot. not much of a vent & it worries me. could catch fire. capping the cam for privacy would be a big must. I love this computer I just got this last Monday off Amazon. Costco sold out 50 in a week at Eureka Northern California Humboldt county Costco & they have had them for 3 months maybe longer, Eureka Costco had them for 299 plus you have to pay TAX. Amazon you don't pay tax or shipping. saves 20 dollars difference plus Tax which probably would have been 20 or 30 dollars. love the SIZE 2LB. really small. easily fits in bag, I bought Skype WiFi phone horrible took it back

rather buy this I can call with skype coffee house. get rid of the cell phone. cells are a rip off. I will give the Ipevo skype 2009 a try. cell contracts rip off I know, love skype calling better. so just buy the world smallest XP Excellent computer of the next 5 years beats the Ipod touch & Iphone rip off `I rather buy this its the same price & you can do more. comes with a free mouse. I rate the Baby 5 star maybe a 4 star depends on the FAN & VENT & HEAT could catch fire & that worries me.", "The big plus to this netbook was the small size and portability, yet retaining many features and hard drive size of regular notebooks. The sub \$300 price was pretty attractive as well. Lack of a CD/DVD drive was not a drawback since the main goal of the purchase was a small computer. For my needs, I'd rather have a smaller computer minus the CD, than a bulkier one with the CD. I can always sit at home and plug in an external CD drive to load software. Here's the biggest negative to this computer-the size of text and images. Obviously, when you've got a 9 inch monitor, things are going to appear smaller. I just didn't realize how small until I bought it. I would strongly recommend to others to check it out at a store first, to see if this issue is acceptable. For all the benefits of the netbook, ie size, I can live with the small text, but it does take some getting used to, especially when you've been accustomed to a larger monitor. There may be a way to enlarge the images, but I would imagine that would have some consequence(I'm not computer savvy, so I wouldn't know for sure-just a guess).", 'Runs most programs ok with XP nothing impressive, but the power supply and charger connector is just garbage and stays loose in the connector port causing it to zone in and out and not charge properly. Once you unplug it it shuts off, no battery life to speak of. Net books suck anyway, most laptops are now are no different to carry around and at least then you have full performance, battery life and screen size eg. Macbook Pro/Air.', 'I cannot say enough what an excellent product this is. I absolutely love it. Let me start by saying that I have refused to buy Windows based computers for several years, buying only Apple Macintosh computers. I have had bad experiences with Windows XP in the past. However, this computer caught my eye, and at the awesome price I just had to give it a shot. It comes with Windows XP SP3, with is supposed to be much faster than Vista. When I saw the specifications on the processor and video card, I figured the computer might be kind of slow... well, it's not. It handles videos, youtube, several programs running at once, and much more without any trouble. I was blown away. I've also found this version of XP (SP3) to be much more stable and usable than earlier releases. This computer looks very attractive in white (that's the one that I have), and I have seen it in other colors which also look nice. The machine is very sturdy (it feels more solid than my Apple iBook G4... and that computer cost quite a bit more), the keyboard is nice (and not too cramped for a 'netbook'), and the webcam is a nice touch. Although the webcam image is not that great, I am still pretty excited that such an inexpensive computer with such a small, compact size has a webcam built in. I also really like the fact that this computer comes with 3 USB ports, an SD card reader, and then another card slot that can do several types of cards: it all adds up to make a very functional machine! The screen is bright--much brighter than my brother's new 17" HP DV7 (which, just like the Apple, cost so much more), and this acer netbook has caused much less headaches than his DV7. I guess it's not really fair to compare the two since they really are two different classes of computers, but I am impressed because I would have thought that a "cheap" netbook would be the one to have more frustrations, and that is not the case. Another thing I would like to add is that I know many people who are dissatisfied with Acer laptop purchases. I have seen their laptops and I usually am not impressed. However, this is not an Acer Laptop: It's an Acer Netbook! I don't know why they seem to slosh together their laptops, but whatever the case, it is apparent that these netbooks have received much more attention and care in design and manufacturing. I would recommend this product to anyone.', 'My first effort in the netbook world was the original asus 2 gig surf. It filled a need at the time and was well enjoyed used for web surfing email only. When i looked to expanding the asus i found by getting the original it was not as easy to upgrade as other latter asus were. A pal mentioned this one and after doing homework asking questions here i went a head and used a seller on amazon and got it. Very pleased with windows xp, the larger hard drive multi usb ports 2 different sd ports .I found since this one had more features then my original one I use it much more often. I got a flash drive for transferring files and found a 2.0 slim dvd external drive for this which made it complete to me. Happy with purchase and glad i tried this acer instead of the other route i was looking to go. I also like the

way acer did the space bar better then the asus.....', 'Since the Acer Aspire One came highly recommended from a friend, I was really looking forward to using it while I travel to connect wirelessly, access e-mail and transfer photos. Unfortunately, from the moment I got the unit, I was unable to connect using any wireless network - home or public. The support documentation that came with the unit is useless as it contains only the most basic of information (e.g., how to turn on your computer; how to use the truly awful touchpad.) I tried searching all available online help documents, and all Acer says is it must be a problem with the wireless system. WRONG! I used my work laptop to test the same wireless networks, and had no problems. Also sorry to say that Acer does not provide any telephone support, only e-mail, so I am sending the unit back. I am really bitter - the size of the unit makes it ideal for travel.', 'Me gusta mucho su forma y tamaño, ideal para quienes necesitan viajar, permite una gran movilidad.', "Let me start by saying that you should make sure a netbook is right for you before you make this purchase. Once you've decided to go with a netbook over a notebook--this one is perfect!From the ones I tried out in the big box stores, Acer has the biggest keyboard unless you go with a solid state hard drive. That being said, the keyboard will take a day or two to get used to--but it happens fast.The battery life is between 2-3 hours. The power cord is small enough that it is easy to pack along with you, if you need to.Built-in wireless card has no problems picking up signals.All-in-all, this netbook is exactly what I needed. And it's the same size as a normal hardback book, so it's very easy to take anywhere. I would defiantly recommend it", "What the description said and what I got were the same. The Aspire One is a netbook - which is a lightweight laptop with a small screen, many USB ports (3), two slots for SD cards, wi-fi connectivity (and an ethernet port that might be useful if anyone's using an ethernet cable with a portable), a webcam and mic, XP Home, a 160 GB hard drive, and 1 GB of memory. It comes with a small, wired, laser, two-button mouse, which fits comfortably in my fingers. As with most (if not all) netbooks, the Aspire One is missing an optical drive and any paper manual.I haven't missed the optical drive; it comes with a complete Office trial that can be licensed, and I downloaded Chrome. I expect that I'll be able to download from the internet or get anything else I need from another computer on my network.All in all, a very useful computer.Netbooks have been criticized for their sluggish performance, but some perspective is needed here. First of all, I wouldn't call this machine sluggish, Actually, my user experience is very usable. Excel and Word keep up with my typing and thinking. Surfing is as fast as on my other main machine, which is to say it depends on the website's speed and Verizon's speed. Don't forget that the processor speed, memory size, and disk drive were considered state of the art just a few years ago. If you're used to a five year old laptop, you'll probably regard this as an upgrade. And the likelihood is that your old laptop has a smaller hard drive and less memory than this Aspire One.I have had no trouble with Excel, Outlook Express, and Chrome all active at the same time.The only downer, of course, is that this is still a Windows machine. Once in a while, I can print on my print server, but not reliably so. I get weird networking messages that disappear after a few seconds. And you need virus protection (I used the free AVG.).", 'At first I was not sure whether the Acer Aspire One 8.9-Inch Netbook would meet my need for a "light weight" netbook with enough "computer power" to handle my daily workload. I was pleasant surprised by the fact it has more than adequately met both requirements thus far and I am looking forward to even more benefits as I continue to use it into the future.', 'This is the best small laptop I could have purchased. Wife has had for about 2 years now, no problems.', 'ACER ASPIRE ONE AOA150-1635After one day of owning this Acer One, I can say, already, that I am satisfied with this purchase. I consider this netbook a step up from my first netbook purchase a year ago with the 7" Asus 2GB Linux model.What I Like - Great price. The large harddrive, 160 GB in such a small netbook. The familiarity of Windows XP. Connectivity to the internet is fast, and although browsing the internet is not as swift as with my HP desktop, 4 GB memory and faster processor, it's not that slow either. The rich deep blue color which I chose is also very attractive. It's bright, clear screen and webcam are also a plus. Keypad is not as cramped as my 7" Asus and right shift key is positioned better on the Acer. Multi card reader, not just SD. Some reviewers commented on receiving a slip case with certain models which was not included with this model, but an Acer black mini mouse was in the box; a nice surprise. All in all, this netbook will definately meet the requirements for which I purchased it - mostly travel and work. Purchasing the 3-cell battery with

this model was not a concern since I am nearly always able to use the power cord, and don't like how the 6-cell protrudes from the back. What I don't like - Haven't found anything yet. P.S. I also purchased - Mobile Edge MESSU1-10 10-Inch Ultra Portable Neoprene SlipSuit (Black) - to keep off the scratches. The outside zipped pocket stores the AC cord and mini mouse.', 'Esta laptop es un caballito de batalla! es super buena! rapida y portatil.. me gusta!! el vendedor es excelente!! Saludos desde venezuela!!', "I bought this for my significant other for her birthday last year, and I have to say that the Acer Aspire One netbook was one of the best gift purchases I've ever made. It's also one of the most used. I love getting up on weekends and seeing her using the little pink netbook that could (and does) while sipping on her morning coffee. From a hardware perspective, the Aspire One is more than capable for most normal uses. The 1.6Ghz Atom CPU isn't going to win any speed contests at this point, but it is fast enough for most uses. If you just want the netbook to surf the net, edit the occasional document and check e-mail, then it's more than fast enough. You do get some stuttering when it comes to video, largely because of an underpowered graphics processing unit (in this case an Intel Graphics Media Accelerator, which doesn't do a very good job of accelerating), but with a screen of this size, video watching isn't going to be one of the better uses anyways. This model comes with a hard drive and not one of the new solid-state drives. While this sacrifices speed and durability, the extra storage space (160GB) is worth the trade-off in my opinion. That's more than enough space for a computer that's going to be used mostly as a web terminal. You won't need all that storage for movies and games (although it does actually play some older games relatively well). The build quality is also very good and all the expected features are here. The built-in WiFi has worked without a hitch, there are two card-reader slots available to you and there are three USB ports, more than enough room to expand. The screen is top-notch, despite its size, and the video quality is vibrant and colorful. The keyboard is good, although the touch pad can be finicky thanks to the right edge of it performing as a scrollwheel would. I use a wireless mouse whenever I use it for any length of time, but she gets along with the touchpad almost exclusively. I probably just have fat fingers... Basically the Acer Aspire One AOA150 is a functional and durable netbook that's been serving double duty for my significant other and myself for over a year now. It hasn't missed a beat and I'd recommend it. The pink model makes a particularly good gift for special someones...", "This replaces a Dell laptop whose age (6 yrs) was showing. I'm pleased with it. Not really any slower than the Dell, boots up much faster. It runs all my programs, including Adobe lightroom2. Battery life not long, but small size is worth it. Very small and lightweight power brick.", 'worked great and was light weight. really cute in pink and always got compliments on it. great for a child', 'This is the item with the more low price, and the hardware is very good, and pretty', 'After reading the Amazon reviews, which were largely positive, I ordered this unit for a trip to Thailand and Cambodia. I had read the one review which said "I heard good things about this item, but unfortunately the one I received did not have the operating system installed. I had to return it for a full refund". Remarkably enough, the unit I received was also missing an operating system! Amazon has taken back the unit and I'm replacing it with an ASUS Eee PC 1005HA-PU1X-BK 10.1-Inch Black Netbook (with 10 hour battery life!) From the reviews I have now read, Buying an Acer Aspire is an unpredictable and often disappointing experience. [ASIN:B001NT9UIA Acer Aspire One AOA150-1555 8.9-Inch Onyx Black Netbook - 2.5 Hour Battery Life]', "The Acer Netbook is better than advertised and a great value. It does all I want better than I'd hoped for. My only regret is that I didn't wait for the 6 cell battery version. The 3 cell lasts as long as advertised, 2 - 2 1/2 hours, but the 6 cell would have made it even more versatile.", "Love this computer and the price tag! Never would've thought to buy an Acer, but it hasn't disappointed me yet. I read reviews online and compared to the Sony mini netbook (which only rated three stars and \$900). When we got it, my husband had it up and running in less than ten minutes. So easy! Less than \$300 and works just as well as my husband's Sony regular size laptop. Speed and everything is the same except the size of course. I prefer to use the mouse that comes with it. I find it easier and the keys fit my hands perfectly. I'm a mom who doesn't need anything high tech... pay bills, email, search web, download photos and help my daughter do book reports. The battery life isn't a concern for me since the majority of time it's plugged in, but when it does travel with me I don't need a bulky bag. Fits nicely into a tote. Moms like convenience and good deals. So far I love my little pink Acer!!!", 'Ordered it for

my sister and she has loved it. Really happy with the purchase.', 'Purchased this to run Delorme mapware w/GPS in auto. Larger screen than the portable GPS (Magellan). The Delorme application w/the Acer Aspire allows me to view full route thereby being able to make sure it is not taking me on wierd roads to get to destination. Magellan does not always pick suitable routes and could cause problems in some cases if you did not have some idea of where you were or where you were heading and by the time you figure out you are not on the correct road (even tho it would eventually get you there) you might have missed the proper turn by several miles. Anyway, the Acer Aspire works great with the GSP and was a pleasent surprise overall. Reasonably fast, good graphics and bought an air card to access internet while traveling which also works great. Neat little computer', "I got this in a military store because I am constantly traveling and wanted a lighter laptop to stay in touch. Startup and shutdown are quicker than on larger laptops. I'm glad there is more than enough hard drive storage but the included battery could be larger. The 3-cell is actually perfect for the form but it only lasts about 2.5 hours of heavy use. I ordered a 6-cell to become my primary battery but the back sticks out and ruins the smooth look of the form. Some people complained about the buttons being on opposite sides of the touchpad but it hasn't made any difference to the work I do since I use a mouse, which came with the computer. The only other drawback is the screen resolution. You have to be careful about loading any games that require a greater resolution than 1024 x 600. I have several favorites that can't be loaded on this. However, Corel WordPerfect Suite X3 and Microsoft Office 2007 loaded just fine. It also comes with InterVideo WinDVD but it is only a trial edition-it used to be free-so I downloaded iTunes. There isn't much bloatware so it didn't take long for me to get rid of what I didn't want. All in all, this is a great buy for a road warrior. If you think you'll be away from a wall socket longer than 2 hours, get the model with the 6-cell battery.", "Great little powerhouse to take on trips for email, movies, use as MP3 and for business correspondence, spreadsheets and etc. When my wife takes it on trips she just puts it in her purse.Very sturdy and feels like quality. You don't have to treat it like you are holding a new born baby! Can't say this of some other netbooksPlenty of extra removable storage with SDHC memory slot (good for movies). Easy to add software and data or pictures with USB ports. Takes all current camera memory cards.This model even came with a nice little travel mouse that works great anytime.I was hesitant about the size of the keyboard due to size of my fingers but have no problem with this keyboard compared to other netbooks.Everything you need in one small package for travel or home use if you don't spend alot of time at home on spreadsheets.Includes an internal wi-fi card. I'm able to log-on to free wi-fi in most airports.The only thing that can cause a travel problem for some is the lack of a modem. Not all motels, hotels and other away from home places to stay provide high apeed internet service. Some still only have dial-up internet service. However, if you travel alot you can purchase a USB modem to carry with you."]

B001TDJ7V0

[I just bought this TV for a relative to use in their bedroom, and am relatively pleased, but might go a different route if I had it to do over again, although it's tough to find a quality TV/DVD combo.PROSPicture quality seems excellent (except for view looking up)DVD player built inSound OK for its intended use-seems to have plenty of volume for a bedroom TVStand will tilt forward 3 degrees (a little more might have been nice)StyleCONSOff angle view when looking up is TERRIBLE! I'd run into this before (once returned a 19" Toshiba and upgraded to a 26" Regza w DVD player-no longer available) for an office TV. I checked the 19, 22, and 26" versions of this TV and they ALL have the same limitation AFA viewing from below. The 26" Toshiba similar to these without the DVD player does not suffer this limitation. I knew of this going in, but couldn't find a TV/DVD combo not suffering from this-it is in a bedroom, tilted forward 3 degrees (max allowed by the stand), and the viewing angle from below is not that extreme, so it's useable. If you plan on mounting it higher than your line of sight, you better check carefully or be prepared to mount on the wall with an arm that will allow you to angle the unit downward.Companies are using different displays, usually upgrading (without the off-angle viewing limitation) @ around the 26" set size, so

do your homework! I've checked a LOT of sets in showrooms, and 'bout all small sets get the photographic negative look when you're very far below perpendicular to the set (Toshiba's 160 degree vertical viewing angle claim aside)! Channel labeling allows only 4 characters-my 26" Toshiba allows 8 characters to label channels, and this TV is missing some characters (no & for labeling a station like A&E;). You're forced to abbreviate channel ID if it's got more than 4 characters (Spike, MSNBC, Hallmark, etc). Channel/Sound buttons on the remote are in wrong location?! I have way too many TVs, DVRs, etc from various makers (including 2 older Toshiba units), and they ALL have the channel button on the right, volume button on the left-they're reversed on this unit's remote-can't tell you how many times I've hit the wrong button when trying to change volume/channels! A little standardization is in order here Toshiba! A little more forward tilt (3 degrees is the max) especially due to the poor viewing angle from below, and a swiveling stand would be nice. NO CLOCK! At Toshiba's site, I saw some specs listing clocks on the TV-what they mean is sleep timer, NOT a clock. A clock would really be nice, especially for smaller sets that are often used in bedrooms-my old Toshiba CRT had a clock, and I used it for an alarm-woke me up to The Weather Channel every morning! I'm going to give this one 3 stars-if it had the following, I'd give it 5 stars: 1. Needs the newer type display which doesn't suffer from off-angle viewing 2. More characters when labeling channels 3. A CLOCK! (Lots of folks are going to use these in bedrooms!) 4. While asking a bit much, it would be nice if they were offering Blu-ray players?'

"It was a challenge to get this TV, my first unit was stolen while en route from UPS, Amazon was very good with customer service, and ended up purchasing the second unit from an Amazon Marketplace seller who shipped FedEx. It took a week to ship, but finally received the TV about 2 weeks ago. First, I have never owned a flat screen, I replaced a 13 inch CRT with Mono sound, so my viewing experience has improved tremendously. The only reason I couldn't give the TV five stars was that the sound is weak at times, but it seems to be dependent on the TV program or DVD that you are watching. It could be louder, but as long as you aren't trying to obtain theater style sound for action films, the lack of loudness doesn't appear to be a huge issue. Picture quality is great, using the DVD player is easy, and the remote is easy as well, and there is a previous channel button now, which was a gripe that some reviewers had about Toshiba's previous model, the 505. Order with confidence!", 'I bought this TV for my kids room. The HDTV tuner is kind of weak but we play DVDs more on it. Picture is very good, but the sound is quiet. Seems like you have to turn it up to hear it.', 'Setup was so easy I didn't bother cracking the manual. Picture is great and channel-changing is much faster than on a similar Sharp I got 2 years ago for twice the price.', 'Great picture quality with even just over the air HD signal. Best design for built in DVD player due to on the side insertion.', 'Bought two flat panel HDTVs, this one and a Vizio, The Vizio is superb. This set only ranks as average or slightly below. If you have any slight hearing problem, you will not get enough sound level out of this set on a digital channel to be able to hear it clearly. Had to add Radio Shack's amplified speakers plugged into the headphone jack of the TV in order to correct this problem. The tuner is not anywhere near as sensitive as it should be. The Vizio pulled in 19 stations with the antenna, whereas this set only received 15. In a 22" set, there are not a lot of choices when you desire a built-in DVD player. This set needs to be improved.', 'I just purchased this tv/dvd player for the bedroom. The set allows me to program it to DirectV's remote (wonderful!), it has a full compliment of picture settings for my preferred viewing, (no red people) and the manual is easy to understand. However, the sound is very poor. I have it up as far as it will adjust to and it still can't be heard well from more than 6 feet. I may have to return it to the store. However, this seems to be a problem with most small LCD TV's. I haven't tried a DVD yet, but expect the sound to be even more of a problem because most DVD's have to be amplified even higher than the TV sounds. I had purchased a 22" Curtis with a DVD player and it was a mess. I could not adjust the color or the tint, the manual only told the steps in the menus, but not what each was for and the picture quality was only fair. I could not program it to the DirectV remote at all. Their customer service said it was not possible. However, the sound was great! I guess you can't have it all.', 'The picture and features are great. Although I don't have much need for the built-in DVD player, it was only \$20 more than the model without the DVD. As noted by other reviews, the volume level can be a bit low, especially for larger rooms.', 'This is a very nice small HDTV. It is the 22" version of Toshiba's latest (2009)

revamp of their 19, 22 and 26" LCD HDTV DVD combo line up. I bought it to fit in our boat during the summer months and take home for a bedroom in the winter. It needed to be surface mounted in the boat and on its stand in the winter. I highly recommend this TV as the best in class for this size and DVD combo configuration. A couple factors cause me to nudge my rating back from 5-stars: The complications encountered in getting a truly flush mount, and I prefer the image fidelity of a plasma display over the harsh contrasty rendition of any LCD. Some observations both pro and con for those interested in this TV: Pros: Appearance: An attractive gloss black frame with minimal frame width around the display surface. Remote: well designed with a familiar layout and comfortable ergonomics. Power: Very low power consumption 61W. This means less heat and an ability to run the TV from a small 120 Watt inverter from the boat's DC battery bank. Aspect ratio: a true 16:9 aspect ratio - correct for HDTV that has finally begun to predominate. Sound: I found the sound quality and volume perfectly adequate for the size of the TV. It will not compete with my 50" Panasonic plasma, but its speaker size shouldn't be expected to for 1/7 the price and 1/4 the size. Tuner: Channel changing is as quick as most tuners. Set-Up: very good "auto tune" set-up station finding. DVD - has scene marking function & full range disk control functionalities. Cons: Audio a noticeable dropout "hiccup" on channel change. Viewing angles degrade much sooner than the spec 160 - 170 degrees, particularly the vertical. Image: "screen door" image quality appearance characteristic of LCD display at close viewing distances. 75 Ohm connection: orientation and lack of recess prohibits a flush mount without an "L" converter. Image resizing lacks sophisticated versions e.g. "justify". Superfluous: the logo light "feature". Don't be put off by the "cons". This is a great TV and after doing weeks of comparisons I am convinced that it is the best of the class. I admit my preference for plasma, but in this size there simply is no such thing.', "This has proved to have been an excellent purchase. It has been close to 5 years since I obtained this TV. It has performed superbly. Regrettably, within the last few months the DVD player has begun to fail. It often doesn't recognize a disc that is inserted. However, when it does recognize the disc, it still works flawlessly. I am not surprised that the player is beginning to go, as I have used it extensively. I have a huge collection of opera DVD's, which I am always playing. The failure of the player at this point after that extensive use would be quite expected. Most importantly, the TV itself works as well today as on the first day that I hooked it up. I couldn't be happier with the performance of this purchase."]

B003JO555Y

["I needed to make some long runs and was concerned that the signal quality would suffer. Not with these. I hooked one of these cables up to a BluRay that I have on a shelf about 20 feet away from the TV. I hooked the other cable to the DirecTV box, which because it is RF, I could hide behind a wall. The cable diameter is quite thick. I don't know if that adds extra protection or just makes them look sturdier. I hid these cables inside a wall so whether the thickness makes them better or not, I feel that they are well protected. They were \$18 bucks each and transmit a strong and clear signal from both devices.", 'I purchased this 20FT HDMI Cable to run through my attic and connect my Ceiling Mounted Projection TV to my Home Theater Receiver. High Quality HDMI Cable. Nice Shipping method. The product could not be better. Exactly What I Needed.', "In spite of its length, I haven't experienced any signal loss related problems. Great quality product at an affordable price, buy this cable!", 'This one is pretty cut and dry. Great HDMI cable! Needed the longer length to connect a device to the TV. Works well and very reasonably priced. Very happy with it!', "A little slow in delivery (I had to make multiple inquiries) But when it finally arrived it was equal to or better than the one I bought at Fry's (for \$50.00, while I was waiting for this vender to get his act together.) I hope I can return the one I bought from Fry's. All in all a good product. Works well with my HDMI splitter to supply video to a remote TV. I just wish the vendor would fill his orders faster. Waiting 4 weeks (and multiple inquiries, with no reply, later) I finally received the cable.", "I picked up the Menotek HDMI cable so that I could connect my desktop PC to my TV without having to pick up and lug the desktop to my TV. The Menotek performed beautifully. As expected, the video quality was excellent. I didn't install it in-wall, but just ran it from the desktop to TV for the relatively short time I

needed it. I was also very happy with the price point since I wasn't going to use this item long term, but rather sporadically. I didn't experience any negatives with the Menotek and highly recommend it.", "I read the reviews because this is my first 1.4 HDMI cable and found out that this is just what I needed. It looks good and is as advertised it is a great cable, but when I plugged it into my 3D Blu-ray(BDP-S790) player and Vizio (M651d-A2R)TV it didn't work on any HDMI connection, but I found out that I had to set up my Blu-ray and TV to talk back and forth (handshake) before it would work and it did after a couple of tries. Also it is fire rated for in-wall installation! I'm very happy now and prefer the 1.4 to the older versions. I would recommend this cable to anyone planning to upgrade components down the road.", 'I wanted an extra long HDMI cable to connect my laptop to our large screen TV. This works just great for that purpose. I leave it plugged into the back of the TV & coiled nearby, so all I have to do is hook in my laptop.', "Work perfect to connect my second HDTV. Connect from HDTrinity 2 Port HDMI 1.3b 1X2 Splitter/Distribution Amplifier. Run was 20' from my dish satellite receiver.", 'Used to extend a myth TV box connection so the box could be in a closet and not hear the fan.', "No issues. After all, they're cables, right? They either work or don't, but they're a GREAT value when on sale."]

B003M8U28W

['Very good wireless mouse. The transmitter is small and the mouse is in fact a mini mouse. Love it! In fact this mouse by Inland is so good (stock # 07441) that this is my second one.', "Instructions included for when the mouse locks up, which is such a frequent occurrence that they felt the need to include that in the instructions. I got what I paid for - a cheap mouse that is constantly causing problems. I'll spend a little more next time and get something that works.", "the mouse don't have any compartment to hide the use. It is very easy to lose the small usb. I have seen other wireless mouse where you can click the usb back to the mouse if you don't use it.", "I just got my mouse. It took longer to open the package than it did to install it. The little mouse works perfectly and I love that it shuts itself off when it goes idle. I did have to slow down the mouse operation in my computer because this mouse is super sensitive, but that's no big deal. I have it set at about 1/4 speed and it's perfect. One reviewer didn't like the scroll feature but mine is perfect. I recommend this product.", 'Overall the mouse works fine. I do not use it daily. The only problem I have with it is that sometimes when trying to double click it does not work.', 'The mouse was great for the first week. It was sensitive enough and comfortable to use. After a week of normal to light use, the top of the wireless receiver came off. I just put tape over it and continued using it. Finally, after about 6 months of using it, the scroll wheel sunk into the mouse. It was good while it lasted, but is terrible quality.', 'Nothing groundbreaking about this product. It is a mouse, it does what a mouse is supposed to do. But a nice feature is it "goes to sleep" after a while until you click a button to turn it back on, saving the battery life. I ordered two different wireless mice around the same time, this one and a Logitech. I think it is fair to say I use them equally and have replaced the Logitech battery twice and have yet to replace the battery this mouse came with. Not a huge deal but nice. One FYI. You need a mousepad or some kind of non-slick surface to use this on. I have used other optical mice that can be used on any surface, including glass. This device does not respond on a table that has a smooth surface without a mousepad. Not a big deal at all. Just an FYI', "I had to wait until the batteries died before writing this review. I bought this mouse in October, 2012. Today is January 12, 2013 and I just replaced the batteries. I'm using this on an Acer netbook and have had no problems... except for occasionally misplacing the mouse. The only thing that would give this higher than 5 stars is to have a mouse locator button on the transmitter.... if there is such a thing.", 'Bought this wireless mouse because the reviews seemed pretty good - I think in order for a review to have any credibility at all, there should be a MINIMUM use of 6 months; anything can work GREAT for a few weeks ... having it last long term is the important thing. This mouse lasted FIVE WEEKS, and then STOPPED WORKING ... short and simple! I wrote a review for it last week, but Amazon rejected it because I was critical of the company I bought it from, and their lack of warranty past 30 days - Amazon, in fairness though, refunded the purchase price -', "Sometimes you get what you pay for

and this was the case with this mouse. I didn't pick mine up from Amazon, but got the same one from Microcenter locally. The scroll wheel is garbage as it doesn't do what you would expect it to do. You know... actually SCROLL up and down a page. Sigh. I threw away the packaging with this one since it was cheap and I figured it would work fine. I was wrong. I'm back with a corded mouse again and looks like I'll be doing a little more homework before purchasing a small wireless mouse next time! In the end, the scrolling wheel was the deal-breaker for me. That's not to say there aren't some pros to this mouse. It's small, but not uncomfortably small and perhaps the best and most obvious pro of all - it's wireless and saves you the hassle of having cords everywhere. None of that is any good though if you prefer to scroll up and down a page instead of clicking and dragging the browser bar back and forth. Save your money. Get another wireless mouse.-Travis", 'I Was very very happy with this product. I dont know what more i can I say about it now?']

B003YBUSMW

["My love of racing games and the upcoming release of Forza 4 made me decided to pick up an XBOX 360 since it may be a long time before the next version of Gran Turismo comes out. I'm not hardcore enough where I need a cockpit or hyper expensive wheel. I use a Logitech Playstation 3 Driving Force Wireless Force Feedback Wheel that sits in your lap and wanted to find the same for my new XBOX. Now MadCatz puts out some pretty poorly reviewed cheap accessories. But I went with the good reviews here and on the forum at GT Planet (which surprisingly has a Forza section). The wheel is well made. I believe its plastic over steel, so it feels very sturdy, much more than my Logitech wheel. Although it doesn't have force feedback, which I thought I would miss, there is enough tension on the wheel that I really don't miss it. For \$100 more, MadCatz will have a force feedback version out around when Forza 4 is released in October. The only issue I have is that it sometimes needs to be resynched with the console. That may be because we have more than 1 XBOX in the house. Anyway, I like it so much, I am buying Xbox versions of my racing games I have on PS3, GRID, Need For Speed, Shift 2 - Unleashed to go with Xbox exclusives NEW Forza 3 Ultimate X360 (Videogame Software) Test Drive Unlimited 2 and Project Gotham Racing 4. Pros: Realistic feeling steering wheel, sturdy, includes pedals, includes clamp for connecting to a table, long battery life. Cons: The wheel, since it ships with pedals (which I don't use) maps the paddles as buttons. This means if you use the paddles as pedals, you can't do that for some games like Test Drive Unlimited since it doesn't allow customization of the buttons. Sometimes won't link up with the console. Price is a little high. The lap pads are a little sharp on the corners. Neutral. No force feedback (that would have been a negative but after using this wheel, it's not as big a deal as I thought it would be)", 'It is a great racing wheel. Well build and aesthetically pleasing. Very responsive and well worth the money. At this price range there are not a lot of options so this this wheel has no competition.', 'This wireless racing wheel for the Xbox 360 is lots of fun. It provides great control and responsiveness. It worked with multiple games. It is well worth the investment!', 'May 2012 Update: Having logged hundreds of hours on this wheel, I have to express disappointment in the flimsy plastic pedals. Both are broken now in the corners where it hits the bottom stop. I stomped on them too hard when I hadn't yet learned to finesse the gas and braking. However, it should be sturdy enough for a novice like me, especially in view of the fact that I was not wearing shoes. Fortunately, the pedals still hang on and work. Pros: Accurate Steering/Solid Feel Steering Wheel/Good Response from Pedal Travel. Cons: Flimsy pedals/No Force Feedback. I am reducing the rating from 4 to 3. Does anyone know of a decent wheel and pedal set out there for Xbox 360? Is there anything in the works? Original Review: I have used this now for about three months. Everything works as advertised. Steering wheel is sturdy and the pedals are reasonable (more on that later). Used it with Forza 3 and 4 mostly. It is a definite improvement from using the controller. The Wheel: It has table clamps and a lap rest. I use the latter because the coffee table I have is too low for the table mount. Surprisingly, once I get used to it, the lap rest works fine. It's a good size, heavy enough to stay put, and not so heavy that it bothers me. Steering is accurate and I learned to finesse it so that I can stay on the racing lines accurately (when I do it well), something

that I just could not do with the controller. It centers nicely so that during long straights, the car tracks true with no steering input at 200 mph. The paddle shifters work well, responding quickly. I have not tried the stick shifter. The Pedals There are only two; so clutching is impossible. Besides, the gas and brake pedals are not positioned well for heel-toe; it wouldn't work for the diehard fan anyway. Other than that, the long travel is great, especially for the go pedal. After getting used to it, I can manage those long curves and make fine adjustments to achieve optimal speed, passing the AI opponents even on "hard" setting. The brake pedal also works fine, except I must have broken something when I stomped on it too hard. It now feels loose at the bottom of the travel. It still works well but feels a bit insecure at the bottom stop. I guess it should be more sturdy to withstand abuse. Overall, the only con I can think of is no feedback. It does not affect driving accuracy but I heard that the best feedback wheels tell you when the front wheels are nearing its limit. Without feedback, the only way I know whether I'm too fast in a corner is visually. It'd be great if I can *feel* the front starting to lose traction before I *see* it. But then this is academic because the acclaimed Logitech wheel and pedal set does not work with Xbox 360 -- sigh ... I searched high and low and found no other comparable product available for new. What has happened to Xbox 360 accessory suppliers?', "Easy to set up, easy to use. It isn't built very sturdily though. The A button started giving some issues (getting stuck in the down position) after 2 months of use. I guess it isn't really built to take a beating.", 'There is a permanent deadzone in the middle of the wheel. You have to over turn left or right and it just never feels right. It is built good but that deadzone killed it for me. I loved the older wired model with the cheap parts. I had one for 4 years, most of the buttons were broke but it still worked and most race games were configurable. This steering wheel is made sturdy but had horrible feel to it on screen.', 'I was looking for a replacement for my steering wheel that was blown off during my 196 mph collision with an ice cream truck (I was distracted by all of the chickens locked in the coup in the back seat) and this is a much cheaper option than the real wheel the mechanic tried to install. Interesting note, with the right wiring the Xbox buttons can work your radio and bluetooth connection.', 'This has to be the best, most realistic racing accessory available, which is what makes it awesome. However, it really took some time to master the steering wheel, much less the pedal. I think this might have more to do with the actual game which needed adjusting to work with the racing wheel system. The system gets more and more fun as you get more capable using it. All in all, I recommend it if you are a racing game enthusiast.', '*I have made some changes and updates to my review*Pros:Quality-The wheel feels good but the rest comes off as toyish. There is some weight on the wheel that makes it feel solid and sturdy.Wireless-Only one wire to the pedals. Easy to put up and put away. There is a 5v 1 amp jack for an AC adapter. The description says that it is included but it is NOT. The batteries do have an okay life IF you don't use it all the time.Steering-Although no vibration or force feedback, it still feels better than any other wheel with no force feedback. I prefer this over certain games like arcade racers or for drifting. By the way, always dial-in the dead-zone if you can. Racers like Forza or Shift (especially) needs some adjustments.Design-The wheel looks sharp. Madcatz has come a long way compared to their other wheels. One of the better looking wheels in my opinion. The pedals are toy looking and feel cheap and bulky though. They should have put more effort into them. Waste of plastic. They do work fine though.Table/desk clamp-Very important to have. Should be mandatory for all wheels. The clamp mounts the wheel very solidly. World's better than sitting it on your lap. For the best experience you don't put a wheel on your lap. Get a cheap desk, table, chair, etc. Better yet, build or buy a cockpit if you can. One obstacle would possibly be the center clamp. It only clamps in the middle and hangs down between your legs. This design can get in the way of your legs and cockpits that are designed with a center post wheel mounting plate. It will not work or you will need to fabricate something. A good design would be something like Logitech. There are two clamps on each side and is low profile and can be mounted on any cockpit out there.Shifting options-Paddles feels good and it is nice to have an option for left or right handed shifting. Great to simulate any car you're driving. It is responsive. There is no 'click' sound when shifting and that is what people will usually prefer.Mounting holes-It is there if you want to hard mount it. No need to drill into the equipment. The odd thing is the screws will be at an angle and not level when mounting to the wheel. You would actually be using the mounts that are made for the lap mounts. It will still get the job done. Just don't

over tighten. There are four screw mounting locations to the wheel and four to the pedals. The pedal mounts are on the removable foot rest itself. That definitely will not give you a solid mount. Hard mounting would require to drill the pedal base and add a nut inside the pedals and then bolt it up.

Cons: No force or vibration feedback - Makes the racing experience numb. I own a Microsoft force feedback wheel, Logitech Driving Force GT, and tried a Fanatec CSR Elite. It is kind of hard to go back to a wheel with no feedback whatsoever. In some games I do prefer without force feedback. This is something that I don't really have a problem living with. At least a vibration would be nice. But it is still better than a controller for most racers. A good sound system or headphone could compensate it a bit. A tactile transducer would even be better too.

Pedals - It would be great if the gas and brake was just a bit closer. I am a size nine and have already adapted. When they sit on a flat surface the angle is almost horizontal. For a good position they need to be at an angle. It wouldn't take too much effort to address those issues. Everything on the pedals is cheap. So much plastic and the feel is generic. They don't even look nice. It is a waste and looks like it came from their parts bin made for a different product. It is cheesy and goofy. As I said before, they do work fine.

edit I have switched the pedals out to an old Thrustmaster Nascar pedals. All you do is just swap out the wires and solder them to the pots the same way like it was in Madcatz pedals. The travel is exactly the same. They feel and look better. Huge improvement for me. The old ones were just an eyesore.

No click when shifting - A little click would be good to have when changing gears. It can also come off as a bit mushy since it makes no sound at all. But so far the gear changing has caused no problems and never had skipped a shift. Maybe the only good thing is no one around you would be bothered by the constant clicking sound. I do believe that they went with this route was because of using cheaper switches.

Cost - This should be \$115 tops. I paid \$130 when they were first released here. Now these are going for \$160? That is ridiculous. If you want force feedback then pick up a used MS wheel \$50-100. Or save money for a low-end Fanatec (new or used). If you don't care about the lack of force or vibration then this wheel would probably be the best. Usually wheels that offer no feedback or vibration are also very poorly built.

Reliability - Had it for almost a year and then the D-pad crapped out. Keep your receipts! I feel that the wheel they replaced it with could possibly be more reliable from the one first one I bought. The pedal attachment foot rest is different. It has a plastic lip (flange?) in the opening. The color looks slightly different. The wheel was purchased shortly after the release the states. Hopefully my replacement wheel is improved over the 1 batches they made.

No power supply adapter included - They need to change their description! It will save you money on batteries for the long run if you use it all the time.

I can only recommend the wheel if you don't mind the lack of vibration or force feedback. My wheel and pedals is now properly mounted to a cockpit and I can tell you that it is sweet. It makes it that much better. Before it was mounted to a desk. But the price too high in my opinion. You can purchase second hand but then you will have to gamble it's reliability. Buying new at least you have 2 years.

*Customer support can use some work! Do not try to rely on their emails. Once you do not get a reply after filling out the form, you MUST call them or go on chat. Fortunately I did not have to wait long for the phone call and chat.

"This was actually a lot bigger and nicer than I expected it to be. It seems really sturdy so I'm hopeful that it will last for years. It's a little bit bulky, but once you have everything all set up and working, it's good. I think it's a fun addition to the xbox 360 and really adds a new dimension to the games.", "I am returning this Steering Wheel for a full refund. It is unusable for any racing game and I have the latest version of Forza (among quite a few others). The problem is that this Mad Catz Steering Wheel has a large deadband before the XBOX360 responds to the steering wheel. That means that you have to turn the wheel almost 1/4 turn in either direction before the car (in the game) will respond. That makes it completely useless for any racing game. I compared it to the Microsoft wireless controller and the Microsoft does not have the problem (with the joystick). I wrote a service ticket at Mad Catz. A week later I still had no response at all. I contacted Mad Catz and they didn't seem to care. I described the problem and their answer was that I should send it back at my expense. Then they will determine if there is a problem and if not then it will cost me to get it shipped back. I think that whomever I talked to wasn't even sure what I was talking about. I'm not paying to ship a defective product back. At least Amazon will let me ship a defective product back and pay for the shipping. And since I am not willing to risk getting another one with same problem, I'm going for the

full refund.", "I am blown away with how awesome this racing wheel is. I've used a couple of different racing wheels for plain X-box, Playstation, and Wii. I decided it was time to get one for the X-box 360. This is by far the nicest racing wheel I've ever seen. It's very sturdy and just feels great to use. It does not have feedback, but I hate feedback in any gaming device and always try to turn them off, so that is a plus for me. The pedals are spring-loaded and have a very realistic feel. The wheel itself has the substantial feel I wanted. There are so many buttons and options. It feels fancy and nice. The only part I'm not too fond of is the gear shift. It seems too simple and a little off compared to the rest of the wheel. Still this is so much fun, and I would definitely recommend it.", "The wheel feels great and the pedals work great on carpet even. The problem is the steering. I started out with Nascar and when you are going straight the car just veers left. I thought it was the game and setup so I put in Forza Horizon and it was even worse! It's like your driving on ice! Very laggy control to say the least. When you turn the wheel there is some delay and small steering corrections make huge impact which is realistic but its when you recover from a turn it over turns.", "I haven't had the chance to use it much but what I've played so far it works pretty well. I know if I had more time to play with it I could fine tune the steering better as it has a bit of understeer right now. The pedals work pretty well but the chair (recliner) I sit in makes it a bit uncomfortable to use. I found that the paddle shifting worked very well and I would prefer using that to the included shifter. Overall I think most people would enjoy this wheel but can see advantages to having it mounted on a table versus on the lap. I've actually gotten pretty good at using the original controller for steering but now that I've bought this I will use it at times. Maybe when my grand kids come over and we race head to head.", 'I highly recommend this wireless racing wheel to anyone into automobile racing games. I use this racing wheel with my Xbox 360.']

B004R6G3W2

[Overall I am happy with this iView 103DV DVD player. It has component and composite out but no HDMI. The unit works very well and reads all burned discs I have tried in it. It will play AVI files from USB (FAT32 only) but the AVI must be certain codec. Not a big deal as about half of mine seem to be the right codec. The remote is not very intuitive and the layout is different from any I have ever seen before. I have to read the button before pressing. The unusualness aside, I would buy it again.', "Was hesitant to order this DVD player due to the low price and some of the lower-starred reviews. Figured for \$23.xx and shipped 2-days via Prime was worth the risk.Item arrived well packed, received in 2-days.DVD player came in new condition, wrapped in plastic and held in the box by styrofoam on the sides. Box contains dvd player, remote, cables (red/yellow/white). The power cord is attached to the DVD player and the remote requires 2 AAA batteries (not included).Set up took less than a minute, powered on player and put in the PAL DVD. No problems whatsoever.The DVD player also has slots for a USB flash drive and a 3-in-1 card reader, don't need these functions so can't confirm whether or not it works.Remote is cheap, but all the buttons I used to turn on the player, fast forward and what not work. For less than \$25 shipped and avoiding the hassle of going to a big box store, no complaints with this region free DVD player.", "I haven't really used this product to its full potential. I tested it and it performed to my satisfaction. When I do some serious dvd viewing I'll add comments.", 'Got it on March 4, 2012. Exactly four months later, on July 4, 2012, it bought the farm.Initially it seemed like a cute little device -- it's really small, and it can handle PAL DVDs, any regions -- which is important for me \cause I have quite a few PAL DVDs. It is also cheap, so I thought, hell, it's a noname, but the amount at risk is small, so let's try. (I didn't get it from amazon, unfortunately; I got it from an online outfit called 22-electronics; they did a good job shipping, but overall it came out a bit more expensive than here; not dramatically though: it's cheap either way).At first, it worked fine: though the picture quality was not very high, it was acceptable (and tweakable to improve a bit); indeed, it read absolutely any DVD I ever tried, NTSC or PAL. The only problem it had from the very beginning was that on PAL disks it would occasionally skip a second; I thought it was disks, but no, if I backed up over the skip and played it again, it usually went fine, so it's something with the player, like it ran out of buffer space or something. It

was a very tiny problem that happened very rarely, so I didn't bother about it. Also, the player wasn't always responsive to the remote -- sometimes it was quick, but some other times very sluggish, to the point I wasn't sure if the command registered (which makes you click again, and then they all come through and you advance three times instead of once). The remote itself is small and with a convenient kidney-like shape and a good button layout: easy to hit most common buttons while holding the thing naturally. Otoh, buttons are small and sometimes do not register presses, so you have to keep trying; I noticed sometimes pressing a button with a nail does the job. But on July 4 of the same year, exactly four months (to the day) since I got it in my hands, it decided to declare independence from me and told me it had "no disk" in it -- with the same disk it just played w/o any problems still inside (the only thing I did was to cycle the power off and then back on again). I then tried many disks (all of them played earlier), and every time it tried to load them, and then stopped and said "no disk". I read the manual, who recommends to check the disks for damage (not the case here), and then to unplug it for an hour or so 'cause it may be overheated. Unplugged it overnight, but it didn't do anything -- still "no disk". So that's that. Four months. Not a great monetary loss (like I said, I knew I was buying an unknown with a totally inadequate warranty). Btw, speaking of warranty: 90 days labour, and a year parts; you're supposed to ship it back at your expense and include a twenty to cover this and that. You can see that you can buy a new one for the same amount. Should you buy it? My opinion is you should not; but if you need something urgently, it'll do OK as long as it works, just don't expect any longevity. In my case it's like I rented a player for seven-fifty a month... To compare, I had an older player, four times the size that gave a far better picture and had a slightly more functional (and HUGE) remote -- it lasted about eight years and then fairly quickly deteriorated and died. It was also a no-name, but it was made in the US; amazingly, although not sold as such, it played PAL. So this iView piece here isn't good, imo: four-month lifetime is a bit too short, even for a cheap gizmo, so that's the first and last iView product that I bought. I just went to Sears and for the same amount (but no shipping) bought a tiny Sony player, which pleased me greatly with its responsiveness and incredible good picture. It will keep my Netflix queue moving swimmingly, but it doesn't play PAL, so I'm still on the market for that. 'It's a DVD player. Plays movies fine, but we have a few annoyances with it. Still, for the price we'd buy it again. The buttons on the player are basically unusable because they are so hard to push. You have to hold it down with one hand to be able to push one of the buttons but even then the front feet are so far back it tends to tip the DVD player forward and dump whatever is stacked on it. It takes longer to load than would be convenient, but it seems comparable with other cheap DVD players. When you turn it off the word "OFF" stays lit up on the display. I'd really rather it just turn off the display. Then when it is off none of the buttons work. EDIT September 7th 2013: It's still working, but it has started to turn on the captions at random and the video de-syncs with the audio on occasion. Usually stopping the movie and starting again fixes it, but these are just more inconveniences of it's cheap quality. EDIT February 2014: It frequently starts to act like the DVD is scratched except it's not. We've cleaned it and it doesn't help. Quite obviously this DVD player is very low quality. I'd say it's not worth more than \$10 or \$15. EDIT March 2014: We finally gave up on it. It frequently skips while playing perfectly good movies, often it stops and says DVD unreadable. It turns on closed captions at random. The sound and video often get out of sync. Cleaning it doesn't help. It barely lasted a year!', 'Installed it in our camp trailer. It works well. Nice size. I like the memory card reader so I can easily view my digital pictures on screen.', 'We needed a cheap DVD player for our kids TV. The sony we had wouldn't play certain foreign kids shows. We gave this a shot and it has played every DVD we've thrown at it. Cheap and it works, what else can I say. Hope it lasts a long time.', 'Still working well, after a year. Only downside is that from day one it shows a flashing, tiny white dot one upper middle of screen, during play and stand by. Works well with all regions of dvd's I play.', 'The DVD player I had before this was so loud it was terribly annoying. This product is quiet, has no bright lights (it's for the bedroom) and is very compact. It fits on top of my dresser which is nice. Nice cheap DVD player.', 'Great DVD player. has a slot to place my 'sd' cards in. No need to 'burn a cd' to watch something that I downloaded on my laptop. Plus it plays regular and 'burned' dvd!!', 'I needed a DVD player that would read burnt disks and play videos from the USB. It works great for these needs, however, it only reads FAT32 USB's and only

plays video files that are in avi format. Also this DVD player has no HDMI output but I didn't need one anyways.", "many features, for very little money. It works well for what it is, the construction is a little cheap and the remote is made for a child's hands (in setup menu my fat fingers accidentally selected PAL output, and fixing that was not the easiest thing to do) but for \$30 you cannot really expect much better. on edit: About a week later, definitely have to give it a 1 star review. While having a place to plug in SD and USB, not having any functionality other than a place to rest said items is lacking. Unfortunately it also seems to think 1 out of 3 discs that play fine on other dvd players is bad, is very annoying (for now i rip and burn to new DVD then they play fine), but not worth the hassle. Especially since the media player itself does not support half the formats it claims."]

B0050W1Z3E

[Very impressive performance for such a bargain CPU. I paired it with a Geforce GTX 260 I had out of an older rig and it makes for a fantastic HTPC. I can even play Half Life 2 and World of Warcraft at high settings on my 55" Sony at 1080p, now that was an unexpected bonus. For real world applications this will handle anything in a productivity suite. With 4gb ram I have been able to have around 6 browser tabs open, iTunes and anything from MS Office 2010 going at the same time with no halts. Adobe CS5 also runs great too. The only con I can think of is that it doesn't have hyper threading and has a locked multiplier, but this isn't a performance/gaming cpu and that is what I expected. What I didn't expect is to get as much performance as this has for the price. I can't comment on the built in Intel graphics, because I use a discrete GPU, but anyone that has used integrated graphics knows about that, although things are beginning to change. The price and performance of this processor are simply amazing, it is definitely up to productivity multitasking, HD/Blu-Ray playback, and moderate gaming. Here is a short comparison with the exact same graphics card and similar components of my old rig based off a Core 2 Duo E6600 overclocked from 2.4ghz to 3.1ghz. Pentium G620 2.6ghz vs Core 2 Duo E6600@3.1ghz on 3D Mark Vantage (preset = performance) Motherboard: ASUSTeK Computer INC. P8P67-M PRO -- EVGA NFORCE 680i LT SLI Graphics Card: NVIDIA GeForce GTX 260 -- NVIDIA GeForce GTX 260 Processor clock: 2600 MHz -- 3100 MHz Memory: 4096 MB Kingston 9 @ 667 MHz -- 4096 MB Corsair 7 @ 400 MHz 3D Mark Vantage Score: 8186.34 -- 8205.65 CPU Score: 6192.24 -- 5151.86 Graphics Score: 9170.77 -- 10226.2 Operating system 64-bit Windows 7 No tweaking or changes were made to any components of the hardware I've used aside from the obviously stated OC on the E6600. I find it very interesting how the cpu score can differ so much and yet the higher scoring cpu, gets a lower overall score. I hope this gives an idea of the ability/ limitation of the Pentium G620 and the contrast of older and newer hardware. Although in different classes, my goal was to show how budget today is on par of more expensive performance of 4 years ago.', "This processor rocks. Sure it isn't an I3 or I5, but I work with 15 or so ie windows, 5 to 10 documents open in word, several pdf's 3 or 4 excel workbooks, while doing remote tech support, using my contact manager, our app specific software, Outlook and thunderbird, all running on 2 monitors, using the built in graphics. The scenario I just described is all day, day in and day out, on 4 gigs of ram and win7 pro... all of this while converting docs into pdf. What more could I ask for? I paired one with a video card for a gamer, sold one recently for autocad use. I have at least 50 of these out working hard everyday with zero problems, oh did I mention my vm's? Great processor, low price. I am happy!", "I bought this processor to put into a HTPC I was building. I had read that HTPC's don't need much power, but I was still skeptical of buying this Pentium as opposed to the more powerful Core i3-2100. As it turns out I had nothing to worry about. I paired this Processor with the most inexpensive Motherboard I could find with built in HDMI out and the system has been running strong with no issues. The complete system build: CPU: Pentium G620 Motherboard: ASRock H61M-GERAM: G.SKILL Ripjaws X Series 8GB (2 x 4GB) Case: SilverStone Aluminum/Steel Micro ATX Media Center/HTPC Case ML03B (Black) HDD: 2x 500GB HDDs pulled from an old system PSU: Thermaltake Silent Purepower 480W (from old system) TV Tuner: Ceton InfiniTV 4 Digital Cable Quad-tuner Card PCIe With this build I am able to view Live HD TV while recording 3 HD channels in the background, or play 720p mkv files from my

HDD. This processor has built in graphics so I didn't even need a graphics card. If you are thinking of building a HTPC than look no further than this processor, my only gripe is that I found it on sale for less at a brick and mortar store a couple days after I bought it...Oh well.", "I bought this CPU to make a low-power, inexpensive media PC for my bedroom to replace the Comcast DVRs I returned. I am not at all disappointed. So far, I cannot tell the difference in picture quality or performance against the more expensive i3-2100 CPU that's in my main living room HTPC. It's definitely better than the AMD Phenom II x3 705e / HD5670 HTPC system I used to have. Like it's i3-2100 cousin, there is far less color banding, panning is better and the picture is overall just better. That AMD CPU and graphics card were over \$200 at the beginning of 2010! With this CPU, I am able to watch HD video, HD TV and everything else I need to do with my media PC without issue. It runs super-cool and the included fan and heatsink are not audible from across the bedroom. While watching HD video and TV it uses between 40W-50W. It idles under 30W. My old HTPC used 180W-200W and idled around 95W. I continue to be amazed by the performance, power usage and features you get and this price point for an Intel CPU. The build: Intel Pentium G620 CPU ASUS P8H61-I mini-itx motherboard Rosewill RS-MI-01 BK mini-ITX case with 120W picoPSU replacing the stock PSU Kingston V100 64GB SSD Western Digital 320GB Caviar Blue HDD Happauge WinTV 1250 tuner card Rosewill USB wireless-N Logitech K400 wireless keyboard 120mm Antec Tri-Cool case fan Custom PSU backplate cover with mount for picoPSU jack BTW: the title of this product page is incorrect. This is an LGA 1155 CPU, not LGA 1156.", "To me this seemed to be a really good value. More than sufficient unless you're a hard core gamer. Only 65W.", "I bought this chip for an HTPC for my wife for our bedroom. Coupled with a nice shuttle H67 case, Crucial M4 SSD, 4gb of ram, HD6450 and Win7, it has been great for her. It runs XBMC with no problems. I'm sure with the Integrated intel HD video it could run just fine, but I think things always run smoother with a discrete video card no matter what, and for \$30 extra with 1gb of dedicated high speed video ram, no complaints here. I have other sandy bridge chips in the house (2105, 2400 and 2700k) and this can do most of what they can in day to day action. If it is browsing, watching movies and regular activities, this chip will do it easily. I am still amazed at what certain price points will get you these days.", "I chose this for a recent HTPC build over a Sandy Bridge i5 after reading a few reviews (including these on Amazon) described it as more than capable of handling 1080p video. I'm glad I made that choice. It's effortlessly handled just about every piece of video I've thrown at it so far (except that one clip from Planet Earth with the thousands of birds over a lake...), and it does an equally admirable job on Windows 7, XBMC (Alaska MQ skin) and my GameEx emulators. My TV doesn't do 3D, so I haven't tested it there, but the reviews I've read made it clear that it doesn't handle 3D content. Keep that in mind. Also keep in mind that the stock fan can get a bit noisy. It's not generally an issue for me, as it's the Alaska skin, rather than the movies, that taxes the CPU to that degree. It's a solid choice if you're just getting into the HTPC scene. edit: For reference, my full build also includes a ASRock H67 Mini-ITX Motherboard and a Corsair XMS3 4 GBRAM kit.", "I just got the new comp running today and installed all the drivers good CPU so far. Thanks Amazon and Tigerdirect. I'm happy I choose you both great deal.", "Not much to say. It is a suitable CPU for a basic system if you're looking for dual core setup. This has done the job for my gaming system. Granted though being put to work with a GTX 460 in SLI, it is easily a bottleneck, but it's a good soldier.", "I bought a G620 as an essentially disposable placeholder until Ivy Bridge arrives. It's being used with a Biostar z68 motherboard, 2x4GB of GSkill DDR3 2133 memory, and two Crucial SSDs in RAID0. The current price on Amazon is about as good as it gets. Auction sites advertise the G620 for eight dollars less, but that's for the OEM version that doesn't come with a three year warranty or a stock heatsink/fan. And "no," you don't have to throw the stock cooler away. I realize that some reviewers just can't live with a CPU cooler that isn't large enough and complex enough to double as the warp coil on the Starship Enterprise. Regardless, the boxed Intel cooler is both quiet and efficient. Temps are around 95 degrees F (35 C) at idle and never exceed 128 F (53 C) at full tilt. Full speed on the stock fan is just under 2,000 RPM, but the Biostar motherboard chooses to run the fan at roughly 1,250 RPM at idle and 1,500 RPM at 100% utilization. The low temperatures and slow fan speeds are directly attributable to the energy efficiency of the G620. My UPS measures the amount of power drawn from the wall socket. As best as I can judge, the G620 draws

15 watts at idle and 40 watts at 100%. The 65 watt spec is unrealistically pessimistic. Intel's specs state that the G620 is limited to running memory at DDR3 1066. However, the Biostar motherboard has the GSkill memory running at DDR3 1600 without any input from me. It's unlikely that this actually translates into a significant performance increase, but it was a pleasant surprise. The G620's CPU multiplier of 26 is locked upwards but unlocked downwards. The Biostar motherboard automatically reduces the multiplier to 16 at low utilization. This contributes to the low idle temperature. Attempting to work around the lock by increasing motherboard clock speed results in some interesting behavior. The CPU is rock solid up to and including 104 MHz (2.7 GHz), but it will not run at all at 105 MHz. There may be a couple of other features available that Intel intended to lock out. First, Intel's specs state that VT-d is disabled on the G620, but the Biostar's BIOS reports that VT-d is available. This is of no current benefit because no virtualization software supports VT-d as of yet. So, I don't really know whether VT-d is actually available or if the Biostar's BIOS is just mistaken. Second, DVD Fab reports that Intel Quick Sync is available (and preselected by default) as the H.264 codec. This is unexpected since the G620 is only supposed to have Intel HD1000 graphics. Again, I haven't experimented to confirm whether Quick Sync is really available. Update 3/30/2012: I'm still satisfied with this purchase. The 620 really is a lot of bang for the buck. However, two issues have surfaced in the last nine months. First, the Intel boxed fan/cooler is becoming too noisy for me, even with the RPMs dialed down in my motherboard's BIOS. My best guess is that the bearings are wearing out already. I'm still glad that Intel included what is basically a free cooler in the box, because that has allowed me to spread out the cost of building a new computer. I'll buy a good third-party cooler now and just throw the Intel cooler away. It has done its job. Second, I became dissatisfied with the built in Sandy Bridge graphics. My best guess is that the hardware is OK, but the driver is a long way from being mature. This is unfortunate since I don't play games and don't need a powerful third-party graphics card. It worked OK on Win7 but would never install properly on the MS Dreamworks edition of Server 2008 R2. It also failed to make the best of what Media Player Classic + Lav filters + Reclock + MadVR offers. I ended up buying an nVidia GT440 card for cheap. nVidia updates its drivers regularly while Intel makes only one update per six months, if even that.', "Great little Intel G620! Does all I need it to do for my basic server build! It's Intel - Why not love this little chip!?"]

B005JFIS50

["I tried a couple cases local, fit was poor. spend the extra, this case is worth it. All the cut outs match up I swear the speakers are louder when watching youtube or other media. when tablet and keyboard are attached keyboard does slide towards the back of the case but nowhere near where the keyboard will come out. The leather is not as soft as a sofa but more like a car seat. I'd rather have a snap than a magnet, it has a magnet that looks like a snap. With the case closed inserting USB, sd and what not is much easier than when open, open holes almost line up but the case is loose enough that when things are inserted the holes either cover it or is soft enough not to put a lot of pressure on what's plugged in. I will be ordering a second one for my wife.", "Overall this is a pretty nice case. it fits decent with and without the keyboard portion attached. Pros:- One of the only cases I could find that works with the keyboard with dock attached.- Easy to remove dock without completely removing the case. just unsnap the connector peice.- Leather is pretty nice looks more to be like lamb skin not cow hide leather. I am 99% sure it is real leather, if not nicest pleather I have seen. Cons:- The overall package is pretty thick with the dock attached. Without the dock it isn't too bad.- Price, at almost 40\$ bucks of course it could always be a little cheaper. But not super over priced.- Case fit is a little tight but I think it will wear in nicely.", "I must say, I was pleasantly surprised when I opened and put this cover on my TF101 and Keyboard Dock. Most of the pics here do not do the actual product justice. The leather, albeit nowhere near high quality, looks very professional and well-made. Unlike other reviews here, I have not noticed an overly strong smell. As a matter of fact, whatever leather smell was present dissipated a few hours later. I'll break this review into various categories. I have the same case (from another company) in Brown and this

Black one looks and feels just as nice. LOOK, FEEL AND BUILD QUALITY As I mentioned before, the case looks really nice. The texture and feel of the case compliments the tablet/keyboard dock very well. The interior sections of the case are very plush and will not scratch the hardware whatsoever. The stitching looks to be uniform and straight in all areas. All of the cutouts line up perfectly...(well all but one, see below) EASE OF ASSEMBLY To get the case on, simply slide the tablet into the bi-fold sleeve and secure it with the one-sided leather covered, Velcro flap. Then slide the keyboard into its respective cover AND THEN connect the tablet to the dock and secure the two cases with the snap cover. Takes about 20 seconds and now you are fully covered. FUNCTIONALITY The case adds quite a bit of bulk. A lot of bulk. If the case was of lesser materials or inferior design, it would look silly. However, this case, when all folded up and ready for transport, looks and acts like a thick portfolio that perhaps someone would use at a business meeting. And that is a good thing. Inside the cover there is a slot for business cards and a document pocket. Nothing else. I have seen similar cases for the Transformer that include 2 SD card holders AND a holder for a stylus or pen. I really would have liked to see these options on this case as well. Although they are not present, it's not a deal breaker for me, as I carry styli in my suit jackets, SUV, attaché case and office. Something else I would have liked to see is a way for this case to stand in landscape mode when the keyboard is not connected. Again, not a deal breaker for me. Many have mentioned that one of the elastic straps on the left side covers the charging port. Thankfully this has not been an issue for me as moving it down a fraction of an inch completely moves it out of the way. I have never had to keep moving it. The downside to this is that the charging indicator is no longer visible. This doesn't bother me either, as I normally have the tablet on at work and can clearly see onscreen that it is either charging or fully charged. Also, since I plug the tablet up next to my bed, I don't want to see the orange or green reflection from the indicator light. **A note of caution:** for some odd reason, the left speaker hole is covered completely by the case. I have no idea why. My other brown case (from another company) is setup the same way. Sadly, to remedy this, I had to use a razor blade and cut my own area out for the speaker. Not a big deal, just really odd.... CONCLUSION I haven't seen one thing on this case that bothers me or would keep me from rating it 5 stars. Yes, there are some features missing that many would want. For me, though, I can live without them. I cannot, though, live without this case. Since getting it, I pretty much keep my tablet attached to the Keyboard at all times. I must buy for anyone looking for all-in-one protection for their tablet and keyboard dock.", 'ASUS Eee Pad Transformer TF101 Leather KeyBoard Docking Station Portfolio Stand Case Cover, Black excellent for my purposes. Got what I paid for.', "My wife's connection to the Modern World. The Asus Transformer; together with the KeyBoard Docking Station, has given her an entry into the Computer Age. Started as a way to read books; but it's now easier for her to explore the world of computers. A perfect combination at a reasonable price.", "Yep, only one. You can't always, or as easily, re-install your tablet back into the keyboard as you could prior to putting this cover on it. Because of the way that this is formed, when reattaching, you really need to make sure that you are docked. I noticed this right after I put mine on, about a month ago, when I received it. But that is really...okay, there's one other negative. When the tablet is detached, there's no snap to lock the cover in place. Okay, CORRECTION! I just checked mine out, again, and while the magnetic cover closes against the back of the lower case, as well as against the tablet, when the tablet is removed, I would have preferred something a little bit secure. But that's probably just my preference. It does work well, does not have that sickening plastic smell, and seems to hold up rather well. I bought mine, when I was over at a cousin's house, and they slid my tablet across the table on it's back. Yeah, wasn't too happy about that. So decided to take the plunge and pick this up (had been looking at it forever). The only other (really) minor issue is that one of the elastic straps blocks the power light when I'm charging it, so that I can no longer see it from across the room. But like I said, that's pretty minor. Would I purchase this item again? Well, that's easy...in a second! I really should have purchased this back when I first purchased my tablet. The leather also feels a lot nicer in your hands. The standard plastic was good, too. But the added girth of this cover really makes it nice, and quite accommodating, to hold on to. Like I said, my only issue is when re-attaching to the keyboard. Other than that, I REALLY like this cover alot! Have noticed no other issues with mine, in

the month or 2 that I've had mine.", 'Good cover for transformer.. only concern is that it covers the left speaker.. so you only get right speaker sound real clear... made some holes in side and it fixed the issue.', 'Had this on my Transformer original for only a month. The material appears OK, no issues with the surface. Does not give an expensive look or feel, but neither does it come across as cheap. Fit is OK at best, not very snug (I have a similar MiniSuit for my new Prime64 and it is snug). Few areas of concerns however: Has surface 'spots' so to speak, discolored spots around 1/2 a dime sized in a couple of spots. Tried a damp cloth to remove to no avail. Not very bad, but noticeable. Magnetic closure is not very good. Two very noticeable magnets reside in the inner edge which are to make contact with plates on the other side-again under the material. Well, only one edge really makes contact to keep the lid closed while the other side remains...loose. The keyboard portion is not very snug either allowing for a lot of movement though more concerning is the lack of protection for the edges and we all know full well that when we drop something...yep...right on the edge. I actually decided to return this and good thing as the day of, 7" or more of thread came off the cover. Just sort of hangs there. Tough I have the same case for my new Prime and I am concerned about it's long term durability. I might just return the other case as well. FYI, shipping was 10 days, a bit long these days, and no tracking was uploaded from the company on either case.', "I bought this from another vendor, but I see that it's available here as well. I was skeptical about the quality of this item because of the price, but I must say it is well made and protects the TF101 very nicely. I really like that I can unsnap the keyboard portion of the case and just carry the tablet, and the extra flap on the tablet section covers the screen, so it looks like I am carrying a slim leather agenda. It slips into my shoulder bag and I don't have to worry about my tablet getting scratched by keys or loose change. The only down side, I wish it was a color other than brown. We can't have everything, right?", 'After reading many reviews and searching for the right cover for my Transformer I ended up ordering this one and it works wonderfully. The only exposed part is the bottom edge where the tablet docks to the keyboard which I can understand it would be kind of bulky if more pieces were added. I am more comfortable knowing that the Transformer won't get dings and scrapes anymore and as an added bonus the cover disguises the tablet as a journal or thin appointment book making it a little less appealing to thieves. Another added bonus is that the flipped open cover will prop up the tablet on a table so you can watch videos or Skype hands free without jostling the camera. We will see how the leather holds up with wear, I have to dig up some leather conditioner and see how that works. All in all the cover is the best protection plan you can buy.']

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['Build quality is a 5 out of 5. Just make sure you know what you are getting into. I wanted to replace a key that the plastic had been broken. Unfortunately, Honda has installed a device into the plastic shell that needs to be extracted from the broken key or you need to purchase it directly from Honda. Also, the key can only be cut at a few select establishments. I live next to 3 large cities and there is only 1 place that would cut it, a locksmith. Honda said they would cut it, but not everyone would. They also charge \$25 just to cut it. If you know all of this already, then get the key. If not, make sure you know what you are getting into before buying it.', 'I have a 2003 Honda Accord. This is the second time an original key broke. I replaced it with this one and it was a perfect match. You have to remove the chip from the old key and put it in the new key, then I went to a local hardware store to have the key cut. Total cost for the key and key cutting was about \$22.00, much better than the Honda dealership. BTW: I found a video on YouTube showing how to remove and install the chip.', "If you give this a bad rating, you are doing it wrong. It is not OEM, but who cares?! Yes, it is just the shell. You need to transfer all the 'guts', including the little chip inside, or your car will not start. Once you've got the guts transferred, take it to the dealer or any locksmith (that's what I did) and have the key cut for your vehicle for around \$20. Excellent product and a well recommended.", 'I end up with 2 broken keys. My dealer told me it will cost around \$200 a piece. I took my old keys apart, removed the unit with buttons & the computer chips & put all that in 2 new ones. Went to local

dealer & they cut my keys. Now I have 2 new keys & a spare one in case I will have to replace one. Both my new keys work fine.', 'The reason for the five stars is because of the savings. There was some effort that needed to be done but not much. My transmitter was working fine. I just needed a new case and the key cut. The dealer was charging \$125. So I looked read the reviews and gave it a try. Ok a note the shell did not fit the 2011 model. There is a piece in the bottom corner that needed to be removed. So with a little effort with cutting it out the transmitter fit. Then instead of going to the dealer I went to the local locksmith and had the key cut for \$4. So a total spent was \$9.99. Even still with it not being a perfect fit and needing to do some work I still give 5 stars because of the money that was saved.', 'The product arrived as described but it is a cheap knock off. I guess I should have know from the price but since it had the Honda logo on it (which by the way fell off as soon as I took it out of the package) I thought it was at least licensed by Honda. After I took a look at the pictures on Amazon again I could see in the picture that the Honda emblem was glued on. I actually thought it was illegal to use a logo/emblem without permission but maybe I'm wrong or maybe they have permission. The plastic also feels and sounds more brittle than the original key. Anyway, I was planning to put the metal portion (read "the key part") into the new housing as I thought it was held in by the screw. However, it is molded into the plastic so I'm back to square one again.', 'bought this for my boyfriend who has an 09 accord. works good. its brand new. it didnt come with the screwdriver tho. but thats okay i had one on hand.', 'For YouTube, I follow the instruction to transfer all the chips components. Then have the key cut at Honda dealer for \$15. Big saving. Different Dealer may charge a lot more. Call the part department to get a quote before going.', 'the metal key is glued on and it doesnt have a screw hole like the original Honda keys. Unless yu get this rekeyed it's worthless.', 'Honda won't cut the key, but before that, when I think shell, I didn't think I had to get a key cut. All I should've had to do is remove guts from my broken shell and put inside of new shell."]

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["I've used the product for a couple months for two phones in our household and a tablet. The Charging Station works well enough, though a few poor design decisions detract from the product. Just to be clear, it operates perfectly fine however...-The pad where your devices sit is only slightly rubberized. I don't worry about devices falling off too much, but that's mostly because the tray doesn't tilt up very much. I'd prefer it hold devices up at a higher angle and that the rubber coating feel considerably stickier.-There is no good access point for the connectors. There is no gap under the tray, so all the connectors have to come out from the side of the unit. Consequently, you end up with a bundle of cables that you have to go through to find the right one. Cable organization was one of the main reasons I purchased the station, though it doesn't help much on that front.-Because the cables can't come up through the bottom of the tray it means that devices whose charging port is on the bottom can't sit upright while they charge. That means that the tray only holds one device at a time.-The tab that holds tablets for charging does not provide a secure hold. My station resides on an end table next to the couch; I don't have to worry about the tablet falling and hitting the floor because the couch provides a 'wall'. However, without such a barrier next to the station I would not recommend using the tablet holder as it's too easy for your devices to fall out.", 'I was really hoping to like this thing because who wouldn't want a tidy spot to charge up small electronics? The cord for this charging station is heavy duty, so it's not very easy to snake around things and to shape to the wall and that sort of thing. This device has three USB charging ports and two regular plug-in outlets (AC outlets). Philips has given this device a slide out side tray to hold your larger tablet or iPad-type device. I don't have one of those, so I can't say how that worked out. First of all trying to figure out how to best wrap my cords around the cable management clips was a pain. You can pop off the clip and wrap it apart from the charging station, but then you have to try to pop it back onto the tray without undoing your work. And then once you do that, just hope that you wrapped the cable in a way that makes sense once you plug your small electronic device in on the charger. The tray that covers up the cable management area only flips up, it doesn't come off, so it is nearly

impossible to manage those cords without cursing the pop up panel since it doesn't remove from the charger. This home charger takes up a fair amount of space on my kitchen countertop. More than I'm willing to give it. It measures 8 3/4"x 8 3/4" and is about 1 1/2" thick. That plus the big fat power cord to supply juice to all of the devices that need charging. This device is supposed to help you save energy because it automatically shuts off after six hours of charging. Once it shuts off, you have to push the power button to get another six hours. I never needed to charge anything for that long, so I just unplugged my small electronic device when it was fully charged and I was done. I think I would look into one of those power mats without all the cords if I really needed something like this. This thing is too much work for me and my needs.', "I am one of those naturally organized persons that probably drives other people nuts. I just naturally organize everything to its most optimum efficiency; otherwise, it looks really funny to me. What Mozart did naturally for music, comes naturally to me with organization. I say all that to say that the Philips SPS6038A/17 Home Charging Station is not a good match for me but I had several friends foaming at the mouth to get one. Philips SPS6038A/17 Home Charging Station does function as a charging station as described in the manufacturer's description. It is non-slip just as claimed. It has three USB charging ports, two AC outlets, and a sliding tray. It automatically shuts off charging after 6 hours if that is something that appeals to you; the manufacturer says this will save you energy cost but I think that is fractions of a penny per month so I wouldn't make a decision to purchase or not based upon that, plus it could result in one or more of your devices not being fully charged if 6 hours isn't enough for that device. For me, using the Philips SPS6038A/17 Home Charging Station took up more table space for the larger foot print and didn't offer enough to compensate for its taking up prime space for me. However, I have some friends that even after spending an hour trying to organize anything whether it is their devices or their day, end up with a more disorganized disheveled mess than when they started. When those friends saw the Philips SPS6038A/17 Home Charging Station, they drooled and admired it. So I think, in my opinion, it is not a good match for me because I am already hyper-organized with my devices but for those looking for organization, the Philips SPS6038A/17 Home Charging Station is a perfect match. Next time, I am in their homes, if I do not see an electronic device charging station there, I may purchase one for them for Christmas or birthday as it is a very nice charging station for those desiring one. BTW, my least organized friends also happen to be my most fun friends so I hope that doesn't mean I am hyper-un-fun to them. Thank you Vine for this opportunity to review this very nice Philips SPS6038A/17 Home Charging Station", 'After trying this thing out for a while, I really don't see myself using it on a regular basis. There are a few reasons for this: 1) Size. This device claims to somehow save space. I really don't see how this can be the case for most people. The mat that devices are supposed to rest on is slightly larger than my Kindle, and the place behind there where you plug in the cords adds to the overall size of the charger. If you're just charging a phone or two, this thing will almost definitely have a larger footprint than the device and factory chargers would have on their own. 2) Hard to set up. Getting the cords all wound up around the spindles under the charging mat was not easy. The spindles themselves are somewhat short, so longer cords will tend to pop off of them when you're trying to install other cords. I was able to install two USB cords on this mat by myself, but it might have been easier with an extra set of hands to hold the first cord in place while installing the second one. 3) User unfriendliness. The USB ports on the mat each have a switch next to them (labeled "A" and "B"). Quick, what should you set each switch to? Well, if you read the manual, you'll discover that one setting is for Apple devices and one setting is for everything else. If you're like the majority of us who don't bother to read manuals, you might inadvertently leave the switches set to the wrong settings, which may risk delivering power levels to your devices that are outside of their recommended ranges. Also, the charging mat requires that you press a button to start the flow of power to your devices (and the power is supposed to shut off after six hours). I don't know about you, but I imagine I won't remember to press that button 100% of the time. I'll plug my devices in, walk away for a few hours, and come back only to find that the battery had not been recharged at all. Inexcusable. 4) Insignificant power savings. I used this charging mat, plugged into my P3 International P4400 Kill A Watt Electricity Usage Monitor, to determine how much power this mat saves over using the factory chargers by themselves. I charged my Kindle overnight using the mat;

this used a grand total of 0.07 kWh. For reference, 0.07 kWh costs about a third of a cent in Seattle. Using the factory charger, the total energy used was 0.08 kWh. Even if I had to charge my Kindle every day (which I don't), using the charging mat instead of the factory-provided charger would shave a grand total of 18 cents off of my annual electric bill. Even if I used this mat to recharge ten Kindles every day, it would take ten years to recoup the purchase price of the charging mat.) It buzzes. When the mat is charging something, it makes a constant droning, buzzing sound. Don't put this in your bedroom at night. If you want a dedicated station to use for recharging your portable devices, I guess this will do the job. Just remember not to buy it if you're looking for a way to save time fiddling with cords, space on your desk, or money on power.', 'The Philips Home Charging Station is a convenient charging valet providing cable storage, two AC outlets and three USB charging ports. The tray lifts up to reveal winding pegs where you can coil the cables. Each of the three USB ports is flanked with a switch labeled "A-B" and you're supposed to switch to "A" for Apple products, "B" for others. I suppose "A" provides more current to charge the iPad faster, but Philips does not give any more explanation about the switch. It would have been nice to have the switches more clearly labeled instead of the cryptic "A-B" marking. Once you plug in the devices to charge, press the ON button: you hear a click, an orange LED goes on to indicate charging has started, and the ports will be powered for the next 6 hours, then the charging station will turn itself off automatically. This "green" feature is designed to eliminate the constant drain caused by power adapters remaining constantly plugged in. Of course, you do have to remember to turn charging on! PROS:- AC outlets- convenient cable storage solution- Accessible connectors- high power USB for fast iPad charging- zero "vampire power drain" (not financially significant, but you'll be doing the right thing for the environment!) CONS:- Accessible connectors... so you do see some cables- Utilitarian plastic look- iPad "holder" is useless Bottom line: it may not be that pretty, but it does its job extremely well and at a great price. If you have, say, a smartphone, a tablet and a bluetooth headset, you can charge all three overnight without having to use the original chargers, which you can keep in your work or travel bag -- and you don't have to worry about unplugging the charger from the wall to avoid vampire drain. Not bad for the price of a couple of generic chargers!', "I have longed for the perfect charging station, a place where I could easily drop off the items needing to be charged and not have to look for the cords and parts - why, oh why do they all need different cords anyway? I really wanted this one to work. It would work if you only have two or three basic things that you need to charge. But we have three different phones in our house - all of which need different chargers - so that finishes off most of the plugs and fills the top section already. The other flaw with this is how heavy and long the cord is. Certainly this would be helpful if your charging station is 6 feet away from the nearest plug but mine isn't. The inflexibility of the cord creates its own little mess on my counter. This charging station ended up on my teenager's desk. He only needs to charge his cell phone and his ipod and they both had cords that could be stowed/ wrapped inside. His iPad charges on its own Philips Docking system, but he would not have put it in the slide out section of this station anyway because this part of it is flimsy. It looks and feels like an afterthought. There may never be such a thing as the perfect charging station. This certainly isn't it.", 'This charging station by Philips is a great idea, but it has some features that for me are weaknesses. We implemented this device at our house and used it to charge 1 x iPhone, 2 iPod Touches, 1 Android based Phone, 1 iPad, and a remote control helicopter. This station looks nice and packs a lot of charging capability into a small space with its 2 x 3-prong outlets and 3 USB ports. Having to press the power button to charge stuff and then it only stays on for 6 hours, is the biggest weakness. I would prefer that it just charges all of the time without having to worry about toggling it on and off. As someone else pointed out, this device might save you 18 cents a year if you're lucky, so why not have it charge all of the time. I have a battery app on my iPhone that will do a slow trickle charge that can last in excess of 6 hours. The other issue is the very fat and unmanageable power cord. It is 3/8" thick... basically the same thickness as a heavy duty outdoor extension cord. The cord was always in our way, was tough to conceal.... what a pain. Maybe Philips will come out with a Gen2 that has some improvements. This isn't that far off from being great...', 'I have used my Philips SPS6038A/17 Home Charging Station every day for over six months and can not live without it. I even carried it inside a gym bag, along with all my other

electronic gear, to my parents' home in Maryville, Tennessee, for Thanksgiving. It is very portable and I plan to carry it back to Tennessee for the Christmas holidays. I have used the Philips Home Charging Station to charge a multitude of electronic equipment including a portable DVD player, two Bluetooth headphones, one Bluetooth headset, two cameras, two GPS's, an MP3 player, and my Apple iPhone 4. Primarily, I use it to charge my iPhone, my Kodak Easyshare M341 Digital Camera [Kodak Easyshare M341 Digital Camera (Black)], and my Sony XBA-BT75 - Balanced Armature Bluetooth Headset (Sony XBA-BT75 - Balanced Armature Bluetooth Headset). The Philips Home Charging Station arrived well packaged and was easy to set up, thanks to a short instruction booklet that was simple reading. It conveniently sits on the desk next to my bed. The charging station has a thick, strong six-foot industrial cord, which is easy to plug into my wall. It has two AC outlets and three USB ports. (I wish, however, it had more USB ports; one can never have too many.) I truly appreciate the three USB ports because several of my electronic devices, such as my Sony XBA-BT75 Bluetooth Headset, don't have AC adapters for charging. One must plug them directly into a computer's USB port, which I don't like to do because I have external hard drives already plugged into both of mine. Also, when I'm on vacation, how do I charge my Sony Bluetooth Headset if I don't have access to a computer? However, one almost always has access to an AC outlet. There is only one important detail one must remember when using the Philips Home Charging Station. When charging an IOS device (iPad, iPhone or iPod), one must set the USB charging configuration switch to A. When the POWER button is pressed, electricity will flow to the charging station for only six hours. This is more than ample time for charging many electronic devices. (Most will recharge within two hours.) In fact, the instruction booklet for my Jabra SPORT Bluetooth Stereo Headset (Jabra SPORT Bluetooth Stereo Headset - Black/Yellow) said: "Do not leave a fully charged battery connected to a charger, since overcharging may shorten its lifetime." Now, I don't have to worry about leaving the Jabra SPORT Bluetooth, or any of my other electronic devices, charging overnight and ruining its battery. I would highly recommend purchasing the Philips SPS6038A/17 Home Charging Station because of its ease of use, convenience and the fact that one doesn't have to worry about overcharging and ruining batteries; it automatically turns off after six hours. Also, it is very sturdy and portable. Simply throw it into a suitcase or gym bag. Everyone can use it for charging their smart phones, wireless headsets, cameras, MP3 players and other electronic devices that families take with them on vacation. Furthermore, I believe that the charging station is quite safe. I have never heard it hum or buzz or emit any unusual odors while it was in operation. Philips has a great reputation for manufacturing safe, high quality electronic devices. Therefore, always keep your active life charged up with the help of the Philips SPS6038A/17 Home Charging Station. Joseph B. Hoyos', 'I was initially excited about this charging station before it arrived, but my ardor has cooled somewhat since. There are two A/C outlets and three USB ports. There is a little shelf that pulls out from the side to set your iPad in. It's just a plain, cheap little shelf to rest a tablet in, it doesn't charge your iPad...for that you need a cord and to use one of the three ports on the back. I actually managed to knock my iPad off the station onto the floor while setting everything up for a picture. Of course, I can be a bit of a butterfingers but I think it's easy to do. I also managed to knock my phone off while trying to set everything up. When you lift up the non-slip surface top piece, underneath looks like the setup for playing a mini game of Battleship, but it's actually some pegs to wrap your cords around. For some reason, they aren't spaced the same front to back as they are side to side, so the pegs can only go in horizontally. I think it would have worked out better for me and my cords if the pegs went in front to back as well. I put three items on top of this thing and it was really crowded. Considering there are five places to plug a device in, I'm a bit surprised the surface isn't larger/wider. There is one feature you should be aware of: when using this thing, you have to push the power button and you get six hours of charge. Then after six hours you have to press it again or you're not getting any more juice. This is a great feature from an energy standpoint. My mom went through her house and took care of any and all "energy vampire" things and she has saved a lot of money on her electric bill, and I think we should all be aware of stuff like that, and this could work out fine if you have 3 or 4 devices that you carry to work and back with you and you either get to work or get home, throw them on this thing, hit the power button and *presto* you're ready for your commute home or ready to start your work day again tomorrow.

However, my schedule isn't like that and I have a few things like an iPod and some wireless headphones that I'd like to use with this but THEY DON'T HOLD A CHARGE...you have to charge them right before you're going to use them. I have other devices, too, that I want to be ready when I want to use them, but if I don't use them for several weeks, they won't have a charge either. This charging station is not the set-it and forget-it solution I thought it would be, since I can't just keep stuff on here and it's ready for me when I need it. Instead you need a regular routine or some pre-planning.', 'This product fills two different needs quite well:- You want to tidy up the spot where your phone/tablet/etc. currently sit to get their charge.- You have read about "vampire power" (feel free to look up on Wikipedia if you're not familiar) and are concerned enough about it to unplug your chargers when they're not in use. This unit fulfills the first need by letting you wrap up the extra length of your charging cords underneath the tray where the phone goes. Then when you want to charge, you plug the phone in and press the button to start the charge. The second need is fulfilled by requiring you to press a button to start charging, then six hours later the unit shuts off all power. I charged multiple devices, including three at the same time, and all got a full charge in the amount of time the device allows for charging. The various devices I charged with this, all of them successfully, included a Droid Razr Maxx (which has a high-capacity battery and takes hours to charge even with a high-output charger), an iPad 2 (which started from a dead battery and finished in about four hours), a Kindle Fire, a Blackberry, and an iPod Touch. With no exceptions, the next morning all reported 100% charged even though the power to their chargers was interrupted sometime in the middle of the night. So if you're in the market for something that addresses either of these needs, I recommend the product to you. I suspect the poor reviews the product has received from others has to do with those reviewers not valuing these concerns. Quibble number one is that one of my cords, a beefy one, wouldn't fit on one of the wrapping posts. The solution was to wrap it across more than one. But Philips should work on allowing more capacity on the wrapping posts. Quibble number two is that when charging, the device emits a faint humming noise. It's only noticeable if you're standing right on top of the unit. From several feet away, you can't hear it even if it's dead quiet. It might be a problem if it's on your nightstand though. If you buy one, be sure to set the switches on them to "A" for Apple devices and "B" for all others, as per the instructions (who reads those anyway?). Since you'll probably be leaving your charging cords in place all the time and since Apple charging cords are unique, you'll only need to set these switches once.', 'I know that charging stations have been around but I'm not sure how many of them switch off after the item is charged. I love this idea. We have phones, Kindles, Nintendo DS (i, lite, 3D) and other electronic gadgets to be charged. The biggest one is my phone that gets charged every night. Every morning it says, "fully charged, please unplug" and I think about how much it has continued trying to charge all night. The phone store salesperson also told me not to keep it plugged in over the fully charge point. So, I'm really glad to have this. You can plug in three USB chargers and two plugs. It does what it says it will and charges your electronics. It also appears to stop charging when they are full. I had a product at 100% and it did not show the 'charging' symbol. But there are limitations. It has a heavy duty electric cord. It is thicker than outdoor extension cords so it is bulky and not easy to tuck out of the way. The cord wraps 'hidden' under the tray are not particularly useful. I tried wrapping a Kindle cord on one and a phone charger cord on the other. Both popped off and didn't want to stay wrapped tightly. The Philips picture makes it look like it stays put with no issues. I don't have an iPad so can't comment on the pull out tray except to say it is there. So overall, a pretty good unit but the design extras are not extraordinary and the power cord is a hindrance.', 'I really love this PHILIPS HOME CHARGING STATION (SPS6038A/17). My previous "charging station" was a heavy-duty extension cord with a triple tap. Not only did USB cables get tangled up with the extension cord, the triple tap would sometimes fall onto a device's touch screen by accident (fortunately without causing damage). Now those easy-to-tangle USB cables are organized and conveniently connected at a central location on my working tabletop. A couple of things I like about this charging station are (1) the small footprint, and (2) the "cable clips" for winding and storing USB cables underneath the station's tilt-up tray. The clips release stored cables quickly if you pull them straight up and off. For most of my USB cables, I don't use the clips--instead I coil them on top of the station tray, so that they will easily reach any tablets that need charging while I'm using them. There's room on the

tray for the coiled cables and one smaller device like my smartphone. To set the station up, you simply plug it in--it has a heavy-duty cord with a grounded plug, so you need a grounded outlet. Then you can plug in your adaptors and/or USB cables. There are two AC outlets, which I use for a Kindle Powerfast adaptor and an Apple adaptor (along with the appropriate USB cables for a Kindle Fire tablet and an iPad). In addition, there are three USB ports, which I use for a Motorola USB cable (Droid Razr), for another Apple USB cable (iPod), and for a third generic USB cable (whatever else needs charging). The three USB ports have a slider switch that you set to "A" for the iPhone, iPad, and iPod; and to "B" for everything else. When you're ready to charge something, you press the Power button, and the charging station will charge for six hours, and then turn off automatically. If you need to add a device after you've started charging another device, you can press the Power button again, and the LED light will blink three times to tell you it has reset to charge for another six hours. With my setup, an iPad and a Droid Razr phone are easily charged to 100% before the charging station turns off. My Kindle Fire HD 8.9" tablet will not always charge to 100%, so I usually start recharging it when it reaches about 40%. When the station turns off, the devices start using their own battery power, so I usually put them to sleep and/or turn off the wireless before charging them.', 'Nothing fancy or special about this hunk of plastic and with two electrical outlets and three USB outlets. There is a little drawer that slides out so the you can rest your iPad, or Kindle in it, leaning back sideways for the iPad since the plug is on the bottom. The main surface panel lifts up to expose posts to wind your wires around. This it more handy for USB wires, than for power brick wires. The electrical plugs accommodate two vampire transformers. There is a button that you press that gives you six hours of juice and all outlets will supposedly shut off when they detect that your device is full. As of 7/10/2023 the price is \$29.99, list is \$39.99. Personally, I think that this is worth about \$19.99, and would be worth \$29.99 if it had more electrical outlets and more usb chargers.', 'This Phillips SPS6038A / 17 Home Charging Station is definitely energy efficient. Plus the affordable asking price and the fact that this nice-to-have handy device doesn't take up much space at all is most assuredly an upside to owning this item. Only possible downside I see is that the Charging Station takes awhile to recharge itself - a good five or six hours. Wanted to also make note that this gadget has no set-up or assembly necessary whatsoever. You simply take it out of the box and it's ready to use. How convenient is that? Recommended.', 'This product is exactly what I needed and was very excited to try it out. It does exactly what it is supposed to do and thats charge multiple electronic devices at once while only using one outlet. This will save you plenty of room but I only wish that it was a little bigger and had more than 2 AC outlets. It has 3 usb ports and a sliding tray that you can store your kindle or ipad on while charging. The main panel does lift up and behind it are 2 clips where you can wrap your cell phone cord around it but it has to be a thin cord. It has an automatic shut off which is a plus. There is no set up with this, you just slide it out the box, plug it in and you are ready to go!', 'This charging station does what it is supposed to. There are 3 lots for USB and I have 3 different usb charging cords plugged into it- one iPad connector, one MicroB cord (standard type for non-Apple smartphones and other thin/small devices) one for MiniB (I have two Garmin GPS devices that take these). It's pretty handy to have all the cords there ready to go instead of having to unplug and plug in various boxes into the outlet. I like that it is not sucking power when it is plugged in but not charging, unlike the individual adapter plugs that I used to leave in the wall when not being used. The only thing is that you have to learn to remember to hit the Power button when you plug something in for it to charge. Otherwise, when you get up in the morning you will be sad when you realize you didn't charge your iPad after all. The power shuts off on its own after 6 hours. The only think I don't like about this unit is that the cord to the unit itself is really thick, sort of long and unsightly because I have it on a countertop where there is no place to hide the cord. If it were on a piece of furniture where you could tuck the cord behind it wouldn't bother me. Not a dealbreaker or anything, just a minor eyesore.', 'The Philips Charging Station works exactly as described. It was able to charge my Kindle and MOTOACTV using USB. I was able to charge my Asus Transformer when I plugged it in to one of the power outlets. Having three items charging at once worked well. I'm a bit perplexed as to why this charging station is so large, but has only two power outlets and three USB ports. I wish it either had more outlets and USB ports or was smaller. I didn't notice it in the Amazon description, but the USB power output is 2.1 amps. The build quality is

good overall and it feels like it will last. My only concern is that the power button feels flimsy compared to the rest of the device. Setting a few small items on the tray is convenient when charging and I can easily plug or unplug items near my night stand. I would forgo the tray in exchange for a smaller charging station though. Overall, I like this charging station, but I wish it was smaller. However, the product description is accurate on Amazon, so if you are looking for this type of charging station, the Philips will likely fit your needs."]

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["I'm a picky guy... this meets my expectations, far beyond what I expected. Excellent bass sound and the blue tooth is amazing. I'll be buying another one sometime soon.", 'This little Sony unit really packs a powerful punch. The sound that comes out of this is absolutely amazing. Beautifully rich and full. That's the main thing you buy a speaker unit like this for, and I don't think anyone would be disappointed with this Sony speaker dock in that area. I appreciate the addition of an FM radio. I've had a few iPod speaker docks, and most don't come with a radio. I don't listen to the radio all that much anymore, but it's nice to have that feature available when I do want to listen. I also like the audio in port. I'm able to plug other things in...like my turntable...and it sounds awesome. I also want to say that I've had lots of problems in the past with other docks like this one giving me cellphone interference noise when trying to use any kind of streaming music program like Pandora or Songza. In some cases, I can't listen to anything without setting the phone to airplane mode, which means I can't get any streaming to work. With the Sony unit, I had no problems at all. The sound was completely clear without setting the phone to airplane mode. That's awesome for me, as I love internet radio apps! Bluetooth pairing was simple to do and worked great. It's nice to have that option. But I was most impressed with the re-chargeable battery. I know the description says it will get about 7 hours on a full charge, and I was a bit skeptical. But, I let the unit charge overnight, then took it to work with me without the cord. I played the radio for awhile, played my iPod for awhile, and 6 hours later, the dock still had a lot of charge on it. That really impressed me. It will be very handy at the beach or at a picnic or in any of those situations where you'd like to play your music all day, but plugging something in isn't an option, and you don't want to burn through tons of regular batteries. If I were to pick out one "con" for this unit it would be the absence of a "Mute" button on the remote. Sure, I can pause, and I guess that's what most people would do, but I still don't understand why not also provide a mute button? Ok, not much of a "con," but, there's got to be something. But if the absence of a "Mute" button isn't an issue for you, (and it wouldn't be for most people), this is an excellent dock for your iDevices.', "I've owned quite a few iPod speaker docks over the years, and this Sony one is my favorite. First of all, you'll notice that it's not meant to be a travel dock. It is quite heavy, and is best designed for stationary use. You can tell that the quality of materials is high. It is also an attractive unit. The sound is terrific. We use it in our very large master bedroom and it easily fills the room with booming sound. While it is not as good as a Bose SoundDock, you are getting similar quality for a much lower price. Actually, one of my minor complaints is that it is too loud. We enjoy falling asleep to music, and this Sony dock is still too loud at the lowest sound level for this. The Bluetooth feature works as advertised, and the FM antenna is not bad. I typically do not use the remote, but it is very light and thin. Overall, this is a fully capable sound dock for your Apple products.", 'Pros:- Bluetooth ability- Overall design looks cool- Has an app for your iPhone that works- Has a sort of handle in the back so you can grip it easily Cons:- Sound quality is.... OK- Has a big power cord brick - we still use those??- It's pretty heavy - and that's not including the power brick I just mentioned!- The app, while functional, is really not impressive as apps go. I have a Logitech iPod dock I've used for YEARS now but it was time for an upgrade. This seems to be a good replacement, and I am enjoying it, I just think the sound quality isn't quite.... great. It's merely OK. I've tried different equalizer settings, different quality mp3s, bluetooth and docked - it's pretty good not worth the money they are asking here. Plus - that fat power cord brick kills me! I mean, seriously - I haven't seen a power brick on a power cord in forever. I thought technology had fixed that!? I can't stand those things. And the length of the

power cord stinks - it's not long enough - so that the power brick has to sit on the shelf behind the speaker unit. Kind of kills the area - makes for more clutter instead of a clean look of just the speakers. The App is garbage. It allows you to play your songs, skip forward and back, and randomize the playlist, but that's it. It stays on this ugly clock design (you can change it - they're all ugly) and doesn't lock up the screen, meaning this glowing clock thing is always on your phone, draining your battery, as you play music to the speakers! It's also got some terrible name - "D-Sappli" - HUH? How am I supposed to find THAT in the iTunes store? It took forever to locate it, and I think it's garbage as far as apps go. I just use my iPhone's normal music app to stream music to the speakers.---So far I like it but I don't LOVE it...***UPDATE: Screen broke. There's a little screen on the lower left that lets you know what sound settings are on, what radio station you're on - it's broken now. I haven't owned this for very long. Screen busted. I uploaded a photo of the screen. It doesn't work. It's just snow now. Garbage. Loses a star.', 'I love this thing! The Bluetooth feature works flawlessly (iPhone 4s) and the little remote control is handy as well!', 'My primary purpose in buying this was to have NPR on in the morning and when making dinner. But, the radio reception is so poor that I can't use it. However, I use the NPR app on my phone and it works quite well with the bluetooth connection. It was \$100 extra to have the radio (the same item is available without the radio), which would have been worth it to not have to take the steps to go through my iPhone. I have tried it in many locations - it's the receiver, not the location. I should have returned this one and bought the one for \$100 less without the radio (which is basically what I have). In all other respects this is a nice unit. The sound is good, it syncs easily with the bluetooth, I have an aux cable in case someone wants to play a playlist but doesn't have a bluetooth enabled phone. Only three stars because the radio should work. Buy the same item without the radio.', 'I bought this speaker first from another vendor because the reviews were good, then I found the same speakers \$50 cheaper from another vendor, so I cancel the first one and bought it from the other one including expedited delivery and anyhow was cheaper. The speaker dock sound is amazing, not very powerful but crystal clear. The bluetooth function is easy to use and makes it a great add on.', 'I have been nothing but impressed by this speaker: it was ridiculously easy to get set up as a Bluetooth speaker, and immediately gave video on my iPad a whole new intensity. I tend to use this while watching video at the kitchen table... It's as good or better than a TV! My wife likes to use it to play music while she is in the kitchen, and not only does the music sound great, but it has an insane range. We brought the iPad up to the second floor, and the system worked as well as if it was plugged in! Radio reception is a big plus :) Battery life is also impressive: we generally only have to charge the device once a week. This speaker also works great with android devices, but we found it was a bit awkward to switch from one device (iPad 3, iPhone 4s, or HTC One X ice cream sandwich android phone) to another. You basically have to resync, which is annoying, but pretty much standard. There was also an app which I felt was completely useless. I haven't yet had a chance to try this with a Skype or FaceTime call. I am not sure if the result will be outstanding, or include crazy echoes.', 'One of the big things I have been looking for lately is a portable stereo speaker unit. I tried out the little guys (in fact I tried out three of them - Logistics, Jambox, & Satechi) and though the battery life was good, honestly the sound wasn't good for anything other than a very small room, not to mention all the small speakers bounced around at higher levels. I yearned for something that had a better and louder sound than the small units, a battery with a decent battery life, and one that could connect with any kind of player I chose it to, whether it be by in line or by Bluetooth or even dock. Well after I tried out the little Jambox, I returned it and I went to Blockbuster to try things out. I narrowed it down to two - 2 different Bose (one with dock, one with Bluetooth) and this Sony Model RDPXF300iP model. All had the same battery life pretty much (8 hours for both Bose, 7 hours for this Sony model). The sound was good on all models as well. I had read on all three models that some had inferior sound, but then I realized most of these people had probably never played with the settings on their devices. For example a person can change the settings in their iPod or iPhone and get different acoustical variants (less treble, more treble, live, rock, etc.) and get a completely different sound. Those who hadn't messed around with those settings probably got bad sound because that was what they were used to listening to and never bothered to change the settings. After doing this with my iPod touch my unit sounded great. But that is where all the similarities ended. First off, this

Sony model (the 300) blew me away with all the extras. First off Bose decided, and I'm not sure why, to do their iPod dock model with no Bluetooth. Then with their Bluetooth model they decided not to make a dock. In this day and age that's like making a phone without a camera - it's not necessary, but people love the ability to do so and it is helpful because it reduces battery usage when using the dock instead of Bluetooth. Secondly Sony included an FM stereo. In this day and age when one goes camping there is obviously a problem with cell phone reception, so using a cloud to stream music is not an option which leaves you with whatever music you have on your device. Let's also say you want to hear something other than your music collection, like NPR. Again, not a necessary function, but man what a great thing to have, especially in possible emergency situations such as power outages. Sony also included a remote. This means I can either dock my iPod and control the music, or connect it with Bluetooth and control it from my iPod, phone, or any other mp3 player that has Bluetooth. I also found out that this unit docks with iPads. It also had a sound equalizer on the unit. Don't get me wrong, this would be a little bit better if they allowed the owner to adjust the settings the way they want, but the fact they even included this is incredible. To be honest I liked their presets, unlike other reviews I have read, and as I said I played around with my iPod as well. On top of all this the sound was amazing, and I am a complete audiophile. I got my music to sound the way I wanted, and how I wanted, and completely filled up a room to the point it was loud, which is something my little speakers, bless their heart, could never do. I have seen some complaints on the weight, but again, I thought it was fairly light for what I wanted it to do. Weight wasn't a huge issue for me because I didn't plan on taking five mile hikes with it. So here are my Pros-1) Long enough battery time (7 hours)2) Bluetooth and dock and line-in options for audio (can also hook it up to a dvd player)3) FM Radio4) Stereo Sound Presets5) Battery Indicator (though primitive, at least you can get an idea when it will conk out)6) Cheaper than many of the other models out there7) Incredible sound8) Remote IncludedCons (not for me, but maybe someone else)1) Can't work with a new iPod or iPhone on the dock because of the new lightning connection, but honestly they probably make a connector for it now though I haven't looked.2) Wish the presets were more adjustable3) Weight (again, not for me but maybe someone else. After using the little guys I almost don't trust anything lighter as I don't know how it can get a big sound otherwise.)4) From what I can tell it doesn't have a cell phone capability, but I am not sure why anyone needs that, though some might. If you take this camping it wouldn't make much sense due to reception alone, and no one would use this in a boardroom for meetings. This thing was made for music lovers, not people who want to talk on the phone. Which I might add seems more obnoxious to think someone would share your conversation with the world while you are camping rather than just keep it pressed to their ear. Overall, if you can find something better, for cheaper, nab it while you can. Otherwise this unit stands out for me as the most portable, best sounding, and most multifunctional unit out there. I must also mention I got my unit for a great price as a refurbished model off Amazon and paid only 120 bucks. Even without that deal though, at 249 (which is what I have seen them priced at currently) I would still pull the trigger, and was going to until I saw that great offer.", "I compared this to the Bose Bluetooth dock, which was \$399 at the time. I got this for \$199, which is a very sweet deal. I had previously compared both side by side and really think they are almost equivalent. This system seems very well built, a little heavy (which I like) and not plasticky. I think the Bose may have a little more bass, but that really doesn't justify the price difference. Plus this has a radio (rarely used, but every once in a while I will). I really like this, and even though I've updated my accessories to the new Lightning pin system, I just connect through Bluetooth. The battery life is great, will last about 3h or more on one charge. I highly recommend this dock, especially if you can get it for a very cheap price as it has since been discontinued. Just connect through Bluetooth.", "The sound is great, works just fine with my iPod docked or Bluetooth and it's really nice to have FM radio (for my wife). Overall, it's a winner except that the price dropped a little right after I bought but that's part of buying electronic stuff online, I guess.", "Well, within its price range, I would expect, even though it seems to have gone up somewhat since this review was written. It seems there are over 100 iPod docks listed on Amazon, and probably many, many more beyond that. (The search result yields over 800 I am sure there are few mis-classified items). I did not inspect each one closely, but they all seemed to do the same thing, in different ways, and at vastly different prices, as well as many, many

different designs, features and color. Including a vacuum tube model; I'd like to get an earful of that. And no doubt quality and sound reproduction as well. I would scarcely know where to begin shopping, except in the usual way: Price, and Amazon reviews. With those two parameters you can usually find the range of what you are looking for and narrow it down pretty quickly. I would find this Sony stands above the crowd. Simple, smooth design, and relatively affordable, this would be a great choice for anyone not willing - or unable to drop 5 bills on, say the Bose. It's hard to know where to start in describing what I like about this unit. The controls are simple and laid out in a manner that makes it easy to run right out of the box - which is a good thing, as the "instruction manual" provided is certainly one of the worst I have ever seen, for any product. And there is no superior, online version as one would usually find. The ease of operation makes this not so big a deal. The only time I would like a little more info is in presetting FM stations. I know it's just a matter of hitting the right combination of buttons in the right order. Fortunately (or not, in some ways) there is really only one or two FM stations out here I usually listen to. Sleek and solid - emphasis on solid, this little unit weighs in at about 10 lbs - and I believe that is reflected in the sound quality. What Bose may do with "acoustic wave technology", Sony does with raw horsepower. This thing is LOUD. And not much distortion at the higher end, although I rarely have taken it past 15-18. And it hits 30, folks. The display is a nice little LCD in the lower left corner of the base, and will only light up when it has something to tell you. And even then only long enough for you to know. The dock itself resides in the smooth lower faceplate of the unit and allows for clean, nearly uninterrupted lines - the only "flaw" could be said to be the little rubber bumper Pod support located in the center, between speakers. I got over it. A light push on the closed dock and it slides out smoothly and evenly. The connector is long enough as to reach through most protective cases - I have a hard plastic one and many accessories will not make it. Ease the Pod onto the dock and you're set. Battery life is said to be 6 - 7 hours, but I have not tested to flat. It comes with the now-typical iPod dock remote (read: small and easy to misplace) which will run the Pod as well as all the features of the unit. To use it to operate the menus on the iPod is fairly easy to manage, although if you are around my age, if you are far enough away to need the remote, you won't be able to read the iPod screen. This would work pretty well if you're in Shuffle mode, but if you want to head directly to an artist or album, you may as well be sitting close enough to use the iPod controls anyway. But conversely, in a desktop setting the remote would be useful as to avoid using the iPod's controls and wiggling it too much. But a big surprise to me was that Sony included what I believe to be somewhat of a rarity in docks - built-in Bluetooth capability. (For example, the Bose offers a Bluetooth adapter - for \$99.00.) And it is not really made a big deal of in the Sony product description. Maybe Bluetooth is more ubiquitous than I realized. I was pretty amazed to discover and play with this, and it makes as much or more sense than the remote. Seems like the range is about 40 feet through a wall, more in a straight line. I would not hesitate to recommend this unit at all. And once again, poring over the manual trying to find an easy guide on presetting the stations, it is still trial and error for me. I think I am getting closer. These minor gripes would still not deter me from choosing this model, for the price, it delivers, as they say, more bang for the buck. 'In the last few years, I seem to have acquired a ridiculous number of gadgets. I'm typically carrying two iPhones and an iPad with me on any given day. Consequently, there's a lot of charging that takes place every night. Prior to acquiring the Sony RDPXF300iP 30-Pin iPod/iPhone Speaker Dock, I was using a couple of Philips docks. (And it must be said that I was extremely happy with their products.) However, I have long been a fan of Sony, and was pleased to have an opportunity to evaluate their dock. My expectations of Sony quality are high, and I'm pleased to say this product met them. Perhaps most importantly, I'll begin by noting that the dock produces excellent sound quality for listening to music (or even talk). There's even some limited equalizer function. The speakers produce a rich and full-bodied sound. The Sony dock, however, has a couple of other features beyond playing music and radio and charging devices that sets it apart from its competitors. This model works plugged into the wall, but can also play for about 7 hours on rechargeable battery life. I think the idea is to bring you music outdoors, but let me tell you, it came in handy during a recent power outage! Another nice feature is the built-in Bluetooth capability. Once your device is "linked" with the dock, it doesn't have to be seated to play music. So, play your tunes and talk on the phone at the same time. These are not features typically seen,

making this Sony dock a good value for the price. Probably the worst thing about this product is the instruction manual. It's not much help, but I'm fairly clueless and I've managed. Finally, I'll note that the dock's design is slick and attractive. I'm extremely pleased with this speaker dock, and can recommend it without hesitation.', "SO MANY OPTIONS!! love that I can dock my iPod, my boyfriend can dock his iPhone, we can listen to the radio, it has Blue Tooth capability, hand touch or remote control, plug in or portable battery use. And absolutely none of these options compromise its main function- the sound is crystal clear with easily adjustable volume that gets loud enough for me to blast while working out. You can stream music from your iPhone (my boyfriend uses Spotify or the NPR News App) to listen while docked through the speaker. It has a very minimalist, sleek design and is small enough to easily fit anywhere; I keep it on the kitchen counter so that I can enjoy it while cooking. I rarely use the remote but I understand that some people may really enjoy this option. You can basically control everything once your device is docked. My only disappointment is the constant static I receive when trying to use the radio feature. To be fair, I've never tried to use a radio in my apartment by itself so maybe there's just really bad reception. Honestly, the radio issue isn't too much of a drawback since I mainly dock devices and can stream radio. I'm utterly delighted with the Sony RDPXF300iP 30-Pin iPod/iPhone Speaker Dock and highly recommend it.", 'Initially, I was very negative about this product in that Sony doesn't market anything comparable for it's own walkman in the USA-and face it there are plenty of Ipod docks already-but with their new Ipods it appears even Apple is heading in the direction of bluetooth connections over 30 pin connectors. That said-I did purchase one of these to use with my walkman which has bluetooth capabilities Sound is quite good-until turning volume to "20" or higher-at which time distortion becomes more and more perceptible with each incremental increase. I suppose that would vary depending on the volume to which the source material was encoded--but at louder volumes there is noticeable distortion. iPod docking is good for what it is. Bluetooth pairing and connecting are relatively easy and sound is quite good within the volume limitations--though I must say volume is adequate at pre distortion levels for a medium sized room and acceptable when used outdoors on battery power though slightly better when plugged into a power source. Radio reception is not the best--probably fine in a metropolitan area--but not so great in a more rural area such as where I live--I have a sangean portable radio which easily outperforms this radio-but again-with closer proximity to stations this radio is adequate-I do have problems with stations which are only 20 to 30 miles away Too bad sony doesn't make a dock like this for their own walkman mp3 players and it would have been nice if it had included a direct usb connection. For the price a decent dock, a fair radio and a nice bluetooth player and it takes up a fairly small amount of space with nice portability. Not the best dock in the world-but for the price it's probably among the better buys considering it's features. Now if Sony would only wake up and market a similar product for the walkman', 'Since receiving this speaker dock in early June, it has been given fairly heavy use as my kitchen's "sound system." If you are looking for an all-round speaker dock that will fit iPod/iPhone/iPad models, has Bluetooth, FM radio, a rechargeable battery, remote control, and has decent sound, this would be a very good choice. The first thing one notices while taking the dock out of the box is that it is fairly nice looking with a sleek black grill and brushed chrome accents. The second thing one notices is that it comes with a ridiculously large power brick that defies any attempt to be hidden. Sony's design team was obviously on vacation or lunch break when the power cord was selected by the "any old power cords left over in the warehouse?" procurement department. Set up is mostly fast and easy. The instructions are in English and Spanish and large pictograms and come printed on a giant, folded sheet of paper reminiscent of a Rand McNally road map (yet another task completed by the "fast and cheap" procurement department?) The iPod connector is hidden behind a nifty slide-out tray. The connector itself tilts back and forth and will accommodate many types of cases or covers. Once inserted on to the connector, the iPod will recharge as well as play. The Bluetooth connection allows audio streaming by audio devices not made by Apple and this was very easy to set up and had good range when paired with Blackberrys and various Android phones and tablets. There is also an audio in stereo mini jack for non-Bluetooth equipped players. The FM radio is a good feature but trying to use the confusing and incomplete instructions to preset radio stations was an exercise in frustration and problem solving. A glaring exception to the overall easy to understand set up and operating

instructions but in keeping with what seems to be Sony's apparent inattention to detail and follow through.']

B0085SOU2I

["Very disappointing product:- Poor quality:- The glossy coating on the black plastic case is peeled off near buttons- One button is defective- The product did not work- The manual is terrible (unless you can read the section in Chinese) - the English translation is unreadable (the loudspeaker is called 'trumpet'... and the sentences do not make any sense)Not worth it despite the cheap price", 'I like it, its small simple to use. I have used the micro recorder and surprise the range it gets....will use the mp3 and upload to computer later.', "Save your money and buy something a little more expensive. You get what you pay for with this product!!Bought this for one of the attorneys at my office to use. After using it one time, it showed that the batteries were dead (they were brand new). I took out the batteries and put the same ones back in and it started working again. Once it went off and we turned it back on, the batteries showed dead AGAIN. Took them out and put them back in and it worked well again. Now that the time to return the product has expired, it won't work at all!!! We tried taking the batteries out and replacing them with brand-new batteries, and it still won't work. It just tells us that the batteries are dead and won't turn on. So disappointed!!", "Instructions are sketchy and with a lot of reading over and over and experimenting began to understand how to operate it. I didn't expect much for the price but it did exceed my expectations. Functional for my usage. Got her pretty fast from Singapore. Did not know exactly where it came from until it got here. No problems, good price, instructions lose a little in translation. I got what I paid for.", "Purchased this for my husband. We liked the simplicity of operation and the compact size (fits perfectly in his shirt pocket). It worked perfectly fine when we tested it (brand new batteries), but when he really needed it to work, it would not turn on. We'll try new batteries again, but if it fails again, we won't be happy.", "This Voice Recorder does a lot more, you have a microphone. that comes with it. also the cord on the microphone is very long. You can set this recorder, to record, that no one hears it, or stop it by pushing the hold button to make the recorder to stop recording until you want it to record again. Also it has an earphone that comes with it also. The recorder has, a lot of features, is also uses batteries, so you don't have to wait to charge it, I USE THITHIUM. I RECOMMENEND THIS RECORDER. Jim in Ohio", "I was going to use it for a secondary lav mic setup in filming youtube videos, but I over estimated the abilities of this unit. Interface is confusing as all get out, so don't chuck the manual any time soon because you'll be referencing it a lot to figure out how to use it. I will say that moving files to and from the unit is easy (probably the only easy thing about it).", 'Arrived on time and great packaging. Instructions were poorly written and it took an on-line email exchange to understand how to record messages. After owning it for almost a year, I never use it because it is complicated to use. IT IS A PIECE ON CHINESE JUNK!', 'fulfills its duties in good shape and contains many tools that enhance its functionality.Do not hesitate to acquire this product.', 'Small for my pocket. Ear plugs lets me playback in the store w/o an audience listening. Slippery for my fingers, though! Easy to use.', "You people need to pay attention to what's going on at your website. I have already reviewed this product and I'm not doing it again. I guess you think I have nothing better to do than sit and do this over and over again, well big surprise. I also have a life", 'Came in a baggie with no instructions. Looked like it was recording but then it would say "no file" and nothing showed up as a USB drive. Save your money and frustration and get a different one.']

B0089WM01S

['Blazing fast, best deal I could find under \$700. Works flawlessly so far. Could not find 3rd gen i7 6gb ram w/750 gb hard drive this solid for this price. Wish it had a backlit keyboard but boo hoo, I will just have to rough it

;)*****UPDATE 8/17/2013!! Well I was looking for a laptop backpack and decided to post this update. This laptop was a GREAT buy before, it is now INSANE!! I did NOT like windows 8. I purchased the "builder" version of Windows 7 Professional for \$99 saving \$50. Used that \$50 towards a 1TB hybrid drive that is 750GB/250GBssd and install was seamless since all the drivers for widows 7 64x are on the asus driver support page for this laptop. The only issue I ran into was the driver for the soundcard only resulted in the bottom speakers working, solution is to uninstall the driver then re-start and let windows find the best driver and install it, worked fine. I also went from 6GB ram to 16GB of Crucial Ram and it is a HUGE HUGE difference!!!! The only downside I have seen to going 16GB of ram is the battery seems to run down about 10% faster than it did before and about once an hour the screen goes from current setting to 10% brighter then back over 5 seconds, although I only notice it in low light settings. I also installed a 3M Anti-Glare film to the screen for both glare reduction and screen protection, this was \$19.99 and along with spending some time calibrating the screen cuts back on glare since I use this for work and spend hours and hours on it at times. I have found an option for a backlit keyboard, an ebay vendor selling an Asus keyboard that looks just like mine and found a site where some Asus owners have tapped into power to light the keyboard. If you don't want a lighted keyboard, work on computers at all, or are not good with a soldering iron your playing with fire. The ONLY NEGATIVE about this laptop is it should have a better GPU. I know its not a gaming machine, and in fact it will play Star Craft II on low graphic settings, but advertising this machine as running a GEFORCE 610M is false advertising. Its running INTEL's graphics card and my understanding of GPUs is limited, but in layman's terms from what I have learned from two different laptop forum posts regarding laptops running the same motherboard paired with the 610M, the way the two work together is not ideal and cannot be swapped out for higher end GPU. Since I have not found a way to replace the GPU on a laptop, if your a hardcore gamer looking for something to play 3rd person shooters even on low settings, this laptop is not for you.', 'The ASUS A55VD-AB71 is simply overall an EXCELLENT laptop once you get past one or two minor inconveniences. I bought this to replace my one year old Gateway NV55S04u 15.6-Inch Laptop that I also got from Amazon in 2011. My personal policy is to replace laptops within two years of usage but after seeing this ASUS A55VD and the specs it had I decided to break my custom and make it a one year deal. This is my very first time purchasing an ASUS product as I was skeptical about the brand at first since the name is never really mentioned in regular advertising campaigns in comparison to its rivals such as Acer, Gateway, HP-Compaq, Dell, etc. I have only had it for roughly a week but so far so good.The good parts about the ASUS A55VD are the blazing fast Core i7 processor, the large 750GB hard drive and the IceCool Palm Rest. I was a little perturbed when I saw that the hard drive was split into two parts, a C: drive and a D: drive; the latter being for data only. While I understand this is for protective means in case of data loss or corruption I didn't find it necessary in my case since I don't believe in filling up laptop hard drive spaces as it causes eventual slowdowns. That being said I used the Windows 7 in-built Computer Management tool to merge the partitions together. I prefer it that way overall.The memory of 6GB that it came with normally would be sufficient for the average user in conjunction with the Core i7 processor but my personal rule of thumb is to ALWAYS max out computer memory....or get as close to the maximum as one can comfortably afford so I purchased theCorsair Vengeance 8GB (2x4GB) DDR3 1600 MHz (PC3 12800) Laptop Memory (CMSX8GX3M2A1600C9)kit at the same time and installed it. The system works like a dream no matter what task you "ask" it to do with this boost.I usually have the laptop on for 8 or more hours plugged in a day so far and the heat levels are pretty moderate. I can keep it on my lap for quite some time and it doesn't get noticeably hot at all. Even at the bottom of it so kudos to ASUS for an excellent dissipating design. The lower right side of the laptop adjacent to the touchpad does get slightly warm when it's on for several hours but it's not enough to be an issue of discomfort for the right hand when resting on it.There were two things I were disappointed with however - the volume of the Realtek HD in-built speakers and the hybrid graphics of Intel HD4000/Nvidia 610M. Firstly, the speakers were allegedly to be Altec Lansing according to the info on the Amazon website but that is not the case. The speakers also sound so low even at their maximum that you'd swear something was wrong with your hearing and that you were prematurely going deaf. Even with adjustments made with the Realtek HD Audio Manager the

sound increase was next to negligible. Thankfully, however, my years of gained pc skills reminded me that I could use external software to enhance the sound quality. For all those interested you can purchase DFX Audio Enhancer and SRS Audio Essentials. The combination of both have my volume levels for both music and movies operating at desired output levels....as far as laptops go at any rate. Secondly, in regards to the graphics card, in no way was it mentioned on the Amazon site that the graphics would be a combination of Intel HD4000 and Nvidia 610M. It only lists the Nvidia. This disappointed me as I prefer dedicated graphics over embedded ones since the latter eats up part of the ram. Fortunately it seems to only consume 115MB of my 8GB ram. This isn't a deal breaker by any means BUT buyers should always know EXACTLY what they are getting before making a purchase. I will accept no excuse in regards to this from Amazon or ASUS. Overall the ASUS A55VD-AB71 is a raging beast of a laptop. Just keep in mind that some tinkering has to be done to get it to perform at the optimum levels most enthusiasts and/or gamers are looking for when making a purchase of \$700 to \$900. Personally I got it at \$729 which for a laptop this powerful is a real bargain.

UPDATE December 7, 2012: I decided to test the waters after doing some searches online about it and put in two sticks of 8gb each Corsair 16 GB (2x8 GB) DDR3 1600MHz (PC3 12800) Laptop Memory CMSO16GX3M2A1600C11 and they took. The ASUS A55VD-AB71's Intel Core i7-processor and chipset can take 16GB of ram as indicated on the Intel website DESPITE the fact the ASUS website says a MAXIMUM of 8GB only. COMPLETELY INCORRECT!!! This will be a welcome update to those who are music, video and graphic artist professionals. I am loving this laptop more and more now.', "Excellent product for my 9 year old son who loves it very much. However it didn't come as a gift wrapped and no note was included as i had requested. Shipped on time", 'One quick word of warning: You've probably noticed but Asus has a confusing range of nearly identical laptops with different model names. You'll find i7 and i5's in both the A55 and K55 models, all of which seem to come in mocha. Prices as well are all over the place, so double check the model and what all is in it! Amazon further muddies the waters with comparison charts that are incorrect. My guess if the swapped parts are an "upgrade" the specs don't get changed. Most changes I've seen are more RAM, larger hard drives - and even CPU's. This review should be applicable to most of these models as the variations are so slight. Just take into account any particular area (storage space, graphics drivers) that is of importance to you in your next laptop! I'll go over this a bit more in my summary. Anyway, for a sub \$800 laptop (even sub \$700) this is an *amazing* bargain. Most other brands in this range are i5 or i3 processors and typically have smaller monitors. Here you get not only an i7, but 8GB RAM and a 750GB HD. You may or may not have an option for an SSD - I went with the storage as SSD's will be coming down in price as size goes up in the coming months. I do most of my work on a desktop PC I built myself (Asus motherboard - natch!), but when travelling I've been sorely lacking in something I can actually be productive on. I usually borrow my wife's Dell Studio 15, which was just north of \$1k two years ago with a first generation i7. Fit and Finish First up, the A55VD is a good size and has a truly handsome finish. The top cover is a tweed like patterned and texture that is slightly metallic and slightly matte because of the texture. I was sad to see it easily picked up fingerprints at first. I found it's some sort of release compound for the plastic that actually accentuated this. A damp cloth with a bit of cleaner on it did the job and solved that problem. Now it's the opposite in that regard! There is also a nice metallic looking Asus logo embossed into the surface. This textural solution is unique and adds a silky and even luxurious feel to the exterior, while resisting scuffs and scratches like metal type finishes do. Good job! The sides and bottom are finished in a similar flat cross-hatch finish. At the bottom you find access to the battery - which plugs in the back and has a release as well as locking switch. There's also access to the HD, memory and the ODD and a few vents and slightly exposed heat sink. The feel of the laptop overall leaves a silky impression, one of the better plastic type finishes I've seen. On the left side you'll find a standard VGA port, HDMI, 2 USB 3.0 ports, network port (and cool little spring loaded door cover to keep appearances smooth) and power adapter port. On the right side you'll find the ODD drawer, a Kensington lock, USB 2.0 and headphone and mic jacks. Up front is a slightly recessed SD card slot. The back is the battery, which slides out drawer like. The lid opens smoothly and easily with just one or two fingers - no way to improve here. The friction is just right and it fits evenly with perfect alignment. Seemingly insignificant details like this do add up

quickly and are appreciated. Once open, visually Asus manages to keep this laptop looking svelte by tapering the front and edges in at the bottom. This gives it an almost wafer like appearance raised above the table top. It looks much flatter than it really is. The interior (business end) of the A55-VD is also quite nicely done. The quality of the materials and details again belie its price point. The front section hand-rest is a nice brushed aluminum finish with a nicely integrated single-piece touch pad. A row of lights are keyed with silkscreened symbols which is also nice. Quite often on other laptops I've had no idea the wi-fi was disabled until I actually check it through software. Nice to see hardware indications for key things. Status Indicators:- Power- Battery (status with and without AC power)- Drive activity- Wireless- Number Lock- Cap Lock The keyboard is slightly recessed surrounded by a matt plastic bezel. The speaker grill is above the keyboard as is the capsule shaped power switch with an oblong and subtle white power light. Thank you for no blue Asus! The monitor is surrounded by 5/8" of bezel and a bit over 7/8" at the top where you'll see the camera, indicator light and microphone. At the bottom is an inset metallic Asus logo. Things improve greatly when those hardware stickers are removed! I know - I'm the type that wants to crawl over counter tops of shops to pull the POP stickers off of printers that are yellowed with age. Hardware Regarding the 3rd Generation Ivy Bridge i7 Processor - it's fast. But!!! The Amazon specs say it's the i7-3610M rated at 2.7GHz or 2.3GHz depending on where you look, but the 3610M is a 2.3GHz chip. It's a Quad Core, 8 thread with a 3.3GHz turbo frequency and 6MB cache. But!!!11!***That's not the CPU in this laptop!***Sorry I went all n e r d y on you. The A55VD-AH71 (at least the one I just bought from Amazon) has the i7-3630M rated at 2.4GHz (3.4GHz turbo mode). So, it's a better chip and newer too - Q3 2012. But, as new as it is it's still not bleeding edge - it was displaced by the new Haswell chipset a month ago. And no, you probably wouldn't notice the difference! I don't think I would. Bottom line - they're all fast and all good. RAM: 8GB which is pretty decent and while my desktop has 32GB - I don't foresee ever swapping this out for more. I suppose if you do a lot of video or photo editing, then the money you saved on this machine can go to filling it up. It's rated at 7.89GB useable, which is actually a bit more than I was guessing! Probably a benefit of windows 8? Oh, and so you know - the windows experience index is 5.9. Processor: 7.8, Memory 7.8, Graphics 6.3 (both desktop and 3D/gaming), HD 5.9. The 16:9 monitor 1366x768 (non-touchscreen) quality is quite good for something of this price. The viewing angles like all laptops today stinks. Compared with much older laptops all manufacturers are cutting corners here. That aside - it's bright and vibrant. I'm used to an IPS panel, so *everything* suffers by comparison. The monitor's vivid appearance is enhanced by the lack of an AG coating (perhaps the same surface is being used on touchscreen models?). While I like this be aware that if you're using it in a bright environment (say windows are behind you) the reflections may be bothersome. The lack of an AG coating keeps the colors and contrast sharp though - so there's always a tradeoff. The Nvidia card does its job nicely for what it is - an entry level discrete video card. If you're a gamer first and foremost you should look elsewhere - or find a better card to plunk in. Photoshop CS5.5 and Adobe Lightroom take advantage of the graphics card and its 48 CUDA cores though! Here, it does its job and things move along nicely. Most laptops at this price are using the graphics driver off of the CPU. This isn't really acceptable for the purposes I use it for. If you're a gamer even more so. - so this is a heck of a deal. For most users this will be huge in a faster windows explorer and smoother scrolling. The 610M supports Bitstream HD Audio and and Pure Video HD decoding - all adding up to superior audio and video playback. The GPU also employs some interesting technology Nvidia refers to as their Optimus technology. This basically uses the GPU for demanding applications but then employs the integrated graphics of the intel chip for more menial tasks. This greatly reduces energy consumption to conserve the battery as well as reducing heat. At least the marketing sounds pretty convincing! The camera built into the lid is much nicer than I would have ever imagined. I talk to a lot of people on skype and this is amazing. It's awfully close to my stand-alone Logitech Pro 9000 webcam in (apparent) resolution. It doesn't quite have the capabilities for low light - but it's awfully nice. Whoda thunk? Oh yes, there's also a little indicator light right next to the lens to let you know you're on camera! The speakers are about on par or slightly better than I'd expect on a budget system - but I'd just call it adequate. Built by Altec Lansing, they certainly can reach high volume. The overall sound is compressed in the upper midrange with nothing much else going on. Asus calls

their system the SonicMaster technology developed by the *Asus Golden Ear Team*. Hmm. Perhaps break in is necessary - and with audio this is completely within the realm of possibility. I'll report back if any changes! The Realtek chipset seems to do its job, and I haven't noticed any odd glitches, pops or other artifacts. Probably enhanced by the Bitstream HD Audio as mentioned above too. For serious listening, movies or gaming you'll want ear-buds at the very least if not a pair of headphones for a superior experience. At first I was pleased to see a drawer for the ODD, anything to help seal dust out is nice. I've never been huge on the slot-load devices. The drawer mechanism is nice but about what you'd expect. However, it is quite prone to vibration. When I was installing my Adobe Suite CS5.5, at one point the disk went into high-spin mode and it sounded like a Cessna taking off. Simply touching the drawer or putting a little shim under the drawer side stopped the noise. You may or may not have the same problem - it seemed to me a matter of tolerance in manufacture. This does not appear to be an issue at regular DVD or CD playback speeds. The "ice-cool" palm rest seems to do its job. I believe this is in part due to the design of the chassis, and the way they taper the front and edges in. There is also quite a bit of ventilation up front. I can certainly say I don't notice any heat - where the Dell or Toshiba Satellites I'm used to get pretty toasty. And in fact, the entire bottom stays quite cool. As for the input devices, for the most part the track-pad works nicely and I like the "one piece" look of the flush fitting surface. You may want to disable the gesture controls - I know I did! Every time I moved my finger on the pad it seemed to think that meant I wanted to go to the start menu. Agh! The keyboard is one thing that took a bit of getting used to (for me anyway). It's the now ubiquitous chiclet style keyboard, which seem to require mashing the keys a bit more than I'm accustomed (coming from a mechanical keyboard). If you're used to this flat style of key then you won't have the issues your ham-fisted reviewer had. Overall the action is positive and consistent. Something other reviewers have pointed out is that the 750GB drive comes partitioned. Yech. Some folks like partitions, some don't. I really don't. Maybe I just feel like I'm going to paint myself into a corner, but I like one big contiguous lump o' space. This is easy enough to fix in disk manager and was pretty much the first thing I did. My other complaint with the hard drive might be that it isn't particularly speedy. This is only really based on observations of program launch speeds. Flash, Photoshop and Illustrator are notoriously slow booting and resource heavy to begin with. Once up and running however things seem to be just fine. Saves and transfers all seem to be within the normal range as well. Here is where the USB 3.0 is appreciated with an external drive - I had probably 250 Gigs of files I put on without issue. I'm also used to a SSD for my programs which is about as unfair as a comparison can be! Now, I won't say that this Asus is as fast as my current desktop (or even my old one) - but it certainly holds its own running memory hogging CPU intensive software like the Adobe Creative Suite or Lightroom. If you're running things like the Office Suite, browsing or doing light gaming you'll be delighted. AC Adapter: This is the most amazing AC adapter I've ever used or seen. Just kidding. Ok, power section unplugs from the brick which is good (and normal). The laptop end has a 90 bend on the plug which is also good. The power cable is flat, good here too. The brick is small - but not mind-bogglingly so. 5-1/8 x 1-1/8 x 2-1/4. Here's the gotcha - blue light! at least you can turn it over so it bothers the carpet. The separate cables facilitate wrapping the thing up for storage or travel. I suppose the pudding I haven't checked the proof of is how much a replacement (3rd party or not) would cost. I've seen them go from \$25 for an original Dell (\$10 for Chinese knock-off) to nearly \$100 for something that would just work for a Toshiba Satellite. The obvious weak link (as all of them) is the 90 bend. Time will tell but it seems fairly robust compared to many. Finally battery life - not bad! I've been running this for at least 3 hours now, and am typing in battery mode. Looks to be about 25% left. This includes some installs as well. I've never seen a laptop from anyone that comes close to the claimed times, but this seems to be right in there. It'd probably be good for 2.5 to 3 solid hours of actual work-work or a movie no problem. Yeah, I've seen 8-9 claimed. And they do have lots of technology to stretch the battery life. Seriously, I'd find 5 amazing. I WILL report back as I spend time with it "unplugged". BIOS: Nothing special here - American Megatrends and familiar for most of us. I can't think of why I'd need anything more powerful. Asus is known for having some pretty amazing software that comes with their Motherboards. The A55VD comes with an assortment of Asus software, most of it is of questionable value, but I wouldn't go so far as to

call it bloatware - which comes with most laptops! Worth mentioning:- USB Charger Utility: detects device type and charges accordingly- Splendid Video Enhancement: Allows you to custom set look of video playback- LifeFrame: Cool little photo enhancement tool that allows you to do special effects and types of framing to your video capture or photos. Hours of entertainment here!- Power4Gear Hybrid: basically a GUI for your power options - and you'll still need to bring up the window for advanced options. Meh.- FreshPaint: huh, this is a windows 8.1 thingy and here it is! You or your kids could have great fun with this one. Ok, I had fun with it too. Yes, there's things Photoshop CS6 can't do here.- Utilities: Calculator and Asus Converter to convert metric whatever- Windows Utilities: They seem to have done all the scouring for you to get those little things you miss from Windows 7 and XP!- Instant On: claims to greatly increase boot and wake times - while also backing up data when battery drops to below 5%. I'm not so sure about the 2 seconds from wake to desktop, but it's close. Boot times don't seem extraordinary but again, I'm getting used to SSD. Jury still out on this one. Speaking of jury, this is of course pre-loaded with Windows 8. I have a love hate relationship with windows 8. I just built a new PC, and installed 8 - which I also had running on my old PC (dual booting with 7). It is the future, for better or worse. I got a lot more excited about it with my new windows 8 phone - this is where it shines. I'm hoping with 8.1 some of the rough edges are rounded out. It's not that bad - and the problems I've had with it won't affect most people. Having a laptop that boots in less than 20 seconds is kinda nice. Overall there are a lot of things that are spectacular about windows 8 - so the pros do outweigh the cons. Not by a whole lot, but they do. Really. ;) Additional software includes things like McAfee Virus and Microsoft Office (both trials), Asus cloud storage and some other forgettable utilities and games. Shortcut tip! Windows key + X brings up contextual menu with Programs and Features at the top. Uninstall and you're done! Actually, I found the Office 365 suite is quite inexpensive compared to buying an old 2010 set that's licensed for only 2 computers. The office suite is \$100 a year for 5 PC's and 5 mobile devices. I'm not a fan of the subscription service everyone is moving towards, but here it makes sense. Just my 2. Ok, here comes two more stinky things. No Bluetooth. It's 2013 guys. We're talking what, a 50 part here? I know we're keeping the price low and I appreciate that - but you've already skimmed on... No Master Disk? Shame, shame. I think I'd pay for a physical backup - how much do you want Asus, \$5? \$8? Cuz I'll like pony up for that one. I know you make it all nice and available online and everything - but I'm a desert island type of guy. You and I and Murphy all know - if something happens and you need it - you sure as heck ain't gonna be in an air conditioned beachside bar sipping mai-tai's watching the dolphins pass by while surfing with blazing fast wifi. No, it's going to be whatever the polar opposite of that little scenario is, and it's certainly not going to be G rated. I want a disk! Pros:- Great set of features for "off the shelf" laptop- Fast i7 3610M processor- Decent NVidia GeForce 610M graphics- 8 Gigs RAM- 750 Gig HD- USB 3.0 x2- Good layout for connections- Decent monitor/very good color & contrast- No AG coating- Fit and finish as nice as \$\$\$ laptops- Handsome smudge and scuff resistant exterior surface- Nice weight, balance and size- Excellent camera- Smart Login for extra measure of security- Good access to battery (which locks), HD and RAM- Great SD card location- Some pretty nifty software and utility inclusions- No blue light on laptop- Price! Cons- Only 750 Gig HD- Partitioned HD- Only 8Gb RAM, both slots used- No Bluetooth- Some questionable software- No AG coating on monitor- Monitor only 1366x768 native resolution- Buzzy ODD drawer (at least on mine)- Blue AC adapter light- Mediocre audio (speaker) quality- No master disk (OS and software) That's about it. For the price of around \$680 (what I paid), it's outright amazing. It retains the "amazing" for the most part up to about \$800, with a rapid drop-off after that. I'd certainly give this serious consideration for 8 bills. I compared this to a few \$1000 laptops and some of them honestly didn't stand up in comparison. I wholeheartedly recommend this or one of its variations without hesitation. For instance you can save \$100+ on an i5 version with a smaller drive. If you carry your laptop a lot and size is important, then check out the Asus ultrabooks. They're gorgeous (even more so) with brushed metal surfaces and similarly priced, but *much* thinner and lighter. Of course there's a slight tradeoff in hardware specs. Asus has really stepped up their game as of late in both innovation, products, quality, service and price. We'll see how that holds as the next generation of laptops and the Haswell chip are released. Competition is a good thing! Overall Asus has done a great job in bringing an off the shelf laptop to

market with some good compromises. As you've no doubt noticed when adding features in the "customize" section of that on-sale laptop - that \$20 here and \$10 there adds up quickly to being no longer a budget laptop. Despite a few flaws - very few actually - I can't see how this does not justify 5 stars. In just price vs. performance it wins. The overall build quality and attention to detail is icing on the cake. I don't see how they do it. The only flaws - or cost cutting measures are seen in my Cons list. I love this thing. 5 big shiny yellow Amazon stars. Visit the Asus (dot com) website to learn more about this and other models - click on the "everyday computing" link under notebooks and ultrabooks.', 'Works great with alot of tasks I do. Like the features, too. The color is quite elegant and the size is just right for travel.', 'The item arrived with defect Software, to configure and restart the computer, an error was generated but never gave the lapto video. Very bn Investigate before buying this product', 'Its and excelent laptop, the build quality is very good, and the performance is amazing for its price. I added 16GB ram and a 7200 WD Scorpio Hdd and its a devouring monster for less than a thousand. The only aspect is Windows 8, which it's a cellphone OS, and may have some merit on a touchscreen, but in this one i would prefer the Windows 7.', 'Of all the Intel i7 laptops on Amazon, I felt this model was the best deal for the price versus features you get. PROS 1. Appears well-made. At least, there were no flaws in the model I received. 2. Lots of RAM and HDD space, and Windows7 lets you repartition the HDD as you like in Windows7. Much easier than the old days of booting with a partition CD because the OS won't let you tamper with the OS partition of the HDD while it's in operation. 3. In spite of the picture, while the palm rest does have a "mocha" color, it is a BLACK laptop. I doubt ones labeled as "mocha" are actually that color all over. 4. While the photo of the keyboard would lead you to believe the keys might be smaller than usual (as they include the full number pad), the main keyboard sports healthy-sized keys with the number pad keys being 2/3 the width of the standard keys. 5. INCLUDES HDD IMAGING SOFTWARE FROM ASUS (WOOT!) Every PC/laptop I have I need to install HDD imaging software so I can rapidly recover from a system crash. ASUS includes a utility that will image the OS partition (C drive) either to DVD/BluRay or to another HDD partition. So, you set up a portion of your HDD for image storage, and you can create a set of ISO files whenever you want. This is a big bonus (although I suppose all ASUS laptops come with this). CONS - (all of which are minor and relates to personal preferences) 1. Windows7 Home Premium. I wanted XP mode for some applications, and that means paying for the Windows7 Professional Anytime Upgrade for about \$80 more. The only comfort is that any laptop with Windows7 Professional already installed probably would have cost much more and had fewer features. 2. No phone modem. I didn't notice it not being listed on the product specs. So, I had to buy a USB phone modem as an accessory. If you go someplace with no broadband or WiFi, you'll want this if you have a dial-up account. This is common with most "off the shelf" laptop builds. So, I cannot fault ASUS for this. 3. Moderate resolution display. It's clear and sharp, but I suppose the laptop makers discovered that high resolutions on 15.x" displays bother people with the tiny desktop icons. On this laptop, the icons (at the smallest size setting) are 200-300% larger than what I've been used to. 4. Non-latching lid. Just a feature I've become accustomed to. 5. Display is "glossy" and not "matte." In other words, you can see light reflected in it. Not a deal breaker, but if you really prefer the matte finish, you might want to pass. MISCELLANEOUS NOTES Someone commented (on this model or another ASUS laptop) that the speakers were on the bottom of the laptop. There is a speaker on the bottom, but it likely is a system speaker (beeps). The sound speakers are on the top above the top row of keys. For an i7, it seems to run slow...even on "performance" mode...especially when booting. I'm not sure what the cause is for this. It seems to boot not much faster than the Windows XP Pro laptop it replaced, but when I look at the size of XP versus Windows7, it is a much larger OS to load. On top of that, a laptop's components are designed to conserve power while my desktop PC (my only other i7 comparison with Windows7) is fitted with high-performance components, which may explain the difference in loading speed. SUMMARY The wonderful thing of computers becoming so insanely powerful is now you can get an awesome laptop like this for under \$800. My last laptop was in the ballpark of \$2,000, and the features, compared to this one, are laughable. Other than wanting a higher version of Windows7 or a phone modem port, there are no hardware deficiencies in this configuration.', 'For the price this is a very solid laptop. The i7 kicks trash and is really fast. If you

want this thing to fly, put in a SSD (solid state drive). It's pretty easy to do.", 'The hardware that you get with this laptop for the price is amazing. I installed a Intel 180gb Solid State Drive and did a clean install of Windows 7 Home Premium x64 using the key that comes with it and it is super fast. For those of you having trouble with the touch pad when you turn on the laptop immediately start pushing F2 to enter the bios and then go to advanced and disable the internal pointing device and use a mouse which is what I use anyway. I am resting my hands on it right now and nothing is happening because it is disabled if you do not have this option then update your bios via asus website. It takes about 2 seconds and you can turn it back on anytime. My Windows 7 Experience Index is Processor 7.6 Memory 7.7 Graphics 6.5 Gaming Graphics 6.5 and Primary Hard Disk 7.9 (with the ssd) those are really good ratings for what you pay for this laptop. Get it and do a clean install with a solid state drive then go to asus website and download the drivers and programs if you want few are needed and you will not be disappointed!', 'I would recommend the ASUS A55VD-AH71 15.6-Inch Laptop to anyone looking for an affordable and great laptop. Works flawlessly so far and hope it does til next upgrade.', 'I wanted a laptop of quality 1A but price low. This laptop is ideal. Pros: 1) The price. 2) The performance. 3) Video card is very good. 4) The finished is excellent. 5) The OS go in my language. In spanish. Cool¡¡¡¡¡ Para mi eso es lo mejor. 6) The procesor is very fast Cons: 1) the programs preinstaled (Office starter) is bad. I recomend this laptop. In my country (Colombia) this product is costous.', "I love this laptop although I don't like Win8, it's too bad for me (it doesn't work for me, I prefer Win7). But I could customize it for my pleasure. This ASUS is really fast, everything looks fine except the HDD which sometimes makes some noise, The HDD is a Western Digital which is not a good product. Anyways, good laptop for a fair price; BUY it ... GET IT!!!!Heeeeeeyyyyysssss!!!! After a couple of months using it I have discovered a little problem, the two USB3.0 ports are too close that it's impossible to use them both at the same time! they need more space between them to be usable. However, this is a very wonderful laptop!!!!", "So I am here writing a review on the laptop, from the laptop. Let me start by saying that I did a lot of research...a lot. To me this is a major purchase and I thought it should be treated that way. After many days and weeks of research, I had narrowed it down. I knew I wanted certain specs and a certain price, but it seemed hard to find all that. In the end, I am very happy thus far with the purchase. I wanted a core i7, 8 GB RAM and decent specs all the rest of the way around. I also knew I wanted to replace the HDD with a solid state. So I bought this machine, and also purchased the Samsung 840 SSD to use in this machine. When I got the laptop, it of course had come preloaded with Windows 8. I used it a bit, and played around. It wasn't bad, but I knew I wanted to use windows 7 on this machine. In fact, that was another reason I got this machine, I knew it could be put back to Windows 7. Buying Windows 7 on any machine now is getting near impossible. So fast forward, pop in new solid state drive, reload with Windows 7, and done. Let me say that this machine is awesome. It is so fast, it makes me want to cry. For years I have used old old systems, other peoples throw aways. This is my very first brand new laptop and I dont know why I didnt do it sooner. Now that is not to say I havent used a newer machine. For my last job I used core i3 and i5 laptops, which had 4 gb RAM, but those were weak in comparison to this thing. The use of it is good, screen very nice. There is a potential glare to it because screen is a little shiny, but this has not been an issue for me. The wifi has been fast, reliable. I have not had any real problems to speak of yet, however I am still a relatively new user. Now the mention of the one thing that has been an issue thus far. The mouse pad is difficult at best most of the time. I have found that I have been using a wireless mouse and disabling the mouse pad in the bios. That is how difficult it has been. I knew this going in however based on reviews, and decided it was a small enough issue that I wanted the best laptop I could get that had everything I wanted. This does, but the mouse is just it's weak point. I am thinking about maybe trying to update it or play with it more, since I haven't done that yet. Aside from the mouse pad, this has been the best laptop I have every used or owned. I have worked with many many machines over the years so for me to give a goo review on a computer product means it is good.", "I got this from two weeks ago and I love it. It is an excellent laptop for every use. My only critic could be:- It doesn't has Blue Ray. LED screen is excellent. If you are looking for a I7 laptop, do not hesitate to buy this one. Relation between quality/performance/price is unbeatable", "This is my first Asus. I've

had a few of their motherboards over the years though, so I had confidence in the brand. Got a great deal on what seems to have been the last of Amazon's stock. Really beautiful build. Lightning fast. Love the Nvidia graphics, which as we know, are getting more and more scarce out there. Soon you may not even be able to get it outside of a gaming machine. I went into the settings and turned off the hybrid graphics option and am just running the Nvidia. i7 CPU is a beast. The keyboard is smooth as silk. The mocha shell is very chic. Screen is good and vibrant. Power brick is compact. Really happy with it all the way around. Win 8 is a bit of a bear to get used to, so I just tweaked it to be more like Win 7. Here's how:- Bring back the Start Menu by installing Classic Shell, it's free and available from SourceForge. Works like a charm. I even set a custom Start button. Cool!- Boot Directly to Desktop and skip that pesky app page with all the tiles. Just another cool feature of Classic Shell that I like.- Skip the Login Screen -- just reset your user password. When it prompts you for the new password, leave the fields blank, and Apply, and this will eliminate the need to input a password on bootup. It'll just go straight to your desktop (via Classic Shell) automatically.- Bring Back Desktop Gadgets with 8GadgetPack. it's free. Just install it, and you'll have all your fave Windows 7 Gadgets back and available to use on Win 8. Overall, a top-notch laptop. Fast, powerful, excellent deal. Nothing but praise here! Happy! ;oD", "Very happy with the speed of the processor, feel of the keyboard and the display. Compared to the Lenovos that I use in the classroom, this feels so much more sturdy, and responsive. Several weeks of research of models and manufacturers led me to Asus. The only thing I wish this particular model had is a backlit keyboard. (It's very helpful when I'm in bat mode). Made the upgrade from Windows XP to Windows 8. Still figuring out some of the tricks, not crazy about it, but I am adapting to it much more easily than I thought I would. Maybe my Windows phone helped with that. I feel very comfortable about the durability, and price paid for this product.", "I live in Guatemala, there is no guaranty coverage in Latin America for this product, so I am pretty much screw. So I have to send this computer back to United States. I strongly suggest buying another computer. I have a Dell Laptop that is 7 year old and still works, I think now I am going to buy a Mac Pro, because Windows 8 is the worst operating system, and is not even useful on Asus computer, because it doesn't have a touch screen, don't know why Asus sells this computer with Windows 8. So I warn you all, stay away of this lemon of a computer!", "This computer won't win any speed or power user contests but it has a lot of bang for the buck. I need to do lots of word processing, spreadsheet work and photo editing. This Asus does it all quickly and reliably. The 15.6" screen is bright and crisp and the battery life is well past 6 hours! I appreciate the two usb 3.0 ports as I need to pack an external hard drive with proprietary information. The notebook is not exactly svelte by today's ultra-thin standards, but I pack it on my back to work on my Vespa with no problem. The only thing I had to ding it a star for was Windows 8-nuf said. This computer is built to work and to last and that is what I bargained for.", "I would have given this 5 stars but Windows 8 really put a damper on things. I think if this ran 7 it would have been better. I gave this a full month of use before I decided it wasn't for me and sent it back. Pros: Fast Cooling pad works well Mouse area is awesome and very much like the Apple Mac Screen is large and good resolution The case is very stylish and has a nice feel to it Battery life is good Cons: Shuts down randomly and seems to over heat easily Windows 8 is for touch screens Key board is spaced too much, making it hard to type. Ten key pad is not needed. Over all a good machine but I decided it was too much hassle dealing with Windows 8 even after installing the Classic Shell over it.", "Okay, so I've used this laptop a few months now, and I would wait longer, but I already know the cons that piss me off enough... and considering one of them just deleted my email to a client... yeah, review time. Pros: light. Not as light as some are these days, but lighter than the several year old dell latitude that I was using previously. It adds noticeable weight to the backpack... but hell, what's a little extra weight training right? seriously though, it's not bad at all weight wise Battery life seems pretty good, I may upgrade to the stronger battery later, but I don't use this much without the charger nearby, and with an inverter in the car, I can charge it just about anywhere. Iffy bits Body style. Maybe it's just me, but that little bit in the front that it's all inclined and not solid like every other laptop I've used.. is a tad annoying at first... but after awhile, you don't really care anymore... however, I don't like the placements of the status lights (front left)... and to be honest, the body apparently makes it difficult to open the unit up and swap hard drives (which you

will have to do, as mentioned 2nd line down from this one.) Webcam and mic. They work, that's all I can tell you because I don't use them. Harddrive - I didn't use it long before I switched it out, but just trying to start it up.... my dell with half the ram and weaker intel loaded faster than that! I didn't find any listing that wasn't a 5400rpm drive (sloooooow), but I had a hybrid drive already waiting to swap in so I didn't care. To be honest. if you're looking for a fast drive laptop.... don't even both looking over the listing for it. Go buy a hybrid drive from here or newegg, you can sometimes get a pretty nice one for 100\$ or even a bit less, and it'll run circles around the 5400 they put in many laptops I saw while searching. Ram - it runs, it runs well, so no real complaint there. I've seen reviews saying that it can handle up to 16gb, and even the tech I talked to agreed, but said to upgrade that far isn't that purposeful as most programs hardly take more than a few gigs of ram. Then again, I'm not using heavyweight gaming, so perhaps the upgrade would be more useful to others than to me.... then again, maybe I'll do it anyway just because I can. Cons: touch pad - seriously, the worst one I've EVER used. Palm proof tech? go home you're drunk. I swear sometimes this thing things I touched it when I BREATH. It clicks all the time when I'm trying to do something and messes me up constantly. The click buttons are PART of the touch pad, which honestly has to be the worst idea ever in touch pads. With no distinction, I can't tell where I'm clicking, IF I'm clicking, and it frequently wants to right click when I'm clearly hitting the LEFT click. Perhaps there's additional software involved that makes it better, but I didn't find it, and I honestly don't want to mess with it. So yeah... get a mouse. The speakers are okay, but honestly not what I would have expected from altec. For one... they're on the UNDERSIDE of the laptop... not really sure why, but whatever, they still work. Overall impression: It works, it was only 750\$ with an i7 and 6 gigs ram and arrived relatively quick.... so can't complain on that. It handles 7 ultimate 64 bit pretty nicely, CS4 64 bit runs quite smoothly (yay, seriously, yay) and games.... well... it runs my bigfish games. Graphics are quite nice, plays 1080 and 720 nicely. As a stand alone laptop.... I'd have to say not impressed, not impressed at all. However, it actually works quite well for my setup, since I actually use it connected via hdmi to an asus 24" monitor (which I purchased on newegg at the time, but regardless, is a rather lovely monitor), external keyboard, and logitech trackball mouse (which is awesome in photoshop) so that I can do my work with more ease of access and better sound as I have logitech 5.1 speakers in the office. So as it is... I'm not completely positive I approve the price point, but hey, it's an i7 so I guess I can't complain with it's 2gb nvidia card as well. But basically, get yourself an external mouse, and turn off that stupid touchpad, and you'll be set to go. Oh, and like I said, hybrid drive, definitely get one.", 'For those of us that have to actually pay for our own laptops out of our own pockets, this has been the best laptop purchase I have ever made. I read the reviews where a customer found that the machine would successfully support 16GB of RAM and I ordered exactly the same chip set (Corsair 16 GB (2x8 GB) DDR3 1600MHz (PC3 12800) Laptop Memory CMSO16GX3M2A1600C11) and sure enough it works perfectly. Asus has a quick start feature that saves so much time waiting for Windows to start up. The features built into the machine are now standard with laptops but at least there is nothing left out. I would have preferred getting Windows 7 instead of 8 because all Mr. Softy has done is to make 8 really, really annoying. If you are sick of the lock screen, charm bar, and all the rest of it you can get it under control with Start8 from Stardock. Corsair 16 GB (2x8 GB) DDR3 1600MHz (PC3 12800) Laptop Memory CMSO16GX3M2A1600C11']

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[I use these with my blackberry if anyone still uses that phone or was wondering. The sound is outstanding for this price and i would recommend these to anyone. Size takes some getting use to but not much. Enjoy!', 'I recently lost my last earbuds for running. I purchased these on sale and they are outstanding. They serve the purpose, and have quality sound. I saved money, retained superior quality sound without having to pay \$149 for a different brand of earbuds. Great!!', 'Came from Bose IE2's. . I have went through 5 pairs of Bose's in the past 2 years but didn't want to go anywhere due to the sound quality. Tried these out because of the price and was astounded. Was

so shocked I bought a second pair!", "I am not an audiophile, but I am definitely a knowledgeable consumer. I purchased these once the price dropped because I have heard very positive things about them, and I was just bored one night. The sound is great for the average consumer and the construction and quality of each piece is very high. Due to the drivers being larger than the SL49s, these stick out a bit in your ears, and they do get uncomfortable for me after about an hour or so on continuous use. I haven't been able to find a perfect fit with the gel tips, but I've been dealing with it as the sound really is great. The inline remote works perfectly and the buttons have a very satisfying click to them. The one real issue I have with these earphones is that living in NYC, you get cold wintry days and a bunch of random cold days throughout the year. The cables almost freeze in place in colder weather, so they end up unwieldy and unyielding. I like that the cables are so thick and durable, but I don't like not being able to bend or shift the cables just because of the weather. All in all, I am happy with the purchase. For the sub \$40 price, I can't complain all too much.", 'Compared these to another very popular brand, and these had far better bass sound connected to my iPhone. Quality is excellent, love the look, and the flat wires are nice as they do not appear to tangle up like round wires do. They are larger than a standard iPhone earbud, but do not feel uncomfortable at all. Very nice frequency response, and nice bass for headphones. And they look really cool connected to my phone. Came with a nice carry case as well.', "These are by far the best sounding earbuds I have ever listened to. Every style of music sounds great on these. The design is also very cool. The black and white are very stylish. I definitely recommend buying these earbuds, you won't be disappointed!", 'Had these for two months now and I LOVE them. Really great quality and sound Amazing. Search for my review on youtube :Max Yuryev SL99 Review I have a lot more details.', "All I can say is that I wasn't expecting much but I bought these as just a second set to use along with my Sennheiser units. So far so good. Sound is very impressive in the mid-ranges. Bass is Superb and treble can be overwhelming, almost piercing at times. I can see where some people say they are heavy, but most of the weight is in the cords. Which due to the weight of the cords they do tend to fall out. I probably wouldn't buy these again if I lost them. I would just stick with Sennheiser or Klipsch.", 'After trying these in ear headphones for a while, I just took the loss and gave them to a friend. They are so outsized, that they simply can not stay in your ear comfortably. I would end up adjusting them or reinserting them every ten to fifteen minutes. As a side note, they are a heavy on bass. I found it to overwhelm the music, but that is a personal preference.', "I have never tried the "Beats by Dre" in-ear headphones, but I can't imagine them sounding much better than these. You get great bass, much better than standard earbuds, and excellent mids and highs. I find myself listening to music much more now that I have these headphones. The wires never get tangled either, which is clutch. My only slight complaint is that they fall out of my ears somewhat easily especially when running, exercising, etc. Maybe I just have to play with the insert sizes a bit (there are 3 included in the package).", "My problem is not with the sounds from the in ear phones, my problem is keeping them in my ears. No matter which size I use, they keep falling out. I have to lay down to keep them in to listen to the music. I don't have this problem with my \$10 ear phones or my \$5 ones for that matter.", "These are great headphones. They have a good bass which many of the other in-ear headphones lack and the sound is pretty clear. The fit is comfortable and these headphones come with two different size ear tips (small, large) other than the Medium ones that come fixed. The cable is flat and tangle free. At this price point, these are well worth and you won't be disappointed."]

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["Right up front I will admit to being a non-techy so please don't rely on this review if you're looking for specs and comparing detailed performance with other brands currently on the market. I am, however, a great user of personal computers and laptops so I know what I like when I use it (and what I don't like). This one, I like. Right out of the box it was simply awesome. Super easy to start using, even your grandmother could do it. It looks sleek and just feels like solid quality. Yes, it's a big one so if you're looking for easy light-weight portability or want to store it in a standard hotel

room safe (like I wanted to do last week) it may not be the best choice. But when you power it up and sail away in that great big beautiful HD screen, the size is totally worth it. It's fast, it's powerful, and it has uber storage. The colors are absolutely vibrant. I am also a gamer so have done extensive testing on high-end MMORPGs with absolutely no slowing. And the games are as clear as can be. My only negative comment is that with all of that power, it runs hot, and that hot air has to go some place right? Unfortunately, the fan blows it out the right side, directly to where your hand would normally rest if you are using an external mouse. I deal with that by simply moving my hand lower and all is good, but I do wish the hot air blew out the back instead. Very happy with this product and glad I can use it regularly.", "First, let me say I am not the most technologically advanced person ever. This review will cover my experience in setting up, updating, and general use of this laptop. My family and I have had various brands of computers. Before we tried this one, we've had HP, ASUS, and Gateway. We have one wireless router that has been working well for several years. We have an older iPad, two iPhone 4S smartphones, an iPhone 3g that's used as an iPod by our 8 year old son, and a couple gaming systems. Before this newest addition to our electronics world, everything was working just fine. Enter Toshiba. We knew this was going to be bigger than the laptops we were used to, but this was bigger than expected. It's not too big for home use. I wouldn't want to lug it around an airport on a vacation trip though. This thing is gorgeous. The back-lit keyboard is in red. The logo on the outside glows red when closed and it's really a good looking computer. The power cord is much thicker and bigger than any others we've used before, but to feed this powerhouse I guess you have to have a good flow of juice. The way it connects is different than others we've had. The plug has a larger diameter insert. It doesn't feel like it really plugs in very solidly. I can only wonder how it will hold up over time as it gets moved around the house being plugged and unplugged. The initial start-up was fast and easy. When we went to download some larger programs from the Internet, it would bog down and lose our wireless Internet connection. This happened over and over. We went to Toshiba's website and made sure to install and update all new and current drivers. We spent about two hours researching potential issues online until we decided we couldn't figure it out and called Toshiba. After going thru the normal automated phone system we finally reached a person with Toshiba. He asked typical questions. He did not attempt to have us do any software updates. Instead he had us do a complete restore which he said would take several hours. We were not happy. He tried to get us off the phone and to have us call back later when the computer is finished, but we kept insisting a restore would not fix anything since it was probably a driver or software issue. He pushed our issue to a Tier Two person. As we were talking with her, the computer restore function finished. It took maybe 20 minutes, not hours like we were told. This lady remoted into the computer. She had us download some programs which would cause the computer to lose the wireless Internet connection. She went into our router and changed the frequency, but that had no positive effect. As she was remoting into the machine she went to the Toshiba website and check the updates and drivers. All the newest updates and drives were installed. After a couple hours she basically said we would have to box it up and sent to Toshiba. We insisted there must be an issue with the driver for the wireless card. She had us download the driver and save it on the desktop. As she was talking to us on the phone, she had us uninstall the driver that was in the computer and restart it. Of course this made it where we could not connect wirelessly until we opened and installed the wireless driver. We found out the newest version of the driver was not working, but when an older version from earlier this year was installed everything was good in the world again. Overall we spent over seven hours working on this computer just to get it running like it is supposed to. Had we not stuck to our guns, it would've taken much longer and it would've been sent back to Toshiba just to probably have the same issue again. We were told they were sending this to their developers so hopefully by the time you read this, you won't have this same issue. We use this computer to operate a Silhouette Cameo Starter Kit Bundle Cutter with the Designer software and a Cricut Expression Electronic Cutting Machine with Sure Cuts A Lot 2 software, that need a lot of system power to run. These cutting machines were previously connected to a smaller computer with much less power and size and when we used it, it would slow down and take some time to complete a crafting project. With this Toshiba, there's not one hiccup. It blazes thru it. I'd say our precious computers were more like an

economic 4 cylinder manual transmission and this Toshiba is at least a V8 automatic powerhouse. This isn't your basic, entry level computer. So, if you're considering this we imagine you know what your looking for. Good luck!", 'I love my new laptop. I replaced a 3 year old HP with 6GB of memory that was starting to give me some trouble. The only thing I do not like about this PC is Windows 8, in fact I hate it. If I could I would uninstall 8 and install 7, but that would screw up a bunch of other things. Hey, Microsoft, you suck. I can only wholeheartedly recommend this Toshiba laptop, but at the same time condemn Microsoft for an abysmal operating system. Update: Just wanted to say that I have had my Laptop now for a little over a month and have had no hardware problems at all. I have had one problem, but that was related to Windows 8 screwing with the system if you turn on your password feature. Windows 8 basically will not allow you to use it and just gives you a blank screen at what is supposed to be the password screen. I just turned that feature off and now have no problems. The other problems reported by others can also be related to Windows 8, but there was not enough info to make a definitive judgement. Just one more reason to HATE Windows 8.', 'This laptop is probably the most zippy I have ever used. It conquers everything I throw at it with ease. The screen is almost flawless for a laptop. The viewing angles are absolutely incredible and the brightness and color are wonderful as well. Apparently the processor is not voltage regulated so this allows it to push itself to full capacity. I notice the difference. Many laptops have 5500 rpm hard drives, this has a 7200 rpm and that is a very good thing as it affects most things you'll do on your computer like load times for games and starting up programs. One weird thing is that according to the info on Amazon you get a 1TB hard drive, and you do, however its split into two 500 gig drives. Not really a big deal, just thought I should mention it. Viewing the pictures on here made me think that the colors were black and pink, but its actually red in person. Not sure if this has to do with my desktop monitor or what, but the laptop colors are black and red, not black and pink just in case you are wondering. I don't have a ton of games to test on it, but Bioshock Infinite, Skyrim, Tomb Raider (New one) and Hitman Absolution all run flawless on the laptop. Its very nice to know that I can take this thing with me and have such a work horse on the go. All of this power does come with a caveat. The battery drains "FAST". This is not something your gonna play with for hours on end when out and about without plugging it in. I don't even think I got 4 hours out of it when playing a game. Indeed its not much longer when surfing the web. I am not knocking off any stars for this as I don't consider this a flaw for the laptop as if the laptop was able to run all day its pretty much guaranteed you would not have as much power as this does. And since this laptop is meant to be powerful then you should know that the battery life will suffer going into it. The reason I have knocked a star off is because of two things. One is that they put the vents on the right hand side of the computer, exactly where your mouse hand will be should you choose to use one, and if your buying this there is a good chance your a gamer and will be using one. I would almost consider this a major flaw except that I did notice over time that my hand was normally out of the way of the heat coming out of the vents because they are towards the back of the side and my hand rarely ever goes back that far. The other reason that contributes to the 1 star knock off is the fact that it is not touch screen. This is minor, but let me tell you, Windows 8 plays very nice with a touch screen, indeed, it almost begs you to have one. Now, in no way is a touch screen a must, you can do pretty much everything with your mouse and I assume most gamers don't want a touch screen anyways. I just think it would have been nice to have the capability should you want to use it. I will stay away from reviewing Windows 8 here as you can find plenty of that all over the net. I also want to mention that to me, in the photos on here it appears like the keys are back lit but the individual letters don't light up, this is not the case, the letters do light up and are very nice and crisp looking. This is a great feature. The Qosmio on the back lights up too. To me this thing is well worth the cost if you need a portable powerhouse. Its got a nice looking and big screen with a great resolution and it can handle more than most laptops would ever care to even try. It looks very stylish as well. Just remember your paying for power, with that comes a lower battery life and those are the breaks. Your not gonna find this much power and run all day anywhere. A case can probably be made for another laptop that stretches out a little longer, I haven't tried them all, but take into account the internals for a true comparison. I can very much recommend this product.:: Update 10/27/2013 :: I purchased Final Fantasy XIV: A realm Reborn a few days ago. I was playing

it on my desktop mostly, where with full settings I was getting about 25fps. Not so on this laptop, I hover more in the 50's - 60's in the fps category at full settings. The game is no slouch either. Its absolutely gorgeous to look at, especially in 1920x1080. This laptop has proven to me once and for all that its time I build myself a new computer. I had been updating my desktop and have yet to feel the need to start over with a new motherboard until now. Anyways, I just wanted to update this review with Final Fantasy mentioned. Again, this laptop runs the game at the absolute highest settings and it does so handily. Gets a bit warm, but that is to be expected. And FYI, if your into MMO's this is probably one of the best MMO's I have ever played. I am loving this game.', 'The Good: *Powerful NVIDIA GeForce GTX 770M video card will handle most of today's (2013) games smoothly. *Harman Kardon speaker bar in front of you makes sure you don't miss a beat of great sound. *Great, backlit keyboard with virtually no chance of debris to get inside. *Full version of Adobe Photoshop Elements 11 & Premiere Elements 11 included. *Four SUB 3.0 ports to take advantage of, as well as HDMI port and others. *Looks great with red backlit colors and smooth outer shell. The Bad: *No slots for picture cards. *Just one color scheme. The Bottom Line: Toshiba's X75-A7295 is a great gaming PC with a powerful video card and great sound. First off, yes, this is Windows 8 machine, but it is not a touch screen. If you prefer Windows 7, you can do your own formatting and then try to download drivers off Toshiba's website. You may also download some free tools that are available these days, such as free Startup button tools, as well as other tweaks you can do to make Windows 8 feel like Windows 7. Just use Google for more information. The official Windows Experience Index Score is 5.9. Please see a picture uploaded by me to see all the scores. Also there is a picture of the keyboard, which designed in such a way, where each key is directly on top of each slot. In addition to being backlit, this also prevents pretty much any debris from getting underneath the keyboard. Gaming performance is flawless. I ran one of my favorite games Fallout: New Vegas Ultimate Edition - PC and the game set itself to "Ultra High" high setting right away. The performance was very smooth and flawless with no lag. It actually performed better than it did on XBOX 360 and without any noise whatsoever. 1.3 Full HD TruBrite display(1920x1080) is absolutely gorgeous. As far as sound goes, the sound bar speaker is right below the monitor, which is composed of four speakers. The sound sounds absolutely great. It is also very loud, which is louder than any laptop I ever owned. This laptop also includes Adobe Photoshop Elements 11 & Premiere Elements 11 which is a great value package. It includes some other miscellaneous software that you may never use, but it can easily be uninstalled. Battery life is average and will last about over two hours when used at "full blast" with highest brightness setting. At over 7 pounds and 10.70 x 16.50 x 1.70 inches in dimensions, it is a big boy and will probably require a carrying case if you are willing to lug it. The backlit scheme is red and unlike Alienware, it cannot be change, so if red is your color and you are looking for a powerful gaming laptop, then Qosmio X75-A7295 is a great choice.', 'This laptop is very attractive and has some features not available on my current workhorse, an HP Elitebook 6930p, which is a generation back in laptop technology. Unlike my dual core processor, the Toshiba uses the new quad core Haswell Intel Core i7-4700MQ processor. Notable Features: 1. Windows 8 (standard issue on current PC's) 2. Lighted keyboard (the keys are backlit by red light, handy for airplane or darkened room use.) 3. 17" screen. This is what jumps out at you when you open up the laptop. Huge screen. 4. Sleek appearance: shiny ABS plastic and brushed textured aluminum. Red accents. 5. Large touchpad with bar control for mouse buttons. 6. NVIDIA GeForce GTX 770M GPU with 3GB GDDR5 memory for excellent graphics performance (ie, games) 7. Webcam 8. Mobile music dock (can plug MP3 into the mic jack to play music) 9. 4 good quality speakers (Harman Kardon) 10. This unit has a DVD SuperMulti read-write. If you want Blu-Ray, upgrade to the A7298 11. Adobe Photoshop Elements 11 or Adobe Premiere Elements 1 included (very nice! My fave graphics software.) 12. Sleep and Charge for cell phones and tablet even when laptop is off Downsides 1. Controls like volume are shared with the F function keys. On my HP Elitebook, these are on a touch panel near the hinge. Fast and easy. I don't like shared buttons. 2. It runs very hot. There is a warning front and center about not letting it sit on your lap too long as you operate it. I suggest a lap desk and the one I really like is the Lapgear Jumbo Lap Desk which is well designed for using a laptop away from a desk or table. 3. It is heavier than some laptops: my HP is 5 lbs and this is 7.6lbs. 4. Battery life is average (3.5 hours is about all you

can expect)5. Windows 8 only (this is a function of Microsoft having rolled out a new operating system but a lot of us, including me, preferred Windows 7.)6. I have some issues with the wireless; if they aren't due to my wireless network, I will have to contact the Toshiba support. The reception is very weak, yet other laptops and devices get good signals in the same location. I'm beginning to suspect it is indeed the fault of the Toshiba. *UPDATE Wireless card is flaky. Got it to work, then it flakes out. I'm considering replacing the card with an Intel, because I can't tell if it's a driver issue or not. Definitely a weak point in the laptop. That's why it has a star deducted. Bottom line: top quality laptop for especially for gaming and multimedia. Beautiful appearance. Geared for fast operation and fast graphics. Large, bright screen. Beautiful styling. Could have had better cooling.', 'I bought this from a local store with the intention of playing Battlefield 4. The core temps for the processor run around 45C idling and ~50C when watching YouTube or movies. Playing Battlefield 4 on low gfx (defaulted) had well over 60fps, but I witnessed temps climb to around 88C-90C. This scared me. I made it about an hour before the laptop overheated, which required me to yank the battery in order to reboot. I was playing on a flat glass surface with no obstructions. I read a lot of reviews of this laptop and its poor heat management. The exhaust on the right hand side is a nuisance. Pros:- i7 4770mq core, 16 gb ram!, geforce gtx 770M with *3* gb memory (highly doubt you will make the most of that without overheating first)- numpad- usb 3.0- hdmi port- huge screen- battery charges fast Cons:- overheating- toshiba norton bloatware on first bootup - easy to uninstall- right side exhaust fan blows on your hand if using an external mouse This laptop would be a solid 5 star if it had proper heat management. Overheating really kills it though.', '~Update! I am absolutely LOVING this big screen, I Highly recommend going "BIG" for anyone with "older eyes" or any type of vision issues, the ease of viewing items whilst surfing the web or watching videos (and yes, gaming) MORE than makes up for the extra weight and relatively shorter (than a 15" laptop's) battery life. Loving the speed for boot up and not having ANY storage issues (like my last ho-hum 15" laptop) I can save and download to my hearts content. *ok, OK...I admit it, I do have a weakness for funny/cute animal clips....*For anyone needing more battery life just buy an extra to rotate out when you need it. I have a spare battery but I usually have the laptop plugged in wherever I go so this is not a big issue for me. My son's relatively new 15" laptop seems sooo outdated now that we have this sleek beauty. I am the envy of all here! It's like a "Ducati" of laptops! LOL I feel like the kid in the "Eggo" commercial, and have to repeatedly tell my family "Leggo my Qosmio" ;-)) The extra size and weight doesn't seem to be a deterrent for my family at all in light of all the features this Qosmio has! (BTW*Videos on the Toshiba site pronounce it "Cozmio") But I have named my Qosmio "Giovanni" (homage to the sleek Italian looking styling, like a Ducati Motorcycle has... IMO!) I really think I'll need to install a lojac soon if they don't stop sneaking it away whenever I'm not with my Giovanni, so I'm adding another "CON" to the list.....CON: Everyone has "sticky fingers" when it comes to this laptop! Be prepared to "share" as everyone is going to want to borrow it whenever you put it down, really!~When your looking to buy a 17" desktop replacement laptop, you expect it to be heavy, powerful, and have a minimal battery life; this is a known fact. While I got everything I was expecting, this laptop does run on the hot side when using intensive applications like Battlefield 3 or rendering large HD videos. I would definitely recommend getting an after market cooler to put underneath it to keep the temps down and to not fry your hands. But other than the heat issue I love this laptop! It's super fast with its Intel i7-4700MQ 2.4GHz processor and with a 1000 GB hard drive you won't be running out of space anytime soon and I absolutely love that! Like my title suggest, I would recommend this laptop to those looking for a portable desktop replacement for multimedia/gaming, and who don't plan on doing a lot of carrying the laptop around with them. This wouldn't be the best laptop for a student who has classes all around campus and has to carry this beast with them all day. (Unless you love raw power, in that case carry on! :-)) PRO Super Fast Processor Plenty of storage and memory Awesome video card for gaming CON Heavy (which is expected for any 17" laptop in this class) Runs hot (can be fixed with aftermarket cooler)', 'I should say upfront I'm not a fan of Windows 8, which comes installed on this. I work on both Macs and PCs, but (except in the case of hybrid computer/tablet machines where Windows 8 makes more sense) I prefer Windows 7. That's neither here nor there, but using this was the first time I really had to sit down and figure out a bit about Windows 8, and it took some playing around with settings

until I got rid of the bloatware that comes installed here, and adjusted the settings to the point I wasn't too distracted by the most annoying features of Windows 8. Mostly I end up working from the desktop. Having said all that, this is a pretty fantastic machine. It's fast -- ideal for graphics intensive operations like gaming and video and photo editing. It's huge -- with a 17" screen that is vibrant with rich colors, full HD, and amazing detail. The model I have doesn't come with a Blu-Ray player installed, but I have an external Blu-Ray and the video looks amazing on this screen. It's very connectable: comes with 4 USB 3.0 ports, and an HDMI output. I can plug it into my TV and stream things directly from Hulu or Netflix there. I also have a lot of my high definition family videos backed up on an external hard drive with a USB 3.0 plug, and can play or edit them without any lag. In addition to Windows 8 and some unnecessary trial software (bloatware), this also comes with licensed copies of Photoshop Elements 11 and Premiere Elements 11. I have Photoshop and Premiere Pro CS6 on my Mac, and so I usually work on those, but both Elements programs are pretty great, and easier to use than the Pro versions. While there are more features on the Pro versions, most photo and video editing tasks can be done quite simply with what comes built in to this computer. Did I mention that this thing is fast at processing? In addition to an NVIDIA GeForce GTX 770M graphics processor, it also has two 500GB 7200RPM hard drives built in, and a whopping 16GB of RAM. (One minor disappointment for me: while I probably won't upgrade to the Adobe's Creative Cloud for Windows, since I already have a license for CS6 on my Mac, I do wish that the card this came with was one that supported GPU acceleration for editing on Premiere Pro and After Effects. Sadly, the 770M isn't one of the supported cards. If it was I might turn this into my editing suite, since my Macbook Pro's card isn't supported either, and it can make a difference when you are doing some effects intensive processing.) I really like the full keyboard, that includes a number pad which truly comes in handy when I'm inputting data into Excel spreadsheets -- and it's also very helpful for editing in Premiere, where the number keypad and the home and end and page up and page down buttons can be useful shortcuts. The big keyboard means you can have a range of dedicated keys. Unfortunately the function keys are not dedicated. By default they perform tasks specific to the laptop -- such as turning on and changing the intensity of the key backlight or disabling the trackpad or adjusting volume. To get them to work as actual function keys you have to simultaneously depress the FN key and the function key you desire. (Incredibly, given the amount of space the keyboard has, there is no function lock key, that would let you toggle this on and off. There are workarounds that you can find with some searching on the web -- ways to make the function keys default if you are used to using their old standard windows functions -- but the workarounds aren't easy or obvious, and they really ought to be.) The sound on these is quite good -- music is both richer and louder than on my Mac laptop. With my Mac I usually plug in external stereo speakers when I want to watch a movie on my computer; with this, with its wider screen and stronger speakers, I get a pretty satisfyingly immersive experience without any supplements. The DVD player/burner is quite nice. It doesn't make a lot of noise, it plays smoothly, and it can burn video quite quickly. My gripes: The battery life is not as long as I'd like. Especially if I'm playing games or watching a movie or editing video, I get not much more than three hours on a single charge. Also, and this is a very minor gripe: the trackpad is off center (it's centered on the main QWERTY keyboard, but not on the laptop as a whole) and since I tend to place my hands evenly it threw me off for a while as to where my finger was on the trackpad when I wasn't looking. I got used to it, but it took a few days. I don't know if that's good or bad, but I found it a bit annoying at first. My biggest gripe is how heavy it is. I get that it packs a lot of the same or superior features to my Macbook Pro for a much smaller price -- and I like the bigger screen and the ample keyboard -- but I also really like the slim and sleek design of the Macs. When you have this laptop on your lap, or when you're lugging it around in a backpack, you really feel it. There's no other word for it: this thing is bulky, and because it also runs a bit warmer than my Mac, this laptop really works better on a desk than actually on a lap. Overall, though, and especially for those who are happy with Windows 8, and if you'll mostly be using at a desk anyhow, this is a feature rich laptop that will serve for almost anyone's needs. It's astonishingly fast, and very well equipped for serious gamers and designers. It's also got a satisfyingly sleek and intense look that is sure to please the teenager, but that even an older guy like me can recognize as being cool. I'm very happy with this laptop.', "I have

used this laptop for almost a month and wanna share a few thoughts about it. Key features: 17.3 inch Full HD display. Quad Core Haswell CPU, 16 Gb of RAM, 1 Tb of 7200 rpm hard drive, 3 Gb of graphic (newest generation of graphic card). Looking at the configuration, this is a real deal. Performance wise, it matches the expectation. I've run several games on it and the laptop handles them without any hiccup. Even though the hard drive is not SSD, the almighty CPU and RAM make up for that nicely. Technically, there's nothing you can't do with this laptop. Here're the downsides: this laptop generates a tremendous amount of heat. The only fan is located on the right, so if you're using a mouse, it might cause a little bit of a problem. Fan noise is a little on the loud side. And man, this laptop is really really heavy and bulky. It weighs more than twice my Macbook Air, and it looks twice the size too. Overall, this is a well built laptop. It packs with tons of power. Maybe more than enough for anyone's needs. There're only a few drawbacks that I personally don't think will affect the performance of this almighty machine. If you want/need a top of the line, powerful laptop, this for you.", "Was really impressed with this computers speed and excellent video output. Looked really great on my 4K TV the first day. Problem is on the second day, it would not power up. No lights, nothing, just dead. And yes, it was plugged in and charging..... Really glad I purchased from Amazon, easy return and refund. However, I'd much rather have a computer to send video to my TV instead of boxing it up to return to Amazon. Hope you all have better luck. Now I get to search again for a reliable lap top with UHD HDMI output. Any suggestions on another laptop with same video quality would be appreciated. One day of operation equals one star.....", "The Toshiba Qosmio is a very attractive laptop, complete with a red lighted keyboard and brush textured aluminum. The large 17 inch screen display is truly incredible (very big for a laptop). The Harmon/Kardon internal speakers are top notch, but you can always get better sound with external offerings (like my JBL desktop speakers). There is the standard webcam as well as an mp3 dock. The laptop comes complete with Windows 8, and setup is easy. The touchpad is large and allows for swiping between different screens and apps (similar to tablet and smart phone features). Computer operations are fast, and there is a full version of Photoshop Elements 11 and Adobe Premiere. The Qosmio also has NVIDIA GeForce GTXM with 3GB of GDDR5 Memory. The downside is that this laptop is quite heavy (over 7.5 pounds) by today's standards. The Qosmio is much more cumbersome than my older Toshiba Satellite laptop. Battery life is also only 3.5 hours, but perhaps most people utilizing this laptop won't be traveling around extensively unless they are near an outlet. If you are looking for an attractive looking, high performance laptop with a beautiful screen and quality sound, consider the Toshiba Qosmio."]

B00EOZFUYI

["I really went back and forth between this one and the Take Five, but after reading an article on CNET stating that this was actually a bit BETTER, and considering the (relatively) low price, I decided to pull the trigger. I'm very glad I did. It's much better than the Sony "home theater in a box" set up it has now replaced.", "I don't know anything about the quality of this system and that not what my review is about. My review is about the falsely advertised pricing. Monoprice list the system at a normal price of \$647.62 and mark it down to \$233.71 claiming a savings of \$413.91 (64%). Now if you go to the Monoprice website they list the system at \$251.20 with no mention of its list value of \$647.62. I detect some price bumping to make us believe we are getting some smoking hot 64% off deal when that's not the case. I will say however, \$233.71 with free shipping is better than \$251.20 but it's NOT 64%", 'Got this to upgrade my Onkyo HT-S3400 5.1 Channel Home Theater (Old Version) from 2011 the Onkyo system sounded good in my 25x25 room and I was happy with the sound for the price - it was \$249.99 at the time. As a note the Onkyo HT-S3400 has preformed flawlessly for the last 2 years. The Monoprice Premium 5.1 speakers are a very noticeable up grade Really happy I got them.', 'Great sounding speakers, well worth the price. Even if you happen to pay shipping charges. Pros:- I got a fantastic deal on these for one-ninety with free shipping.- Well packaged with a box within a box.- Great, room filling sound for the price. More than enough for my 14\'x14\' den with vaulted ceilings.- Three position power switch, Off/Auto/On. Auto

seems to work pretty well.- More bass than I expected from an 8" woofer. Maybe not enough to rattle the windows, but just enough to feel. Obviously, this will not shake the whole house, but it does fine for a room of my size.- Very fast shipping. Even having purchased them through a third party (not Amazon or Monoprice). Of course this has always been my experience having made several purchases directly from Monoprice.- Adjustability. Volume control, crossover adjustment and a phase switch.- Printed instructions aren't bad, mostly some nice hints regarding speaker placement to help out people new to setting up a 5.1 system. Although they are missing any information about what screw/bolt size to use for the threaded mounting holes (they are -20).- Nice gold plated, spring-loaded binding posts on the satellites. Too bad they don't accept banana jacks. The speaker level inputs on the subwoofer do take banana jacks.Cons:- Speaker grills are not removable. Or at least they were stuck on so well I was afraid to pull any harder. From the pictures of this set, it looks like they are removable. Guess I'll have to try and pull harder. Or use something to pry with. (Update 2 Feb 2014: The grill covers are removable. Did have to get something to pry them off with, though. So I guess this is no longer a con.)- Non-removable "Monoprice" logos glued(?) to the grill. Not bad because it says "Monoprice", but bad in case you want to orient your speaker other than with the logo right side up. Then you may have a sideways or upside down logo.- No grill on the bottom mounted subwoofer driver. You have to be careful when handling so as not to accidentally put your fingers through the cone. Probably a non-factor once it is in place.- Front mounted subwoofer port may not appeal to some depending on placement.- Bright blue power LED on front (port) side of subwoofer (just above the Monoprice logo) may be bothersome, depending on where it is installed. Nothing a small piece of electrical tape can't fix.- It really should include the RCA Y-adapter (two female RCAs on one side to connect to the subwoofer and one female RCA on the other side to connect to a regular single RCA cable from the receiver, something like this http://www.amazon.com/RCA-PET20-7020-Y-adapter-Plugs-Jack/dp/B0014KO0GA/ref=sr_1_1?s=audio-video-accessories&sr=2530295011&ie=UTF8&qid=1391239644&sr=1-1&keywords=rca+y+adapter) so you can use your subwoofer/LFE output from your receiver. Especially from Monoprice since that is what they do - cables. If you have a single LFE or subwoofer output on your receiver then you will need one of these unless you use the speaker level inputs.- Although I didn't pay for separate shipping through the third party I purchased from, the normal Monoprice shipping on these is not cheap (about \$20 to AZ, \$40 to MA). But it does take a good sized box to ship these and there is some weight involved with the subwoofer. And it is very fast.- Not super sexy looking or super small, but small enough for my application. Just plain black boxes with a matte finish, not glossy. Could be a pro for some.SummaryI had a hard time pulling the trigger on these for the \$220 plus shipping these were listed for at the Monoprice site. Since I got them for a much better deal than that, I didn't have a problem going for it. Now, having listened to them, I would say they would have been worth their regular price + shipping. You can spend less, but I'm not sure you can spend less and get better sound. For the person moving from TV based audio to their first 5.1 system, if these are in your price range, don't hesitate. I'm an audiophile wannabe (can't afford audiophile grade gear and probably couldn't hear the difference anyways) and I think these are fantastic for my den. They don't beat my main system but then that system uses tower speakers with a 12" powered subwoofer in each of the front towers. I docked one star mostly for the lack of a grill on the subwoofer, lack of a y-adapter and the non-removable (or very hard to remove) speaker grills. If you are an audiophile or are expecting large speaker or movie theater bass then you may want to look elsewhere. Of course if you are an audiophile, you wouldn't even be looking at these, would you?', 'I finally got these in place in my theater room. The sound is terrific. It sounds as good as my neighbors who spent a couple thousand on his. Really nice', 'These speakers really do pack a punch. They are a bit big for my taste (especially the subwoofer), but that's because I bought them for use in my dorm room. In a home, they will definitely be fine.I got these speakers for \$187 a few days before New Year's this year. My speakers are paired with a Sherwood R-904N receiver via 16-gauge speaker cable.Pros:-Great performance for the price.-Great dynamic range-Very clear sound in mid- and upper- range-Subwoofer is well-balanced with satellites-Satellites deliver good low-range notes, and subwoofer doesn't even need to be on for music without heavy bass emphasis. Subwoofer is phenomenal for movie effects, though!Cons:-Relatively plain design; not

particularly sleek or attractive. That being said, they are good for blending into the background.-Slightly bulky for my taste, but I live in a dorm room, so shouldn't be a problem in living rooms that are not as cramped.Overall, the cons don't really matter much to me, so I give it 5 stars. Outstanding value package!", "Not the coolest looking set of speakers but I wanted good sound, not beauty. Good sound is really half of the home theater experience. Have it hooked up to Pioneer V-8223 and it sounds great. Remember to use the equipment at moderate volumes for the first 70 hours or so to break in the speakers. Never knew about this before but you can actually hear the difference after they are broken in.Observation: Speakers only have one out of the box option for mounting which is a threaded hole 1/4" x 20. Keep that in mind when buying mounts if you don't want to invent.", 'Replaced a Bose AM7 system with this system. Bass is much better with this unit. Audio quality is as good as,if not better than the Bose speakers. No issues with setup or configuration. Highly recommended.', 'I will write this review because there are so few on this item. These are an identical product, with slight cosmetic changes (that make them better imo) compared to their competition. If you are looking at these, then you most likely know just what I am speaking of. The speakers do work very well. The bass is awesome and the only complaint I could ever have about these is that sometimes it is hard to get the sound just right. It may be me, I am no professional home theater person, but I get a lot of bass and background noise (standard tv show noise-voices and background noise, not static) but it is hard to hear the main actors voices. I have noticed this in movies and tv shows. I really do think that it is the way I have set my system up though. The speakers work wonderfully. I am totally new to a receiver for a home theater, and I got mine at the same time with these speakers. I am still learning. I would recommend the speakers at any time though.', 'This review covers both the Monoprice 10565 (Premium Sound System) and the Monoprice 8247 sound system. This review assumes the 10565 is approximately double the price of the 8247 (as was so when purchased).Current Setup:I recently purchased a new house and in doing so wanted to quickly setup a inexpensive home theater room. I was able to create a very nice setup using a Vizio 70" E701i-A3 as well as the Monoprice 10565. The picture is excellent and the sound is very, very good. I highly recommend this setup. My theater room is large with a 25' ceiling cathedral which does not appear to impact the 10565's ability to perform.Previous experience:Of my previous theater systems the best I had was a Bose Acoustimass 10 Series III. It was a decent though pricey theater system which I had to sell while moving. I wanted something that sounded better than or at least equivalent to the experience. The 10565 fits the bill quite nicely, I'd say it is slightly better than the Bose system, which is great because it's 200/1000 = 1/5 of its cost. The Bose does have a better aesthetic appeal and excellent build quality, if I were to close my eyes and listen to both systems, I am confident I would choose the Monoprice premium speakers over the Bose. They have a much better range and can get very loud with little distortion.Monoprice 10565 VS 8247:For this comparison I used the exact same setup (wire,placement,receiver,room). You can see it in the pictures below.I loved the home theater experience of the 10565 so much and I wanted to try the same brand in another room. I frequently listen to music and play games in my office/loft area, so I decided a 5.1 system should work nicely there as well. I had considered buying another 10565 as they're not too expensive, however the speakers are quite large and I wasn't sure I wanted them on my desk. I also felt the system would never be fully utilized (volume) and would be a waste of potential. I decided to try out the 8247 in hopes that it was a smaller shaped system that was capable of producing quality though quieter sound.This is somewhat the case. The system does produce similar sound, though not as good. The sounds from this system have a much boomier bass (less range) and the sidelights are slightly colder with a tin like sound. It isn't bad sound, but it isn't great like the 10565, which was to be expected given its price-point. The shape of the speakers was also somewhat disappointing, as they are nearly the same size. Though it is a matter of opinion, they look much less appealing to the eye. In short, the 8247 offers no advantage (to me) to the 10565 other than price.More on the 10565:This is a great system, read all the other reviews about it. They are spot on. I paired mine with a Onkyo tx-nr525 and it sounds great. I also used VideoSecu 5 brackets from Amazon to mount. 16 Gauge wire.More on the 8247:I purchased this system because I had read all the stellar reviews and was expecting more than what I received. I tried multiple placement configurations in my office with these speakers but could not find one I

liked. No matter how hard I tried you could easily tell where the sound was coming from, it's very sharp and directional. When you tilt your head you almost become dizzy from the sound, it's very odd. The room is fairly large and square. I decided to try these speakers in the place of my home theater setup (same wire/placement/receiver) and they did sound much better than in my office. I believe these speakers need to be quite a distance from your head to blend together better. (In my office they were about 6-8' from my head. Another annoyance is the subwoofer in this system. The auto on function is poorly implemented (requires loud bass to turn on) and when it is on it constantly hums (I've tried multiple wires/speakers that do no impact other systems). Conclusion: I really, really, like the 10565. I feel underwhelmed by the 8247. If you're looking to buy either set, I would definitely recommend going with the more expensive model. I feel the cost of the upgrade is minimal (after buying a receiver, speaker wire, etc) considering the performance increase. Perhaps if you only owned the 8247 you would never be the wiser. Pictures:[...]tldr: Buy the 10565.')

B00GMSLR1I

["Even at this low low price, this splitter is as good as one from Radio Shack. I'm thinking of getting a second one.", 'This stereo pug adapter was promptly shipped by iMBAPrice and received by me as promised. The plug is manufactured as such that the plug fits snugly into my audio received and the headphone jack fits snugly into the plug. In the past, I have had audio adapters that had a little wiggle room and this caused static noises with the slightest movement. Solid construction and great price make this a product I like.', "These are not the greatest, so would be best to order the 5 pack. 2 out of the 5 don't work well, have to move them back and forth to get them right. The other three work fine.", "Amazingly fast shipping. Does exactly what it's suppose to. When connecting a 3.5mm stereo jack to this adapter there was no change in sound quality, which is good and exactly what I needed.", "These jacks are well built and their quality is excellent. It is frustrating to have jacks that don't fit just right and that cause unreliable audio connections. With these jacks I am frustration free and I need not worry about bad connections affecting the quality of my audio. By the way, iMBAPrice offers a Premium Gold Headphone Splitter cable to anyone who has bought this product on Amazon.com and who writes a review for Amazon.com. Since they don't ask for a good review, just a review, I don't see any conflict of interest. I wrote my absolute honest opinion above and would buy iMBA jacks again if needed. Besides, if I could be bought, it would not be for \$5.99.", "It's what I needed, price was right. Quite slow to ship though - fortunately I wasn't in a hurry. I like that this one is a somewhat smaller version of the one that disappeared; very compact. Works fine; good contacts.", "It's exactly what I ordered. The one it was replacing came apart from the male end so I checked this one out thoroughly and it looks good. My kids are using it as a headphone adapter for their keyboard to practice piano. 3 kids using it for a few weeks and so far has been holding up. The price was certainly right too.", "I've got 2 of the 5 in use now, and they work well. The other 3 are backups. It's always good to have more than enough.", 'Hook this up to my old receiver that takes 1/4 inch jack to my new stereo that takes 3.5 mm jack and it works great. I paid \$2.19 for this item, this is dirt cheap and it got here in less than a week. This is a great buy and best of all, it works!', 'Needed this to replace a bad one on my Sennheiser headphones I had for years. Works well. If you need one, I would suggest this one.')

B00HWM0Z5A

["I really adore this lens! I got it with my Olympus OMD EM 10 and I am blown away by the sharpness, creamy bokeh, and gorgeous color rendition in my final result. The lens makes autofocus super fast (my relatives who have borrowed this camera with this lens attached are always wowed by the speed) and its lightweight and so, its almost always attached to my camera. Since its a 50mm equivalent, I feel like it makes a great walk around lens but in a pinch, I've used it for portrait photography and no noticeable distortion, color aberrations, or anything like what I was

seeing with my Canon DSLR + 50mm 1.8 nifty fifty. I was worried that with the equivalent of the 1.8 aperture on a micro 4/3 would mean less bokeh, but I am still impressed by the soft background, sharp images, and superb color contrast. You would not be able to tell, if looking at the final product, that the image was from a micro 4/3 camera instead of a full frame (in my amateur opinion).", 'This fast F 1/8 25 mm is a great option for all around use. excellent sharp and fast. I have used this for a week now and look forward to better weather to get out and put it to work,', "This lens is really great on my E-M1. It does come with the lens hood, so it seems that Olympus finally listened to customers on that issue. Use the hood! It will improve your photos and protect the lens at the same time. Solid and dense (heavy) for its size, it's got some great glass inside. In terms of price for performance, this is a great lens.", 'My current kit includes a 75 MM F 1.8 and a 12-40 pro. Although they do the job extremely well, I was stuck in situations where I wanted the shallow depth of field to not be too shallow. I tried achieving that with a 12-40 Pro, however, I felt I was unable to get the desired effect. This lens is fast, compact, provides sharp pictures and is generally the lens I leave on the camera on most times. I was tempted to get the Panasonic 25 MM F 1.4, but did not feel the need to dole out extra \$\$\$ for the slightly larger aperture. Lastly, I did not purchase this from Olympus or Amazon as their deals and promotions are not as attractive as some of the other retailers. I would have gladly submitted pictures to this review, but I am unsure if the website permits that in the review section.', "A great, lightweight lens with excellent image quality. Pretty good close focusing. Good ability to isolate one's subject and fast enough at f/1.8. The included lens cover was a nice inclusion as I understand Olympus usually doesn't include them, like my 9-18mm didn't. At first, I thought it was going to be all metal, but plastic is fine too. Very fast to focusing on the E-M10. A little tight on the lens mount, but not a big deal. The odd sized filter thread is annoying.", "I recently bought a EP3 to delve into the world of photography and to apply what I've learnt. I wanted to get a second hand 45mm f1.8, but held off when I read and learnt about the 25mm. It's a very easy to use lens. I took out a star because I thought the MSC capability should mean no focusing sound in the video. But apparently there is. I hope it's not due to the EP3. I hope more people can help comment on this. Other than that, I really love this lens. Pricing is good, build quality is good, comes with hood (good!) And a keeper for most m4/3 users. It's hard not to get this lens if you do not have a similar lens for your Olympus m4/3 cam. And not forgetting equivalent human eye vision focal length. Hope to hear from fellow users on whether the lens focusing sound could be heard on video recording.", "This Olympus lens has been long-awaited by the Micro 4/3 community, and I am pleased to say that Olympus delivered the goods. Qualities:- Sharp wide open throughout most of the frame with both near and far targets. Overall sharper than the Panasonic Leica 25mm f/1.4 (which I will compare to on several points below) when you consider edge performance. - Less color fringing than the Panasonic even when both are shot on a Panasonic body (I tested both on my GX7 as well as E-M1) - Pleasing/smooth bokeh rendering - Fast autofocus (AF), comparable to the Panasonic - Good AF performance even in very low light - Much closer minimum focus distance than Panasonic - Smaller and lighter than Panasonic (balances better on the smallest MFT bodies) - much smaller if you include the dedicated hoods (finally Olympus includes a hood) - Has solid build, despite being plastic and light. The 'decorative cap' is more snug, less inclined to fall off as compared to the Olympus 45mm lens. There are lots of samples and analysis to back all of this up at Mu-43.com. For me, the Olympus 25mm f/1.8 is a definite keeper. A no-brainer. However, I will also be keeping the Panasonic lens for its extra 2/3 stop of speed, more shallow DOF capability, and unique rendering character. Both are wonderful choices.", 'Very good optics. Great looking lens and balances very well on my E-M10. I have the Olympus 17 and 45 primes also and I feel this one will be on the camera most of the time.', 'This is a super nice lens. It has the same build and style as the highly acclaimed Zuiko 45mm. I think the 45 is still a little sharper but this lens is not slouch. I use it as a walk around lens. Nice and compact, very fast focusing and the quality IQ that Olympus owners have come to expect.', "Excellent little lense that produces outstanding images. I do wish it was slightly faster like its competition (PanaLeica 25mm) but f/1.8 is great and the bokeh looks fantastic. Obviously with the MFT sensor you won't get the razor-thin depth of field that helps define the full-frame look but I've been extremely satisfied with the results of this lens. I shoot wedding videography and this little guy stays attached to one of the camera bodies all day. I wouldn't leave

home without it!", "I have been waiting for an affordable standard prime for a while. Here it comes. And boy, is this thing sharp or what. It is about the same quality as the Pana-Leica 25. I just wanted something a little cheaper. So I got this Oly and sold my kit zoom. I don't miss my kit zoom one bit. The f1.8 aperture is plenty for low light pictures. As I have an E-M1 with IBIS. Edge sharpness is great as well wide open.", "I've read a lot of rave reviews of this new lens. I've other Olympus lenses so felt confident in adding this one to my kit. It is a superb lens- small, fast, and tack sharp."]

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[Way back before DVD's made deleted scenes and outtakes must-see experiences for many, Blake Edwards patched together a "new" Panther film from scenes left over from previous films. These scenes would have been great extras on DVDs for other Panther movies. Some of them are quite funny in an outtake kind of way. However, there's no way that this patchwork constitutes a real movie. And the half-hearted attempt at making this a "tribute" to Sellers in the credits comes across as exceptionally false when one considers that Edwards continued to make two dreadful Panther films without Sellers.', 'I'm not sure if anybody will ever determine the real motives behind Trail of the Pink Panther (is it a cash cow or a tribute to Peter Sellers?) but there's definitely no denying that this is a weird, daft mess of a movie. As is well-known, Blake Edwards managed to fake the appearance of his late star by taking a batch of Sellers/Clouseau footage that was left on the cutting room floor and matching these together with new scenes. This is obviously a bad idea and it shows; the first 45 minutes is a jumbled hash but I did like some of the individual Clouseau bits during this time. If you don't mind the mess, the first half should be enjoyable. However at some point, Edwards ran out of useful deleted material so he has Clouseau "vanish" and the rest of the movie acts as a Sellers tribute. Marie Juvet, a reporter trying to figure out where Clouseau might be, interviews characters from earlier movies and these interview bits are used to spotlight Clouseau scenes from these movies. The tribute half is not that interesting to be honest and leads nowhere. Joanna Lumley isn't a very good leading actress and this doesn't help matters. In a real bizarre twist, David Niven, playing Sir Charles Litton again, was terminally ill when he did his scenes and couldn't speak well. His voice is dubbed but the voiceover sounds nothing like Niven at all. I wouldn't recommend Trail unless you're a die-hard Sellers fan. If that's you, just watch the first half for the Clouseau bits and then shut off the tape when Clouseau vanishes. Darkhorse86', 'All of the Pink Panther films are "must" viewing (preferably in the order in which they were made. Sellers is unbelievably amazing in all!', "Why didn't this make the top hundred best films ever made list? Any film that flogs a dead Frenchman is alright by me.", 'Peter Sellers died in 1980. Through unused footage of Peter Sellers from past "Pink Panther" films and the returning cast of David Niven, Herbert Lom, Burt Kwouk, Harvey Korman and Capucine, in brand new 1982 footage and some old footage, they make a new story of Clouseau working on a new case. They receive word that the plane Clouseau is on is missing. Perhaps in the ocean. The news of Clouseau's disappearance is too pleasant to bear for Dreyfus (Herbert Lom). Is Inspector Clouseau dead? There is a surprise twist at the end. Richard Mulligan and Robert Loggia also in the film. Followed by Curse of the Pink Panther (1983) and Son of the Pink Panther (1993). Revival: The Pink Panther (2006), starring Steve Martin. ***Pink Panther 2 (2009), Steve Martin returning, but with John Cleese as "Dreyfuss".', ""Trail" is a whole mish-mosh of things. Including outtakes which are pretty hysterical. Peter Sellers was a master. Quite disappointing that this was the first Pink Panther film I saw. The first half of the film was all right, but the second half it's kind of bland. David Niven's role has been reduced to almost a cameo part. He's so old, and Rich Little is dubbing his voice. A little on the bland side at some points, but I can get a few laughs out of it. We'll miss you, Peter!", "Trail of the Pink Panther is a very misunderstood movie. It has been slashed by both critics and viewers as one of the worst comedies of all time, being nothing but a collection of previously unseen footage of old Panther movies, and regular characters talking about Inspector Clouseau, from Commissioner Dreyfuss, the faithful Cato, to even the ex Mrs Clouseau! Surely if this film is watched on its own, without being a fan of the Panther series then it will not only be a disappointing but

empty, weak and plotless. But first and foremost this film is an ode to one of the greatest giants of comedy, Peter Sellers, done after his untimely death, even though it might look like the film makers were also cashing in on the Clouseau name, to try to milk every dollar of this franchise after its hero's demise. But nonetheless, there is no doubt that it is a tribute as well...a thank you note on celluloid, you can feel it when Herbert Lom or Burt Kwouk remember Clouseau in the film, it is also a personal remembrance from them to Sellers. Trail of Pink Panther should be seen more as maybe an extra bonus material/deleted scenes or special features (using DVD language), and it will be looked at and judged differently. Watching all the Panther series and all the joy that Sellers and Edwards have provided us over the years is similar to a delicious complete meal with dessert, but then the temptation to have a small piece of chocolate afterwards will not go amiss. Trail of Pink Panther is exactly like this piece of chocolate, you've had your fill but there remains a very small place still for it. If you have not seen any or some of Panther series, then by all means do not watch Trail of Pink Panther, but if you are a fan of Sellers and Clouseau then this film should complete your collection, a personal tribute from you to that genius of an actor.", "Some people have entertained this as a tribute to Peter Sellers, and I don't want to judge the motives of Blake Edwards and crew, but for the record I am highly suspect when it is asserted that this wasn't a quick money grab. The first part of the film is a rehash of some scenes from earlier 'Panther' movies and outtakes cleverly edited to try to resemble a story. The truth be told, there are some individually hilarious clips in the first half, which is why I gave the film two stars. Hands down the best scene in the movie involves a nightmare that Herbert Lom has regarding a birthday present from Clouseau, and his attempts to swim in it. In fact, the only truly great moments in the film all star Lom, the most gifted of any of the 'Panther' co-stars. I was also amused that the name of Hercule's (Seller's friend and regular of the series, Graham Stark) boat was 'The Moth', of course pronounced 'Muuuth' as homage to Sellers. The second half (after Clouseau's plane disappears...) is devoted to annoyingly self-important reporter Marie Jouvett, played by the pretty but untalented Joanna Lumley, looking for clues about Clouseau's disappearance. She takes the opportunity to interview Dreyfus and Cato, and as well as Sir Charles and Lady Litton (David Niven and the late Capucine, who, the back story reveals are now married), and most embarrassingly of all Clouseau's 'father' and nanny. The scene with Clouseau, Senior and 'Nanna' is utterly painful to watch and is nothing but a bad caricature of Sellers. The childhood flashbacks which follow are even more wretched, particularly the dismal 'Good, Bad, and the Ugly' parody of Clint Eastwood with a cap gun. Finally, to add insult to injury, the friendly reporter tangles with the mafia in a pointless plot cul-de-sac and fights with Cato, in what may have been the worst single idea in an otherwise artistically bankrupt movie. This film is now available as part of the 'Pink Panther' DVD set, so I would watch it if only for Dreyfus in the Jell-O, but I wouldn't seek it out.", "When Peter Sellers died in 1980, 'The Pink Panther' series died with him. Unfortunately, director Blake Edwards thought otherwise and tried to fashion a new 'Panther' movie with Sellers' outtakes. It doesn't work. The outtakes are OK, but they would have succeeded better in a Sellers anthology or documentary. By the halfway mark, Edwards runs out of Sellers material and the film's contrived narrative comes to an abrupt halt. 'Trail of the Pink Panther' is ultimate proof that you cannot resurrect a corpse from the cutting-room floor. It's interesting to note that Sellers' widow sued MGM/UA for this artistic desecration of her husband's comic legacy - and won.", "This is Blake Edwards' own 'Plan 9 From Outer Space'...only Ed Wood did a better job. The film is just an excuse to wring a few extra bucks out of Sellers as Inspector Clouseau by using previously unused footage of the late actor and linking it together with new material. The problem is that the early Clouseau scenes are linked by an obvious stand-in and a terrible impersonator dubbing a few lines over Sellers original dialogue. One attempt is so bad that a sound effect of a passing motorcycle is dubbed over the looped dialogue. Once Edwards has run out of old Sellers footage (from The Pink Panther Strikes Again) we see Joanna Lumley as a reporter visiting old cast members from previous Panther films as an excuse to show superior scenes from earlier films like The Pink Panther and A Shot In The Dark. And if using excised Sellers footage wasn't bad enough, we are also witness to an ailing David Niven having his voice dubbed by Rich Little. This is very obvious as clips of Niven's performance in

The Pink Panther are included during his new scenes. What of the plot itself? There is no plot. The PP diamond is stolen again in the pre-credits sequence and it's forgotten about once Clouseau disappears and Lumley begins her interviews. We see clumsy inserts of newspaper headlines and messages from Dreyfuss incorporated into Sellers scenes in an effort to fit his unrelated sequences into the PP plot, but there's no point as the storyline leads nowhere. Watch out for a bit of looped dialogue of another character mentioning the PP diamond in a scene with Sellers (The Pink Panther Strikes Again had nothing to do with the diamond). The same actor appears in the linking sequences but it becomes obvious that his scene with Sellers was years before as he has less hair in the linking scenes. The only parts of this film that contains any laughs are the scenes from The Pink Panther and A Shot In The Dark, and the 'best of Clouseau' compilation during the end credits. Apart from that, we see nonsensical new scenes of Dreyfuss dreaming of Clouseau filling his swimming pool with Jello, and a latter sequence with another actor playing the young Jacques Clouseau who bears no physical or vocal resemblance to Sellers at all. To add insult to injury, the film proper finishes with a Sellers stand-in being defecated on by a seagull with the aforementioned impersonator dubbing in some dialogue. Was this film Blake Edwards revenge on Sellers for the actor choosing to replace Edwards with Clive Donner as director on the proposed The Romance Of The Pink Panther (it's also well documented that Sellers and Edwards cared very little for each other during Sellers final years)? Or was it made purely for contractual obligation reasons? Whatever the reason, what we have here is an insult to the memory of Peter Sellers and his great comic character of Clouseau, and a travesty of a motion picture from a usually terrific director. However, Edwards sunk to new depths as he also directed The Curse Of The Pink Panther (filmed at the same time), replacing Sellers with Ted Wass as a new lead character...and featuring a big name star as Clouseau who has undergone plastic surgery. Edwards had a chance to redeem himself and the franchise with The Son Of The Pink Panther starring the wonderful Roberto Benigni as Clouseau's son...but it was too late by then to save the ailing series. Benigni was the films only saving grace as the rest of the movie stunk just as bad as Edwards previous two PP efforts."]

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[Of course growing up I knew who W.C. Fields was, but, I have to admit, he was not one of my favorites. When I was younger I loved watching Laurel & Hardy, the Marx Brothers, Charlie Chaplin, Bob Hope, and Harold Lloyd, but W.C. Fields was an acquired taste. I had seen him in movies such as "You Can't Cheat an Honest Man", "The Bank Dick" (often thought of as his best), and "My Little Chickadee" (with Mae West). But I think I was too young too appreciate his style of humor. I should point out I was only 4 or 5 when I was watching these comedians, so a lot of the humor was "too much" for me. The same way Groucho making jokes about wanting to marry women for their money went over my head. But now that 15 or 16 years have past I've come to think more fondly about Fields. This DVD set contain 6 shorts, five of which were made by Mack Sennett. I will review each short individually. "THE POOL SHARKS" (1915) - The oldest of the shorts in the collection is actually Fields first! The piece runs 11 minutes so as you can guess the piece is built around two or three gags. Think in terms of the shorts Chaplin or Keaton made. They are fun to watch because of how silly they are but, that's the problem. They are so silly, they make absolutely no sense. These one-reelers just offer you a quick sample of the comedians talents. "The Pool Sharks" is fun to watch, but, the other shorts on here make this one look pale. Also, Fields' humor is more suited for sound. ** 1\2 out of ***** "THE GOLF SPECIALIST" (1930) - Perhaps Fields' most popular short, is actually the only one in the collection I've seen before. Now my opinion of this short is not the majority opinion. As I explained with "The Pool Sharks", these shorts were just excuses to showcase the talent involved, whoever it may be. So they place the comedian in odd situations and let him or her "go to work". "The Golf Specialist" is just about plot-less but it's a "pot-boiler" to show off Fields, but the piece is repetitious. I'm not saying there aren't any inspired moments, there are, but it doesn't go anywhere. So much more could have been done. Funny but slight. ** 1\2 out of ***** "THE DENTIST" (1932) - Like all the shorts on here they revolve around two or three gags and

some quirky one-liners from Fields. They are light diversions, and this one I liked. At first it starts off as a golf comedy (i.e. the above comedy) and then goes into Fields playing a dentist. Has plenty of choice moments. *** out of *****"THE FATAL GLASS OF BEER" (1933) - At first mention you'd think it was Fields who would drinks that "fatale glass of beer", but it isn't. The story revolves around Fields' son. Has a funny reoccurring gag concerning snow when ever a certain sentence is said by Fields. Not my favorite in the collection, but over-all I liked it. *** out of *****"THE PHARMACIST" (1933) - One of my favorites on the DVD. Basically a lot of non-sense, but it's funny. Fields gets in a few nice biting remarks. *** out of *****"THE BARBER SHOP" (1933) - This is actually my favorite off the DVD. Fields plays the barber and yet you never see him give anyone a haircut or shave. Instead he plays his bass, flirts with his co-worker, and causes nothing but havok. My favorite scene has Fields actually trying to give someone a shave. Catch what he says concerning "a mole". *** out of *****So what are my thoughts concerning Fields now after seeing this DVD? It has really turned me into a strong admirer of his work. I can't wait to buy more stuff. If your a W.C. Fields fan this will turn out to be a treat. *** 1\2 out of *****Bottom-line: Funny collection of W.C. Fields shorts. Shows him often at his best displaying his gifts for one-liners and his comedic timing. Fans will love it.', 'To look at W.C.Fields in the context of his contemporaries is to be amazed at the fame and popularity of a character that was really quite subversive: he smoked, drank, cursed, avoided hard work, lied, scammed, detested marriage and family life, abused underlings, and held every politically incorrect attitude imaginable. The Fields persona was irascible, blustery, grandiose, and prone to wrong assumptions; all the while being harrassed by nagging wives, bratty children, an obnoxious public, disparaging neighbors, ungrateful employers, and a world of troublesome machinery. He found solace in alcohol, pretty assistants, and usually an adoring older daughter. And he was damn funny doing it.At first glance, hard to imagine such a character being widely popular in America of the 1920's, 30's, and 40's, but only if one falls into the periodic tendency of a large segment of American culture (perhaps all cultures!) to view the past through rose-colored glasses, finding a piety and propriety that never really existed. There has always been a anarchic and revolutionary spirit in American life that contradicts that propriety and more often than not found its best expression in humor. From the earliest pamphleteers, through newspaper columns and the comics page, on to Mark Twain, Will Rogers and the great pantheon of comics, commentators and comedians this lively antidote to stuffiness, self-importance and conventional wisdom has thrived.In short, W.C. Fields while completely unique and unorthodox, was one of a company of Masters (that includes the Marx Brothers and Mae West at their best) adept at mocking the notions of propriety and what we would call "political correctness".Others have provided the outlines of these short films, and I agree that two or three are minor, but to my mind there are 3 classics here that shouldn't be missed: The Fatal Glass of Beer, The Barber, and The Dentist.What can you say about the completely nonsensical, nearly surreal first film? Well, as a verse from Fields dulcimer-accompanied song explains after his son takes the Fatal Glass:"He met a Salvation Army girl, and wickedly he broke her tambourine,All she said was 'Heaven Loves You' and placed a mark upon his brow,With a kick she'd learned before she had been Saved!"That and the curiously well aimed "Pop!" of snow in the face that accompanies the phrase "Tain't a fit night out for man nor beast!". You either find that funny or you don't.And so on for The Barber, with the most excruciating shave imaginable and the begging dog waiting for more "scraps". And The Dentist with Fields daringly suggestive struggle to pull Elise Cavanna's tooth, the blonde bitten by the Dachsund ("You're lucky it wasn't a Newfoundland dog!") and the bearded gent with the elusive mouth ("And a very pretty thing too!") and fleeing birds.There are several golf routines, one naturally in the Golf Specialist ("Never mind where I told you to stand! You stand where I tell you!") and in the Dentist, that are classic as well.I have read the criticism of the DVD presentation, but even if extraneous music is present on The Dentist, these are the best transfers I've seen to date.The great thing about humor is you can't fake it. It's either funny to you or it isn't. That is what makes recommending comedy so futile. What slays me may leave you cold. I find Fields irresistible, and his wonderfully anti-social persona not only hilarious but timeless. For that, this collection is treasured.', 'I love comedy short films, so I was delighted to get this DVD of Fields' 6 early films. I do not see some of the problems listed by other reviewers: The line "...Hell with her..." is VERY clearly audible in "The

Dentist". Also, a reviewer states that "When Fields walks off the golf course in disgust, he originally said "They can take this golf course and st..." (he doesn't actually finish). In this version, the line is simply blanked out.", Well, that's not quite true either: actually just the first two words are missing, and then Fields clearly states, "...can take this golf course and ...". MY complaint is that the sound to these films is not in synchronization with the picture. The sound is consistently late, and this is at its worst in "The Golf Specialist". The actors' lips and words seem pretty rubbery, then the Sea Captain comes in, bangs his hand on the counter, and you hear the sound a second later... What is the MATTER with these companies??? I don't see why these restoration/distribution companies cannot fix something like this. It is VERY EASY to fix. (Kino is the worst about this, by the way; see my review for "The General".) These films are certainly pure Fields, which may take a little getting used to by most movie watchers. They are dry, acerbic films. However, his character morphs a little for each film, and he does become quite likable by the time we get to "The Barber Shop", my own favorite of this bunch. If you are a die-hard Fields fan, you will want this DVD release; if you're not so sure about Fields, then you might be better off getting a set of his excellent features from Universal. By the way, there is GREAT organ accompaniment to the silent film, but no mention anywhere in the DVD about who is playing. 'The comic genius that was W. C. Fields! In "W. C. Fields: 6 Short Films" we have some of his most famous and memorable routines. Starting with "Pool Sharks" a silent from 1915, where we see a 35 year old (and much thinner) Fields, plying the comedy that he will perfect in later films. "The Golf Specialist" from 1930 ("now stand clear, boy, and keep your eye on the ball...") he reprised this hilarious skit for a second time in "You're Telling Me!" 1934. There was a really funny line, when Fields says to a passing lady with a tall Borzoi (dog), "that's a beautiful camel you have with you..." too funny! Then we have "The Dentist" from 1932, with the very memorable and risqué bit with his patient 'Miss Mason' (Elise Cavanna), and the bearded gentleman too. We also get "The Fatal Glass of Beer" 1933, "The Pharmacist" 1933, and last but not least "The Barber Shop" 1933, here the bank robber sketch is later reprised and perfected in "The Bank Dick" 1940. I don't know about you folks, but I can't get enough of W. C. Fields' acerbic wit and humor! This collection is for all you Fields fanatics the world over, and we get them in their original and unsanitized form. Now, the DVD is very expensive (it's out of print), but just in case the 'PC people' decide to ban this one/who knows when it might get re-issued, so I'm not taking any chances! Well worth it. The DVD picture and sound quality by Criterion is excellent (all the film-shorts have been fully-restored). NTSC, English (English subtitles SDH), NR 111 mins. Love and Peace, Carlos Romero', "W. C. Fields was one of the first, great comedians of the talkies. So much of his humor comes from his delivery that it's almost hard to imagine him as a silent comedian. Fortunately, this DVD actually contains one of his silent shorts and you can see in the talkies as well that he was actually a very gifted physical comedian. If you have any interest in W.C. Fields, or classic comedies from the early 1930's, you should definitley check out this DVD.", 'First the good news. You get such pure-Fields shorts such as The Barber Shop and The Pharmacist. Add The Fatal Glass Of Beer, The Golf Specialist and Pool Sharks, you have 5 entertaining shorts. Now comes the bad news: as previously reviewed here, The Dentist is messed up. Edited and with an unnecessary score, Criterion really blew it. This short should have been a no-brainer. After all, there has been dozens of public-domain collections with The Dentist uncut and no added music! Cmon Criterion! Fix this Fields collection.', 'This is the best available version of these great masterpieces by W.C. Fields. The only drawback is the version of "The Dentist" that Criterion has chosen. It has some inauthentic music added to a few scenes - Fields struggling with the block of ice, and the scene wherein he knocks an "old geezer" on the head with a golf ball. This cartoon-like music really detracts from the flow of the film. Criterion could have and should have done better. To get the original soundtrack for "The Dentist" you'll have to get some version like "The Best of W.C. Fields" which, however, has inferior video and a soundtrack that is authentic but a little out of sync.', "The quality on the previous release laser was great. With one MAJOR exception. The Dentist had added music!!! This is by and far my favorite sound short (I have it on 16mm), Somehow Criterion was supplied a master that contains some really offensive "Cartoonlike" music at two different spots. Notice during the struggle with the block of Ice in the kitchen. Out of nowhere, this music "Invades" the scene. Likewise on the golf

course. There was no music originally. I e-mailed the Pres. of Criterion and he said that he was un-aware of that but nothing could be done. I would have believed him if not for the fact i wrote a snail mail and personally called his company to complain shortly after the laser release, we'll over a year ago!!!! Very shoddy those people at Criterion. With that one small exception, this is a superb d.v.d. to own and is great historically and histerically. John", "W.C. Fields is one of the greatest comedians of our time. If you need proof look no further than this DVD collection of remastered shorts. Not a bad one in the bunch and they'll make you laugh, guaranteed. If you love word play, physical comedy and humor that his sometimes a little not-so-PC then you'll want to grab a copy of this DVD.Highly recommended", "This DVD contains all of Field's short films. Four were produced for Mack Sennett in 1932-3, late in Sennett's career. Sennett falsely claimed to have "discovered" Fields. No matter; the Sennett shorts are all wonderful and are all 5-star films. My favorites are the hilariously sadistic and borderline lewd film "The Dentist" and "The Fatal Glass of Beer"; a surrealistic and bizarre parody of bad melodramas. "The Pharmacist" and "The Barbershop" also have a lot of fine moments. There are two other shorts which are clunkers as films, but are valuable as documentation of the routines Fields did for "The Ziegfeld Follies." "The Pool Shark" is a poorly filmed silent version (1916) of Fields' pool routine. "The Golf Specialist" is a very early and very primitive sound film.", "The funniest man that's ever lived. Highly recommended DVD, if you enjoy laughing, that is.", "These short films starring W.C. Fields are, in their own right, classic comedies. Uneven, as some have pointed out, but classic in their own right. I believe that the problem some people have with Fields' sense of humor is that it is too dark and/or too adult for them. Fields was a spokesman for the common man, especially during the Depression. His comedy is subversive and sneaky. His complaining voice was recognized as the voice of the ordinary guy under the thumb of everyone and everything from his wife and mother-in-law, to dogs and children, to the rulers of the land and the very business he was in. As a kid I did not "get" Fields at all. I didn't understand what he was doing, and I didn't think he was funny. I much preferred Laurel & Hardy (whom I still adore) and Charlie Chase whose humor was more obvious and accessible to me. I was annoyed by Fields' whining and complaining, didn't get the sarcastic asides, just did not like him at all. As I grew older I began to understand what it was that Fields was doing. He was an original, a pioneer. From the late Sam Kinnison to Larry David and Seinfeld, there isn't a comic writer or performer who doesn't owe something to W.C. Fields. All the bitching and moaning you hear, especially from stand-ups, is nothing more than Fields brought into the modern era. He (and Mark Twain before him) spawned the sly and sarcastic wit of American comic dialogue long before it was commonly accepted or widely appreciated. Make no mistake: Fields' humor masks real pain. What we hear in his whiny voice is the suffering of a man who can't catch a break to save himself. He is championing all the losers, the little guys, the nobodies, and if it sounds bitter at times, well...it is. I agree with some other reviewers here when they say that one must grow up and go through a certain amount of real-life experiences before Fields can truly be grasped and ultimately - if you're lucky - embraced. Otherwise you are better off with the Three Stooges and the Marx Brothers. Their worlds are completely unreal whereas Fields' world is all too real. It's a place to escape *from* not into, and what you hear from Fields' beaten-down characters is the sound of a man being dragged through a knothole backwards. ekw', 'The Criterion Collection (who also distribute the Jacques Tati films) tackle the astounding enigma that is W.C. Fields in this string of short films. Short subjects helped establish many a comedian's reputation, and Fields was no exception. The running time was perfect for the comedy routines which Fields honed to perfection nearly every night on stage earlier on. "Pool Sharks" is Fields' debut in 1915. Being a silent, it relies heavily on the old "two-rivals-fight-over-the-girl" story, a stock cliché back in those days. They use some primitive stop-action effects to pull off the trick pool shots, which, in its way, has charm. But even at such an early date, you can see Fields' rascally characterization already developing. "The Golf Specialist" is Fields' first talkie, a golf game (which never gets played) sandwiched between beginning & ending storylines as an excuse for doing the routine. It's been done before (almost verbatim in his feature "You're Telling Me"), but Fields' idiosyncrasies manage to make it just as funny. "The Dentist", his first for producer Mack Sennett, sets up another Fields routine. Forever notorious for its sight gag of

a female patient who suggestively wraps her legs around Fields while he extracts a tooth must have raised many eyebrows back then, and even now. The real treat here is the classic "The Fatal Glass of Beer", an offbeat comedy short satirizing all those "snowed-in-the-Yukon" operas. Fields is really in top form here as he tosses out funny lines (particularly the running gag line of "It ain't a fit night out for man or beast", and gets a fistful of snow in his face). "The Pharmacist" has its moments too, as Fields plays a role he often did in features--that of the henpecked husband & harassed father. The short is climaxed with a cops/robbers shootout which nearly reduces Fields' quaint store to kindling. And finally, "The Barber Shop" scores with some wild sight gags as Fields contends with hot towels on the face, saunas, criminals, and children. All of these shorts serve as, more or less, framework for Fields' routines. "The Dentist", in particular, suffers slightly with the insertion of an annoying musical score, punctuating the scenes; it simply doesn't need it! What these shorts do offer is pure Fields doing what he does best, without the intrusion of banal romantic subplots or musical productions found in feature films. 'W. C. Fields is universally regarded as one of the greatest and most influential comedians in the history of cinema, but apart from THE BANK DICK and perhaps NEVER GIVE A SUCKER AN EVEN BREAK, his films are wildly inconsistent, with utterly delicious moments sandwiched with large hunks of what feels like filler to stretch the action out to the length of a feature film. Even in one of Fields's better films, like IT'S A GIFT (with possibly the greatest comeback line I have ever heard; upon being told that he is drunk, Fields retorts, "And you're crazy. But I'll be sober tomorrow and you'll be crazy the rest of your life."), the dull or bad completely outweighs the good. In most of his films, we wait through the dross to get to the nuggets of pure gold. This is why in many ways these short films by Fields are quite possibly the best way to ingest Fields. There are just as many funny moments as in the feature films, and not as long to wait between jokes. Unfortunately, this is quite probably the worst disc that Criterion has ever produced. I give the disc five stars based on the quality of the material, but the execution of the disc is simply terrible. The prints all seem to be minimally restored, if at all. Worse, the titles and even the music sometimes seem to come from other decades. I am perplexed. Criterion usually sets the standards for quality restoration of classic films. If I was grading the execution of the disc rather than the shorts, I would give this one star.

POOL SHARKS-Probably the best known of Fields's many silent reels, and the most successful. Despite his extraordinary facility with props of all kinds, Fields's act on both stage and screen depended to a large extent on his voice. Seeing him in a silent film is like watching a magician without his patter. It is not entertaining, but it is also not exceptional, and exceptional is what Fields was at his best. It is remarkable to see how young Fields looked in it. He wouldn't become a major success until he was in his fifties, so that it is sometimes hard to think of him as having been young. The titles seem to have been added in the 1950s.

THE GOLF SPECIALIST shows Fields at his finest, with his superb gift in effortlessly manipulating props in full flower. The premise is absurdly simple: a petty crook masquerading as a gentleman is going to show an excessively flirtatious married woman how to play golf. Nearly the entire skit consists of Fields attempting to hit the ball for the first time, with one thing or another preventing his doing so.

THE DENTIST-This short is rendered less enjoyable than it ought to have been by a highly annoying score that harms the film by its presence. Ironically, it actually has more golf played in it than in THE GOLF SPECIALIST, and one of the clubs seems to have come from the previous short. The scene where he is pulling the tooth of a female patient is hysterical, but the quality of the print is bad near the beginning, and gets even worse near the end.

THE FATAL GLASS OF BEER-This is the best short in the collection, as well as being containing some of Fields's best work anywhere. There is no story to speak of: a pioneer in the Alaskan wilderness first sings a song about "The Fatal Glass of Beer" to a Monty in a cabin before dog sledding through the wilderness to his other, slightly more civilized cabin where his wife is. Their son returns after a three-year stint in prison. But all this is a pretext for a string of brilliant one-liners (including the immortal, "It ain't a fit night out for man nor beast"), sight gags, and stunts. A classic.

THE PHARMACIST shows how crucial Fields was to these shorts. This is a very funny film, but replace him with virtually any other comedian and it would be bland and uninteresting. In a way, nothing truly funny happens except what Fields himself makes it so. I can watch and rewatch the scene where a man walks up and down the counter, with Fields attempting to entice him with his various

offerings. There are no great one liners, nothing that one could repeat to another person and make them laugh. You literally have to be there in front of the screen, listening to Fields's voice, watching his face. In a way, this is by far the least funny of all of these shorts, because there is virtually nothing intrinsically funny about any part of it. But Fields performs his comic alchemy and produced gold. THE BARBER SHOP-- Next to THE FATAL GLASS OF BEER, this is my favorite short of the bunch. Fields is at his best, and he gets off some great one liners and memorable comic bits, including a great one about a dog hoping for an ear to eat. One of the joys of any Fields film are the names of the characters, and this one has one of my favorites, the appropriately named Mrs. Broadbottom. Again, as in his other shorts, replace Fields and you have an absolutely average film. The film provides additional evidence that Fields is without doubt one of the most inherently funny individuals in the history of film. He probably would have had an audience in stitches merely reading a company's annual report.', 'What can one say about a man who makes you laugh so hard you fall out of a chair. WC was one of those would had that ability. this is worth the watch - more than once. classic - get it while you can since criterion dvds seem to disappear.', "This release by the Criterion contains 5 short films made by W.C. fields between 1930 and 1933 It also contains a short film made in 1915. In the film "Pool Sharks" 1915, Fields is a pool player and does tricks that defy the laws of physics. The film is credited as W.C. Fields' first film though he was in a film before this one. This film has the earliest example of stop-motion animation I have ever seen. The film, "The Golf specialist" 1930 is a slapstick comedy where Fields stars as an inept golf player with an equally inept caddy. In "The Dentist" 1932 Fields is an incompetent dentist. In "The Fatal Glass of Beer" 1933 Fields is a man in the Yukon whose son has recently come home after a stay in prison. In "The Pharmacist" 1933 Fields is a pharmacist whose wife and daughters give him a hard time. In "The Barber Shop" 1933 Fields is a clumsy barber that manages to injure his customers badly. Each of these films were previously released on videotape on a 2 cassette set. The DVD has no added special features though."]

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[I remember seeing it as a child. brought back memories of my childhood great movie I enjoyed it very much so thank you for the memories', 'the movie is excellent and I look forward to enjoying it for many years, and I hope to keep it around for posterity.', 'My friend and fellow sci-fi fanatic have our own personal "wish lists" of films we've always wanted to see. Well, Tobor has topped my list for the past 20 years or so. It's almost never shown on t.v., and even the VHS tape of the film has been out-of-print for years. So it was with great enthusiasm that I greeted this long-overdue DVD release. Unfortunately, like so many things that we build up in our minds to be great, the reality is that Tobor isn't really the "lost classic" I'd hoped it would be. Oh, it's hardly a bad film. The production values are first-rate, especially the expansive lab set wherein the title character is created. And I was impressed that there was some real SCIENCE in this science-fiction: The idea of using artificial beings to test the dangers of space travel is a fine idea. Where Tobor misses the mark is with the ludicrous plot device of the robot creating an ESP-based link with its inventor's grandson, which then proves useful when the boy is kidnapped by criminals intent on stealing the mechanical man. It's as if the writers couldn't decide if their story was a kid's movie, or serious sci-fi. With about equal amounts of both, the result is not that satisfying. But if you like 50's sci-fi, you may still find this a worthwhile purchase. It does retain much of the "gee whiz" innocence of the era, and I'm sure the nostalgia factor is high for anyone growing up during that time. For a much better boy-and-his-robot picture, check out THE INVISIBLE BOY, available as a bonus feature with Forbidden Planet (Two-Disc Special Edition).', 'This is a fun little sci-fi movie from 1954. We see all the good guys and the bad guys at the height of the commie scare. Human kind is planning to go into space. However we do not know what to expect. So an independent scientist and an ex-official of the government space project ban together to find a better way to explore space before sacrificing human life. It looks like their experiment can have nefarious applications if placed in the wrong

hands. We know the story as we've seen it played out many times. However this one is well done and allows us to kibitz as the characters actually do not "stay in the car." Don't look to me to give away the story as it is fun is seeing how it evolves. An added plus of this film is the 1954 era where we see the technology (especially cars from the inside out) of the time and take a small sojourn to Griffith Observatory better known as Griffith Park Observatory, Griffith Park - 4730 Crystal Springs Drive, Los Angeles, California, USA. Unfortunately they only show a small part of the facade had a dark spot on the inside of the Observatory. This would've been a perfect opportunity to show Foucault's Pendulum a large pendulum that is free to swing in any direction. As it swings back and forth, the earth rotates beneath it, so its perpendicular plane of swing rotates in relation to the earth's surface. Devised by J.-B.-L. Foucault in 1851, it provided the first laboratory demonstration that the earth spins on its axis. A Foucault pendulum always rotates clockwise in the Northern Hemisphere and counterclockwise in the Southern Hemisphere. I was in the observatory in 1954 and was very impressed by this pendulum. Much of the rest of the film is shown in Iverson Ranch - 1 Iverson Lane, Chatsworth, Los Angeles, California, USA, where many of our favorite films were made. This B-movie, "Tobor the Great" holds up well after a 60-year wait for this sci-fan buff. After seeing the other sci-fi films with robots, some achieving academy awards and such recent thrills as "Robo-Cop", this limited plot film stands up quite well to this grown-up kid. Many of my childhood nights were spent filling in the Tobor plot by imagination because the film was not released on laser-disc or video for many years. It was still a thrill to see the transfer sharp in image and sound after seeing it only on the TV with commercials in between bad westerns and Andy's Club. For a kid under 13, this early robot star holds a special place. Unlike other sci-fi films that followed, there are no loose wires spoiling the believability here. For all of us kids it has an afternoon abundance of delights: secret rooms, passageways, gadgets that anticipate the world today---electric gateways, video surveillance, basement lab with futuristic hydraulics. (The remote control for "Tobor looks like it belongs on the starship Enterprise.) Such things can captivate the scientific introvert of all ages. I give this low-budget high marks for a spare plot but good science and a warm heart. Basically, the story involves a scientist's grandson, (Billy Chapin) and Tobor, only after the kid indulges his curiosity enough to cause minor experimental mishaps with enough time to build up an affection between Tobor and the kid, allowing for a minor subplot with espionage implications that threatens our space program, and so on. It blows my mind to see in this forgotten classic a scene where they train Tobor how to dodge asteroids via a video game! Now how out-of-date is that? I didn't remember the video surveillance sequence and the initial break-in, so that was interesting, things that 60 years later the government is trying to perfect today. It was a surprise to realize that this film suggested that our government spare humans the early dangers of space flight and they didn't get around to it until drone activity today. (And we did lose 3 men) The scientist in the story was wonderfully played by (possibly) Taylor Holmes (or Steven Geray) as a kindly, wise scientist with a very human side. The more familiar B-actor, Charles Drake, plays the scientist-grandfather's sidekick and fellow inventor/collaborator. The grandson's mom is curiously played by Karin Booth who resembles Patricia Neal so well that you swear Gort, the robot from "The Day the Earth Stood Still" would arrive any time. The foreign agents in this yarn seem to come straight out of "The Adventures of Superman" (probably on loan) but that does not threaten the outcome because that good science I mentioned earlier does arrive just in time to save the day. This is a classic yarn that could launch lots of kids into robotics if only there were adults out in Hollywood with enough imagination to bring "Tobor the Great" back for further adventures. Another bonus was seeing the Super Constellation airliner in flight, another short-lived classic. Could this have been one of the influences that inspired Mitsuteru Yokoyama to create Tetsujin 28 Go, what we affectionately know as Gigantor? I believe it's possible, but it's not confirmed. While many people in the States know about the 1960s Fred Ladd Gigantor cartoons, and even fewer people know about the earlier Tetsujin episodes (recently reworked), there was a short-lived live action Tetsujin/Gigantor tv series in Japan. He was not the 20 to 60 foot tall robot, depending on how he's drawn to fit the scene from the cartoon, but somewhere in the 7 to 9 foot range. My knowledge of that series is limited to a one minute clip I saw on youtube years ago. Now here's where I make the loose connection first. Here Comes Tobor (a failed tv pilot) and the 1960s live action Gigantor seem very similar in their ideas and production

values. The stronger connection is obvious. Both have a large robot. Both have a professor/inventor. Both have a boy affectionately attached to the robot. And both robots are controlled by those boys.", 'This video is a good classic. The quality was great and it shipped fast. My wife ordered it for me as a gift and the whole family watched it.', 'Another good addition to my library. It takes me back to the time I first saw this film, almost 60 years ago.', "Tobor is Robot spelled backwards. Invented by a scientist (Taylor Holmes) for the space program, Tobor is befriended by the scientist's grandson, played by Billy Chapin (who appeared in the Christmas episode of Dragnet, the one in which someone stole a statue of Jesus from the church, and is the brother of Lauren Chapin, who played Kathy on Father Knows Best). But foreign spies are after Tobor to turn his technology to evil uses. This is one of the best Robot movies for kids from the 1950s, though not quite as entertaining as the Disney movie The Invisible Boy, which featured Robby The Robot from Forbidden Planet. The name Tobor was used again for a robot in a more recent movie - Sharkboy and Lavagirl. The cast includes some of the most familiar and prolific B-movie character actors including Robert Shayne, who portrayed Inspector Henderson on the Superman TV series; William Schallert, best known as Patty Duke's dad on The Patty Duke Show, with 300 film & TV credits - and still appearing in films today, like Sweetzer (2006); and Lyle Talbot, who appeared in everything from The Clyde Mystery (1931) to Newhart, including Plan Nine From Outer Space, Batman and Robin, and 42nd Street.", 'Purchased through Amazon.com. This was a favorite robot movie from the early 1950s. I remember watching this movie on WGN's "Family Classics" with Frazier Thomas back in the 1960s. A little corn, but fun just the same. Very capable cast and the robot is fun to watch (you may have to smile a little, you know . . . come on!) Picture and sound quality are first rate. Hope you will consider adding to your collection. You'll be glad you did.', 'One of the worst sci fi robots of all time, but he makes a great pal for "Gadg", short for Gadget, the nickname of the grandson of Tobor's inventor. Seems that he is just as handy as Grandpa, and uses that skill to get into and out of trouble in this flick. Worth seeing if you like the genre, but not sure it's worth owning.', 'Believe it or not, I saw this film when it was almost new. Yeah, that long ago. But I always remembered it as I thought the "robot spelled backward" thing was clever. So, after all these years, I needed to get it. First, expect to see some familiar faces. Charles Drake played the sheriff in "It Came from Outer Space. He's the star of this one. William Schallert was the bad guy in "Man from Planet X" and a diplomat of sorts in Star Trek's "The Trouble with Tribbles." Henry Kulky went on to bigger roles (!) in Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea after this gem. And Lyle Talbot you may remember from some Ed Wood classics. Taylor Holmes (Professor Nordstrom), probably NOT a familiar face, was among the least articulate of any actor I've ever heard. Anyway... As to the robot costume, I never cease to be amazed as to how unimaginative we were back then. All robots were anthropoid. Later, in "2001: A Space Odyssey," the robot WAS the ship. THAT was creativity. In short, I wish we'd have been more creative. On the other hand, I'd love to have that costume for a party! And there was a mixture of sci fi and the occult: Professor Nordstrom who'd created Tobor made him ESP sensitive. I could have done without that. In any case, it was pretty far from realistic. In Nordstrom's house, he had a Tobor preview. The press and everyone there was to have security clearance to enter. Afterwards, Ralph Harrison (Drake) noticed that, golly gee, there were 13 chairs but only 12 had been invited. Everyone had a security clearance, and no one noticed until they had all left that someone was there who shouldn't have been? Then the bad guys decided to break into Nordstrom's house to get the secret of the robot. They just had to wait until it got dark. Then, when they were attempting entry, they made more noise than the 4th of July fireworks! Then Nordstrom, Drake and the others there--he had a staff member who kept on referring to "gadgets" who had a kind of Sam Jaffe aura--treated catching them almost like it was a Halloween stunt. And Tobor "himself" was more warm and cuddly than Lassie! In any case, no, it wasn't a really well done script. I guess it may have seemed that way when, what, was I in a stroller? Then every rocket scene was done with some stock V2 footage. V2? Couldn't they even have faked something better than that? Well, like I said. It's a kid's flick. In that sense, it was a letdown after upwards of a half century.', '***** SPECIAL NOTE FOR TOBOR the Robot FANS ***** Tobor wasn't limited to this movie! Apparently, years later Guild Films made a TV pilot featuring Tobor (and a kid named Tommy). The series was to be called: "Here Comes Tobor", and the pilot was called: "Tobor and the Atomic Submarine". There are many

citations about this TV show on the Internet, even Amazon, so check it out if you are a Tobor fan!*****Movie: Tobor the Great ReviewWhen I was 8 years old, I saw "Tobor the Great" at summer camp. To my 8 year old mind in the 1950\'s, the idea of robots was the most exciting thing I could imagine. So I was thrilled with "Tobor the Great", seeing it as a child did in those days, days in which we had dial telephones, B&W; small screen TVs, comic books, and "Leave it to Beaver" attitudes.Tobor looked magnificent!It is probably hard for anyone in the 21st Century to look at this film with such eyes, so much has been developed since this movie came out. It is important to remember that the iconic "Robby the Robot" of "Forbidden Planet" would not appear for several years, and when he did, the budget was much higher!For its time, and especially for its budget and studio, "Tobor the Great" was actually groundbreaking on a number of levels, visual style, and characterization. This is what to look for in the film. When looked at in comparison with other films of the time put out by Republic, it is possible to understand this.And this is why I recommend this film -- to see a change in approach to sci-fi that had only once before been attempted, in "The Day The Earth Stood Still."The Script:The biggest problem with Tobor is of course the clumsiness of the script in so many places. Republic had been used to producing serial adventure pictures where action overshadowed any kind of thought provoking meaningful dialog, action, or situations.Any viewer of this movie should keep this in consideration, as that approach is carried over -- in part -- into this film. So we have the expected cardboard good guys vs bad guys. In this case, the bad guys are "communist agents" - popular villains of the time -- ruthlessly and somewhat comically, trying to get the secrets of Tobor from his creator. The good guys are the "responsible scientists" who create Tobor to help save lives in the space race. Their idea is to send robots into space as explorers and fact finders before risking human life on the endeavor.This turned out to be prophetic, for it is exactly what NASA has done with Voyager and the Mars rovers -- though none of them are as endearing as Tobor. I doubt that anyone credits this film with its prophetic value in this regard.The movie has some very redeeming qualities besides its prophetic quality, and these are what to look for when viewing the film. Here are a few things:1. Gadge - The 11 year old grandson of Professor Arnold Nordstrom. The use of kids in movies was nothing new, not even in sci-fi. But this kid, a "whiz kid", serves to help us view Tobor through the eyes of a child, with all the wonder and innocence that a kid of the time would have when facing a complex 7 foot tall robot.Gadge at one point says "Gosh Tobor, you're beautiful." His admiration, his awe, his love of the technology is unmistakable. This is a touching innocence, and a crucial part of the plot because Tobor responds to the love of this kid. Gadge is likeable, and not terribly annoying, even if he is a bit silly at times. His enthusiasm and eagerness to be involved with Tobor are completely understandable. As a kid, I identified with the character, envied him for his magnificent opportunity of having his very own robot!2. Professor Nordstrom - Creator of Tobor. Here we have a Frankenstein allusion. The professor sees Tobor as a machine, a tool to help benefit mankind -- much as Victor Frankenstein saw his creature as the start of a new race of super-men that would benefit mankind (you have to read the novel to understand this).But unlike Victor Frankenstein, Professor Nordstrom has no rejection of his creation. He treats it consistently as what it was designed to be, a tool for the benefit of mankind. Even when Tobor (under Gadge\'s influence) accidentally trashes the house, Nordstrom looks upon the incident kindly, not judging Tobor or Gadge.This is a kindly Victor Franklenstein - and that kindness pays off in the end. His dialog is consistent on the matter, and as a character he never waivers. This is remarkable coming from a movie company known for uneven characters.3. Tobor - He\'s the main character and has a lot of screen time, considering how complex and fragile his costume is.A design note here is important. Prior to Tobor, Republic\'s robots were clunky and laughable "water boiler" robots, basically metal cans with an operator inside. They were well known to the audience of the time.But Tobor was a remarkable departure. For one thing, inside his strange acrylic helmet, he has a face. That face, upon close inspection, does not appear at all friendly (it seems to frown), but that belies Tobor\'s character.Tobor also lights up (who can resist a robot that lights up?) and has complex armatures and apparatus to work his arms and legs. He also has a developed and articulated body, not dependent on "Dryer hoses for arms and legs" that were the hallmark of earlier robots from Republic, and a characteristic of the robots in the movie "Target Earth".I have looked for a creature

designer credit and it is missing in the film, which is too bad. This robot is a design advancement from anything that came before. Wikipedia has an entry on Tobor that claims he was designed by Robert Kinoshita, who also designed "Robby the Robot" from "Forbidden Planet". There is no citation in the Wikipedia article to verify this claim however, and the stylistic differences between Tobor and Robby would seem to indicate that this credit is erroneous. A more believable citation (which is authenticated) is made by Fred Barton Productions (builders of replica celebrity robots) and John Rigg (of The Robot Hut). According to Fred Barton's website (where you can see a replica of Tobor), Tobor was DESIGNED by Gabriel Sognamillo, and was FABRICATED and BUILT by Mel Arnold (who also built GORT from "The Day The Earth Stood Still"). So don't believe Wikipedia on the matter of Tobor's origins. Not that there aren't flaws. For one thing, he is disproportional. His head is huge, his body and arms are too long and his legs are short. He looks top heavy (as did the later "Robby the Robot" of "Forbidden Planet"). Regardless, it seems like Tobor was a very expensive costume to create and maintain (and the costume still exists today in the home of a collector) and the designers should get much more credit than they do. As a character, Tobor has some throwbacks to the 1930's Frankenstein monster of Boris Karloff. Like the Karloff character, Tobor is unable to speak. He is potentially very dangerous (as when he accidentally trashes the house). He must express himself through some electronic tones and head tilts as well as some body motion. Watch how Tobor interacts with Gadge at the end of the meteor-shower scene, and you'll see that in spite of the rigid costume, the actor does evoke an emotional response and express, although in a limited fashion, emotions. At the end of this scene, we know that Tobor knows that Gadge loves him and appreciates it. We get the feeling (later revealed) that Tobor will do anything to protect and save him. Now why would a robot exhibit emotions? This is probably the most misunderstood aspect of the film. Tobor is no mere robot. Yes, he has a controller, he can be manipulated like an automaton, but he also has an "independence circuit" based on "ESP". As Nordstrom explains, Tobor has sentience! He is able to understand human emotion and respond to it. In fact this is essential to his experiences in space. For a sci-fi film of the early 1950's to introduce the concept of a robot with sentience, with emotions and intelligence (prior to the very droll "Robby the Robot" even) and for that film to come from a studio like Republic, is remarkable. It deserves credit it rarely gets. Watch the movie for these aspects of Tobor, and you'll see a very different film than the surface film of the plot and script. You'll see what many reviewers completely miss. An interesting note about Tobor is that when Prof. Nordstrom and Gadge are captured by the bad guys, Nordstrom manages to send a call for help to Tobor. The robot leaves the basement laboratory (also designed extremely well and much better than what had come before) and eventually gets into a jeep and drives off! A robot being able to drive? How did he learn that skill? What did Professor Nordstrom teach him? Also, it is amusing to watch a 7-foot robot attempt to drive a jeep! The character of Tobor is not a monster, although a movie poster suggests this when it shows him carrying the limp body of a female, but rather that of a hero because in the end, he saves the Professor and Gadge in true super-hero style. This is a robot to be admired! And in that scene, when Tobor almost lovingly picks up Gadge in his arms and carries him to safety, we know there is a wonderful bond between the two. Sadly, however, they end the film in typical cardboard style. Tobor, by virtue of the rescue, has proven he is capable of full independent thought and can therefore fly a rocket ship. So we see Tobor in the ship taking off for parts unknown while Gadge says "Goodbye Tobor, and Good Luck." They could have developed the relationship between Gadge and Tobor a little more before this scene. But perhaps, they were running out of time. It just seemed impossible for Gadge to give up his new pal so easily. Or perhaps, since Republic was known for serials, they planned a return of Tobor, a sequel?-----Conclusion: Tobor the Great is in my opinion an under rated movie. Yes, the plot is somewhat silly at times, and uses cliché and cardboard characters as a framework. But hidden within this are some more thought provoking and more deeply thought out concept and characters worth a second look. Look at this movie with two sets of eyes. Try and have the wonder of an 8 year old of the 1950's, living in a 1950's world and you'll see why Tobor the robot spelled backwards, is so amazing and exciting. Try and look at it from a 21st Century perspective and compare it to what was around at the time. Look at the history of robots in cinema, the old Republic serials and then look at some of the groundbreaking and

prophetic concepts of this film. While much of the dialog is silly, and some of the characters are total cardboard, if you can see past them, you may see that Republic Pictures, not known for great art, made a major breakthrough with Tobor the Great. It's a hidden gem.', "Truly one of the better of the 50's robots!! I feel sorry for the guy who created the awesome robot suit for this movie. What a waste. Miles better than the robot in Target Earth!! I think they tried to walk the line between kid movie and classic 50's sci-fi and that's what weakened it. Give the robot some lasers or somethin'!! Let's see him take out some US Army troops or a tank or sumthin'. Instead we see Tobor go off-roading by himself in a military Jeep and then stop the crooks by tearing the hood off their running car and reaches in for the distributor cap and pulls it off to stop the engine!! I did have some great laughs with this one and like I said earlier, the robot is great. See 'Tobor the Great' just to watch him drive the Jeep or to watch a guy wearing just the robot-suit boots go up a small spiral staircase (Tobor is 8.5 feet tall, never would have made it up that staircase!!) With a better script, some better actors, and shorten the name to 'Tobor', this could have been an all-time classic."]

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[I am surprised everybody likes this movie. Not me. If the movie is not on public channels it's not worth it. Like my favored "When Harry met Sallie" which is shown regularly and after I watched it about 20 times I start thinking--United States is communistic country after all. Additional trouble is I cannot buy this "Time of the gypsies" which again and again proves we don't need it. Hahaha.', 'excellent, innocent and beautiful. A unscripted look at life in a gypsy family. Highly recommend this film. Hate Amazon film rating', "'Time of the gypsies' is a big, full movie. It is full in the way a magic realism novel is full, with its inter-generational cast of characters; its vivid community life, where private is always public, and where the elements lash and squelch; where joy and tragedy co-exist; where magic, dream and delusion are fruitfully indistinguishable. It is full in the Fellini sense, with its grand set pieces; its profusion of grotesques; its bursting compression of many plots; its general noisiness. It is one film containing many simultaneous films (a gangster film; a surreal road movie; a romantic comedy; a rites-of-passage; a Christian allegory). It somehow feels a little thin, like a tapestry of chunks from a massive novel. It is certainly an example of retrospective dating - at the time it seemed a masterpiece; over a decade on, it's pastiche Kusturica.", 'This is one of the best movies I have ever seen. It was my first Kusturica movie and since then I have watched most of them. Time of the Gypsies still remains my favorite (Black Cat White Cat is getting close). The story is about a gypsy who has to make a life choice and he chooses wrong, losing his closest people. A sad and very well done film. Coming from a region very close to Yugoslavia and knowing well the lifestyle of Eastern European gypsies, I can say that the portrayal of the gypsies is very accurate. But perhaps the best part of the movie is its music--Goran Bregovich is unbelievable. Even if all of my above comments are ignored, the soundtrack alone is worth watching the entire movie.', "Many reviews here say what I feel about this terrific film. I particularly love it for going right to the core of the gypsy Psyche -living in the moment with all the colours of the human spectrum. I love the musical score Perhan repeats through the film and the female vocal that transcends tragedy. And the film whilst moving and quite funny is tragic. It shows the gypsy's vitality and imagination and delinquency is yet marred by plain mean spiritness. It is a negative that is nothing to glorify but perhaps the film does and the sense of waste is upsetting. No doubt only available in VHS for copy-right reasons. It's so good it's worth the price of a player.....!", 'Emir Kusturica got immersed with all the imaginable poetry and still more in the gypsy world. And his hallucinating hand camera helps eloquently for the absolute triumph of this artwork. The dreams, hopes and tragedy will be told with such splendor that you will be surprised with its freshness and rapture. A formidable statement that consolidated once more to Kusturica as one of the most prominent directors of the world in those ages.', "As an American Rom, I have never loved a movie more that represents truth. However me being a Rom or not Does not change the fact that since I saw it nearly 20 years ago I still find this is most touching, truthful and haunting film I've ever seen. Unfortunately I used to own the full 4 1/2 hour version that The Great Emir Kusturica originally aired on Yugoslavian television

That I idiotically gave to an old girlfriend who never returned it. Now this version is nearly impossible to find. But if you can and you love this film as much as I do seek out Kusturica DVD box set which has the two DVD full version which is even better, which Seems almost impossible. And for those Gadjos or non-Rom this film will give you the purest and most truthful insight on what it means to be Roma and true Rom culture than any other film you will ever come across. I find it terribly tragic that there is no official DVD release, if not a criterion collection version of this film. If anyone is ever been interested in Gypsy culture, and what it truly means to be, don't pass this film by. Every person I've ever made to sit and watch this film has loved it dearly. It is our duty to make sure that this film gets an official DVD release. And not a bootlegged Korean version. And if dreams can really come true the four a half hour version will also be officially released. For those of you who enjoy this great film as much as I, look for the full version Please and leave a remark on this review telling me where I can find it again.", "I can see why many people love this movie, but it is just not my cup-of-tea.Great story about a kid growing up the life of a gypsy. Some quite humourous moments and lots of diverse characters.Problem is: It just goes on too long. I lost interest after an hour and skipped much of the last hour. I think I still got pretty much the whole plot though.Great visuals in the 2 main locations, to show the contrast between the Gypsy world and the big city. The acting was ok, sometimes great sometimes not so.Overall, a unique experience to watch, but some of the scenes just drag on. For example, the wedding - I skipped to the bride and groom leaving in the car, must have been a good 10 minutes and really felt like I hadn't missed a thing.", 'This is one of the movies which you have never heard of, will never probably hear about. Wonder what would have brought you here to read this review.I saw this movie, when I was flipping channels in Hotel in Toronto in 2003 - the movie started on a slow note, but the various turns it took for the poor little boy Pehran was very saddening and makes your heart heavy at the end of the movie.The movie captures the essence of gypsy living - their desire to settle down, the dreams in big cities, their local heroes and their family(?) life.Excellent sound tracks and videography - I can still remember the lake in one of the moview scenes', 'An excellent film portraying the hard life of the poorer Romani, but not necessary the portrayal of all Roma.As with other ethnic groups , there does exist different economical and social strata. The film is very profound and haunting but does have its moments where Romani life and its music brings much joy and fulfilment. I recommend this film to those who have a broad understanding (without stereotyping the entire people and its culture).']

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["Attention belly dancers, dance ethnologists, ethnomusicologists, students of Egyptology and archaeology, anyone interested in recent Egyptian history and religious/political issues, fans of Indiana Jones or the Brendan Fraser Mummy movies. See this movie. It's not available on DVD but do what you can to get this in your collection. The movie is a serious telling of an archaeological exploration combined with intrigue, mystery, murder, suspense, and of course, a love triangle. Robert Taylor and Eleanor Parker are very good in the lead roles as the swashbuckling archeologist and his love interest, an archaeologist's daughter on a quest to prove her father's theories.I enjoyed the scenes of the dust storm, the scorpion (having lived in Arizona at one time, I am very familiar with both dust storms and scorpions), the glimpses of traditional tribal costumes, Bedouin tents, camels, street vendors, the entire atmosphere.Beyond that, this movie is an important piece of humanity's history in that it shows Egypt as it will likely never be again.Ethnomusicologists and dance ethnologists will enjoy the scenes of the great Samia Gamal's dancing on stage in an open cafe. They will also like the tribal cane dance and authentic music played on traditional instruments - tabla (hand drum), riqq (tambourine), rebab (bowed instrument), frame drums, ney (flute), mizmar (reeded wind instrument), and so on. It is refreshing to see and hear the real thing. Too often Hollywood uses fake belly dancers and/or plays a cheesy Hollywood score superimposed on scenes of a native banging a drum. In our own time, belly dancing barely exists anymore in Egypt, it has been severely restricted over the decades as the extremist versions of Islam have been propagated and the flame of la danse orientale in Egypt may well be snuffed out forever under the current

regime. Even the music is almost a memory of what was. Very few people in the world know how to make and play these instruments anymore and since the severe versions of Islam frown on music, this too, may disappear in the new future. On top of these dance and music treasures are other glimpses into Egypt that was. Western Europeans and Americans, including unveiled women, freely wander and mingle with Muslim men in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. Egyptian men are shown enjoying wine, music, and of course the belly dancer. I understand alcohol is still legal in Egypt (although not for sale to Egyptians) but for how long? Perhaps most poignant are the scenes with Father Anthimos, who appears to be an eastern orthodox priest of some kind, perhaps one of Egypt's Coptic Christians. I am not an expert on Christianity generally or Egypt specifically but Egypt was almost completely Christian and part of the Byzantine Empire at the time the Muslims invaded, sacked Alexandria and took over the territory in the 7th century, killing many thousands in the process. While of course forcing most to convert to Islam, Muslims allowed some Christians to keep their religion and were able to tax them and otherwise profit from having them around. In modern times, about 10% of Egypt's population was still Christian. However, anyone watching the news will know the Christian community in Egypt is under attack since Mubarek was ousted - an incredible slaughter in 2011 and continuing in 2012. Just Google and read all about it. It's not just the murders, but the destruction of beautiful, historic churches (archaeological treasures themselves) through burning, vandalism, looting, and defacing with graffiti. In the Valley of the Kings movie, Father Anthimos moves comfortably among both Muslims and Europeans. He is at ease in his homeland among the pyramids and other archaeological wonders of Egypt. Were a similar person to walk about Egypt right now, he would almost certainly be murdered or at least harassed and threatened. And finally, the Egyptian ruins - the world's heritage - the pyramids, Luxor, the Valley of the Kings, and Abu Simbel (filmed in situ before it was moved and reconstructed by an international group in the mid-60s to make way for the Aswan High Dam). It is entirely possible the current government will try to destroy these priceless monuments in the way the Taliban destroyed the 2,000 year old Bamiyan Buddhas (and other ancient treasures around Afghanistan) back in 2001. Afghanistan had been an important stop on the Silk Road and a strategic battleground for everyone from Alexander the Great on down and was home to many of the world's historic treasures. Egypt has, if anything, even more to lose than Afghanistan did under the Taliban. Movies like Valley of the Kings allow us small glimpses into the world that was and are part of our shared cultural heritage that must be preserved and passed on to future generations.", "A true rating of this film, for me, would be 4 and 1/2 stars...a film for one's youth...to be inspired by...to sense the wonder and mystery and power of the Past...its dreams, hopes, ambitions, achievements...all entombed in dust...awaiting release...by some heroic adventurer...some intelligent, questing, skeptical -- yet earnest, inquiring, disciplined seeker who will not be denied...who wills "to strive, to seek, to find...and not to yield"...until he has penetrated into the sanctum of wisdom and discovered the Knowledge of life and himself...*****The opening credits establish the "mise en scene"...the story is based on materials from C.W. Ceram's *Gods, Graves, and Scholars*... it concerns a married lady, daughter of elderly archaeologist who has died...her father had spent his entire life of seeking to find some evidence in Egypt that verified the stay of Joseph, the patriarch, told about in *Genesis* 37-50 in the Old Testament...This married daughter seeks to venerate and validate her father's past life by carrying on the quest which had meant so much to him...she has in her possession a golden statuette of the Pharaoh Ra-ho-tep (whom her father had believed was the Pharaoh who had elevated Joseph to the position as his vizier, after Joseph had interpreted his dreams)...the daughter seeks the help of an American archaeologist, who also happens to be reasonably handsome (if a bit weathered...) -- played by Robert Taylor, but after "Quo Vadis?" and after "Ivanhoe"...the archaeologist is skeptical, but attracted to the woman...even after he finds out she is married, he is still intrigued enough to continue to help her in her quest...here in Egypt...around the year 1900...The path is long...covers much sand...visits many interesting, wondrous sites...there is a rope climb down the face of the colossal temple of Ramses II at Abu Simbel...into a hole in the temple face...wondrous, entrancing things to a youthful mind enchanted and inspired with archaeology...and Egypt...mystery...and glory...and discovery...and secret knowledge...The path also leads to a Greek Orthodox monastery at the base of Mount

Sinai...and a basket ride up into the monastery...discoveries in the dark interior of the monastery...and finally there is the exciting discovery which leads to the Valley of the Kings...and the possible discovery of the tomb of the Pharaoh Ra-ho-tep...and confirmation of the story of Joseph...and validation of her father's commitment, and seeking, and belief...The archaeologist discovers things about himself as well...what it means to be committed to a belief in something more than just oneself...more than just skeptical cynicism or libertine living...to seek answers to questions that trouble the mind and the spirit with restlessness and dissatisfaction because one is not headed in the direction of psychic fulfillment which one's intelligence, and desire for knowing, and earnest spirit find fulfilling...There is wisdom here...in the sands...certainly wisdom that Thoth or Hermes could well affirm...but it takes the seeking...Horus meets Elektra...conquers Set...discovers Joseph...myth and meaning...and "Remembrance of Things Past";... * * * * *

"I found the DVD fascinating as I only knew of the existence of the film very recently. I was a little disappointed that the film was not in widescreen format, but then maybe it wasn't produced that way. The colour was quite splendid even if the acting presentation seemed a little stilted. I spent a month in Egypt in January 2011 so it was interesting to see how much the historical scenes have changed. Having been to Abu Simbel I was interested in looking at my photos to where the "tomb" in the facade was supposed to be. Obviously the fight scene on one of Rameses II's statue heads would not have been on a real thing, in those days, many of the tomb interior shots would have had to have been recreated in a studio. Since Seti I's tomb is off limits today, from what I have seen of photos I find it hard to believe that that tomb was used for the movie. I found the film quite enjoyable.", 'VALLEY OF THE KINGS (a/k/a EL VALLE DE LOS REYES, Writ./Dir. Robert Pirosh, 1954, 86 minutes) is one of those awesome old films that make one want to laugh a bit - the switches between cheap sets and breathtaking locations is just too funny. Yet this is an important film. It ranks as one of the grandfathers of "action science" adventure films. The great Robert Taylor, whose career spanned from the 1930s to the end of the 1960s, plays archaeologist/Egyptologist Dr. Mark Brandon, a rather randy tippler who loves archaeology more than booze or women. In Cairo he is approached by the fine-looking Ann Barclay-Mercedes (Eleanor Parker), who needs his expertise and assistance with a project. She is no archaeologist, but her father was a famous one who happened to be the professor of young Dr. Brandon. She seeks to find the tomb of an unknown pharaoh, Rahotep, successor of Amenhotep - and prove that the Jewish Joseph lived and obtained his power during Rahotep's reign. She also wants to prove Rahotep was a monotheist. With her is her oily husband, Philip (a rather cute Carlos Thompson) and this guy is served up to us right away as the cad we need to watch. Completing this interesting cast is an Egyptian antiquities dealer, Valentin Arko (the great Leon Askin, you'll know him from "Hogan's Heroes"). While this is a totally atypical actioner, being centered as it is on archaeology and history, I can't detract too much from it. The acting is smooth, the storyline plausible enough, and the scenery in Egypt will stun you into silence. At some point you may think the film predictable, but I assure you a surprise awaits that is well worth the waiting. And it isn't bad from start to finish - more than can be said for most film today. I loved the lessons this film teaches. It tells us archaeology is not about riches or grave robbing, but about learning and understanding. It teaches us about sensitivity to parts of the world that are not Western, and it has a mighty message about the illegal dealing in antiquities that still plague us in this time. The mightiest punch it packs is the message that scientists need to stop trying to bend history to fit the Bible. While it isn't preachy or high-and-mighty about it, this film is an object lesson not to be missed. The archaeology in it, as far as it went, was quite realistic and fun. Steven Spielberg and George Lucas were totally thinking of this film when they made Indiana Jones and the Raiders of the Lost Ark (Special Edition), which in reality is a homage to this great 1950s film. This film can also be compared to the contemporaries it inspired, like the original King Solomon's Mines and John Wayne's silly, ill-fated Legend of the Lost (1957) (a 1957 remake of VALLEY, I suspect, see my review). Yet VALLEY OF THE KINGS is in no way as melodramatically stupid as MINES or contrived and stilted as LOST. It is a well-served, noble endeavor that decided to forego the 'stupid' to teach us about the noble truth.', 'This isn't a serious or "meaningful" film. It is pure entertainment, beautifully photographed on location in Egypt. The stars, Robert Taylor and Eleanor Parker, had great chemistry both off-screen and on. Taylor manages to be glamorous even when

trapped in a sandstorm. The plot is relatively thin with Parker seeking to validate part of the Old Testament by finding the tomb of the Pharaoh who reigned in the time of the Biblical Joseph. She bats her eyelashes at Taylor who comes along happily. Then she introduces her husband, Carlos Thompson. There are horse and carriage chases, murders, the aforementioned sandstorm, a spectacular fight at Abu Simbel, a scorpion attack--all in ninety minutes. Given the slower pace of movies in the 1950s, there is also time for Taylor and Parker to discover each other more thoroughly (over some fermented goat). Egyptian belly dancer Samia Gamal shakes her stuff at the demure Parker. The film isn't currently available on DVD but the WB Archive is releasing lots of new titles each month so they may get to this gem.

'Back in 1954 when TV was eroding Hollywood's popularity, having viewers staying home rather than venturing out to the movie theatre, MGM decided to make this large scale (for the time) movie. It was filmed pretty much on location in Cairo, Egypt, not easily done 50 years ago, the movie saw its release on 23 July 1954. Using the then popular archaeologist's writings of the time, C.W. Ceram, to supplant the script, much attention was focused on Joseph and the practice of monotheism in Egypt during the XVIII Dynasty. The same actual historical dynasty of Amenhotep/Akhenaten (1353-1336 B.C.) that had the heresy to try to bring monotheism to Egypt, Akhenaten had the beautiful, famous Queen Nefertiti as his queen, with King Tut following closely behind. The film, shot in Eastman color, is still as colorful as when filmed, with a script as colorful as the actual history of the XVIII Dynasty it mentions. We get to glimpse the actual Valley of the Kings of 50 years ago, but more interestingly for those of us who are old enough to remember, the statues of Abu Simbel before they were rescued to higher ground to avoid their being flooded out. This movie may be only a Hollywood drama but it is an 86 minute drama with flare, and interesting focus, if a bit dated. The turn of the 20th century world (the year 1900) it attempts to portray no longer exists, if it ever existed as portrayed, but the film does make for interesting viewing. Though I have found no evidence of it ever being released on region one DVD, the film can be viewed every once in awhile on Turner Classic Movies, as it was last shown there on January 2nd 2010. The cast included: Robert Taylor, Eleanor Parker, Carlos Thompson, Kurt Kasznar, Victor Jory, Leon Askin, Aldo Silvani, and Samia Gamal (the dancer). The movie is one that offers a comfortable 86 minutes of entertainment with small elements of actual history thrown in. While a hodgepodge of history it does transport one backwards into the majesty, intrigue, and glamour of ancient Egypt.

Semper Fi. "Valley of the Kings" shapes up as an exciting but familiar story, lacking imagination, about archaeologists and pharaoh's tombs... Desert people, sand storms, caravans of giant camels, typical Faiyum oasis, chase of carriages in the crowded streets of Al-Qahirah (The Victorious) known as Cairo, old markets and antique shops, the Nile, Saint Catherine's Greek Orthodox monastery (situated on the inspiring Mount Sinai), the Pharaonic Temple of Luxor, the grandeur of the Great Sphinx and the 3 great pyramids of Giza (Khufu, Khafre and Menkaure), give a proper ambiance to a mysterious tale... Robert Pirosh's direction is strong and well-developed, and the thrilling natural settings steal the picture... Taylor--an attractive masculine grace against wide vistas and bright skies, shortly finds himself forced to prove his courage with fists and even swords, climaxing in a murderous struggle with Carlos Thompson on the highest peak of one of the four gigantic statues of the great pharaoh Ramesses II, at the Great Temple of Abu Simbel... But Eleanor Parker's acting had more fire in it... She emits, on the screen, a source of radiant energy of a young woman who knows exactly where, and with whom, she wants to be... Thompson, suitably menacing and malicious, provides the excitement as it seems he is in association with dangerous vicious Egyptian grave robbers who sell tomb treasures on the black markets... Kurt Kasznar is evil and trouble as his sinister ally... Leon Askin plays both sides as a coward dealer in antiques, and Victor Jory is a frightening attraction as he tries to win Taylor in desert swordplay... One of the great Egyptian belly dancers of the 50's, the talented Samia Gamal, gives to the atmosphere a graceful touch in proportions and techniques, style and attitude... If you like to take a tour of this beautiful country and see wonderful sites of an ancient land, temples, tombs, treasures and secrets forever cherished within your mind, and you love to see the legendary Robert Taylor singing in Arabic in a relaxing moment aboard a Nile sailing boat, don't hesitate to watch this film--thin as drama with little action and suspense but loaded with splendid locations... 'Archeologist Robert Taylor and the lovely Eleanor Parker, find adventure and romance in Egypt while on a quest to find evidence of

Joseph from biblical times. They fall in love and have a lot of adventure on their quest. A lot of great scenery of pyramids and scenes from Egypt, a very exciting and scenic film. It makes one want to travel to Egypt.', "VALLEY OF THE KINGS" is another example of classic films whose copy rights are owned by "TIME WARNER INC." that like "Quo Vadis" and "Land of the Pharaohs" are neglected almost to the point of rejection. Still gathering "Star Dust" at their "Warner Bro. Library Vault," awaiting for someone there to release them on Anamorphic Widescreen DVD; or like its the case for "Quo Vadis" released in a format preserving the aspect ratio of its original theatrical exhibition. It's a real pity that young film lovers as well as those older ones that have to put up recently with an appalling new "Alexander," can not discover again this terrific picture on DVD. Directed by Robert Piroh, Starring: Robert Taylor and Eleanor Parker, it was released on July 23, 1954 as one of the first Cinemascope Movies. The screenplay deals with a romantic adventure that centers around the daunting perseverant hunt of an archeologist daughter, searching to find evidence of the Joseph from Biblical times in Egypt, so she can redeem her late father's goal on this quest. Filmed in Egypt it features awesome magnificent scenery of the Great Pyramids as well as other grand archeological sites over there. A terrific movie that needs to be on DVD, specially now that an exhibit of King Tutankhamun is touring the USA. Perhaps by voting on this review, all of you classic film lovers, can remind the mighty "TIME WARNER INC." our desire to see this movie released on a DVD format finally. THANK YOU ALL!', 'this is much more realistic than other Egypt films, as it depicts the turn of the 20th century, not ancient Egypt. you really get a feel for life in the middle east from the location scenes, the music and work-chants, and evening campfire dancing among the workers. the exterior monestary scenes are obviously authentic too, providing a taste of Egypt's mid-aevil past. and at the "tomb" look carefully at the placement of mirrors at the entrance. this is how it is really done. the story moves right along, with several twists to keep it interesting. and for the 50's it is remarkably frank about the affair between the protagonists. this Eleanor Parker is quite a gal. she is obviously really riding camels and braving windstorms (albeit from giant fans..) and keeping up with the he-men all the way, (except the fight scenes, but those are stunt men anyway...) Robert Taylor sheds his pretty-face image to seem as gritty as possible. this was good film-making. BUT WHY NOT ON DVD???????this movie's a visual feast, not just a story. if this tape doesn't sell well, it's because we're all waiting for the disc.', 'This movie has it all over Indiana Jones, because it is not pastiche, not tongue-in-cheek. It dares to take its subject seriously and succeeds beautifully. Robert Taylor is like William Holden but with more muscle and less irony. Another great movie of his is "Rogue Cop". One of the charms of this film is that it takes the mystical dimension of the story seriously, and has a wonderful payoff at the very end. The characters are well drawn. The "exotic" local is filmed perfectly, and puts to shame later efforts to recapture this type of motif. "King Solomon's Mines" is also excellent, but there the expedition is approaching through sub-Saharan Africa, so the adventure is African rather than Arab/Egyptian. The "ordeal-of-truth" sword fight that Taylor has to pass among a tribe of marauding Bedouin is something to see -- it is *very* realistic. All around a *great* Hollywood cinematic experience that transcends Hollywood cliché. 5 stars isn't enough!']

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['Please read my other review on this film distributed by another studio, Anchor Bay Entertainment.', 'The cd was a little more scratched than I expected but it still played. it came in on time and still a good flick.', 'Not as good as the first (i don't even know what it's called in China) but i have not seen a movie with Chow Yuen Fat in it i didn't like immensely. even Anna and the King and Crouching Tiger, Chow is a fantastic actor and I hope he makes more movies', 'From the accounts I've read, A Better Tomorrow II was a reluctant endeavour on Woo's part to cash in on an extremely personal and extremely successful film (the first A Better Tomorrow) which had made his career and hadn't been intended as a franchise. But a franchise it became, and the corny, nearly nonsensical plotting of this sequel (the comic-book artist is especially ludicrous -- it's the same guy who had been the counterfeit engineer in the first film!) is the result. But where this film good-naturedly flubs on logic, it

makes up for in spectacle and just pure entertainment. Chow Yun-fat must have had a ball filming this, with his extended English monologue, almost godlike action choreography, and a mischievous character which taps into one of his most effective traits as an actor, a goofball sense of fun which makes his romantic moments all the more engrossing. Ti Lung's character is somewhat passive this time though the actor does a good job. Dean Shek's over-the-top portrayal of a mind unhinged isn't for all tastes, but his performance in the not-crazy scenes is tip-top, and Leslie Cheung had grown greatly as an actor since the first film. In the end, this film is about an exaggerated staging of the trademark gunfights of A Better Tomorrow, and this sequel delivers on that front in grand style. Once again Chow Yun-fat steals the whole show, dominating both key action sequences (the final demolition of the house and the New York battle against over-the-top slimy mafiosi). The DVD transfer of this film is not all that great. As with the first A Better Tomorrow DVD on Anchor Bay, the trailers are not that remarkable -- this DVD offers "Hong Kong" and "American" trailers, but the Hong Kong trailer has already been available on the pristine Criterion Collection edition of Hard Boiled, and the American trailer is pure trash. There is no commentary, not surprisingly, but the most bothersome thing is that the picture transfer is really not that great. Unbecoming scratches mar the picture, and I suspect it's on the master used by Anchor Bay, not a one-off on my DVD. The film is still lots of fun to watch. Turn off your logic circuit and indulge.", 'I loved this movie. I have since bought the dvd. It is better than the first one. Even in subtitles. I now have it in english.', 'I love Chow Yun Fat because he is a great actor, but the movie disappoints. Not because it is subtitled, but it is not genuine enough for me. I was disappointed.', "The only things which stops me from rating this 5 stars are (warning minor spoilers below): Once the story gets past these rough spots, the movie gets way more awesome... The introduction of Chow Yun Fat's Character: Ken and the old trope of "never before mentioned twin brother"; 1). The scene where Ken forces the protection racket mobster to eat the rice from his restaurant felt forced and unnatural and it really didn't fit well with the pacing and the rest of the movie. Chow Yun Fat did a great job with the crappy dialogue he was given for his character and he was the only one truly acting in that scene - but even if the other actors stepped up to their parts... it was still bad writing and pacing. 2). Twin brother. - It would have been better if Chow Yun Fat played the same character from the first movie and to provide an explanation of how that character survived: (like maybe he had a metal plate in his skull and the bullet slid around the plate and exited through the skin at the front of his head and he was in a coma)... bringing back the icon to the sequel was a brilliant move because it brought back his fans, but it could have been handled a bit better. The rest of the movie was intense and overall it was highly enjoyable. I would give this 4.5 stars but half stars aren't supported.", "This is another one of John Woo's finest films!!! This is the second volume of the Better Tomorrow series and it's action packed!!! Will make a great companion to volume 1!!! Anchor Bay's DVD of this classic Hong Kong film is awesome!!! 16:9 widescreen, 2 trailers, multiple language tracks, great subtitles and production notes round out this great DVD!!! A+", 'All your characters from the first are here, including some new ones. Overall above average action sequel marred by cliches, couple editing problems, and lacks the spirit of the first.', 'John Woo doubles the body count in this ultra-violent and explosive sequel that surpasses the original. It starts out that Mark Gor (who was killed-off in the original) has a twin brother living in New York owning a Chinese restaurant and is in trouble with Italian mob and shelters a former Hong Kong triad boss on the ledge of insanity who was ran out of the Hong Kong triad mob now run by a more aggressive leadership. Mark returns to Hong Kong teams up with Kit and Ho and together take down the triad mob that is now in partnership with the Irish and Italian mob. Certain elements from ABT2 was inspired by Quentin Tarantino who use the black suit-white collar shirt-and black tie for the "Reservoir Dogs". The final shoot-out in the manhunt is one of the goriest and bloodiest final gunfights ever put on film, as the three main characters use 9mm Berettas, shoot-guns, M16s and samurai sword against manhunt full of no more of 100 mobsters with a thousand bullets coming from every direction, which makes Scarface and The Reservoir Dogs on steroids. The original ABT was about brotherhood, loyalty and honor, ABT 2 is about betrayal and revenge. The first of the film is a bit dull but starts to improve by the second half. John Woo does a heck of a good job putting gun fight scenes together and making them into classics. Highly Recommended for True Woo fans', "The movie starts out showing Ti Lung in

jail. He is given an offer to go undercover to bring down a counterfeit money operation. He says no, but immediately changes his mind when he finds out his brother (Leslie Cheung) is working on the case. The crime boss that Leslie Cheung is after is played by Dean Shek who gives a great dramatic performance. Dean Shek is best known for playing very goofy characters in *Drunken Master*, *Snake in the Eagle's Shadow* and *Dirty Tiger, Crazy Frog*. When Shek is framed for murder, he must hideout with a friend in New York. Leslie Cheung and Ti Lung also head to New York when they find out Mark (Ti Lung's friend from the last movie) has a twin brother. If you have seen *A Better Tomorrow*, then you know that Mark (Chow Yun Fat) couldn't come back for this movie, so they just say he has a twin brother. This would be fine if it was the only part of the story that seemed to be hastily glued together, but there are too many things that fall into place unnaturally. Some scenes must have been cut out and the movie is just a mess. There are a few good action scenes and the end is very exciting, but sadly this is not one of John Woo's better efforts. 3/5

Picture and sound quality on the Anchor Bay DVD are good. Subtitles are well written and there is also a really bad English dub.", "This film is a sequel in every sense of the word. It begins with our 'hero' from the first film in prison, and his CID brother undercover with a Triad. Then we learn that Yun-Fat's character Mark from the first film has a twin brother named Ken, who was the top tough guy where he grew up, but he moved to New York to lead a normal life on the straight and narrow. When an old friend is set up, and goes into hiding, he comes across Ken who decides it's best to help the old friend, and eventually they return to Hong Kong to set things right. The shootout at the mansion in the last 30 minutes is all you expect from the Woo/Chow duo, big explosions through the house, Yun-Fat going around two pistols blazing. *A Better Tomorrow II* is definitely better than its predecessor. If you're a John Woo, or Chow Yun-Fat fan, I highly recommend it to you.", "Better Tomorrow was one of the most boring John Woo movies I've ever watched. Over and over again Chow Yun Fat whined and the other guy tried to make things right with his whiny brother played by Leslie Cheung. Even the final gunfight lacked the charm of other Woo movies. This movie, on the other hand, is amazing. The first five minutes give you all you need to know to keep up. And then it's off to America to see the TWIN BROTHER of the Chow Yun Fat character from the first movie (yes, we know it's a soap opera plot device, but who cares?) runnign a restaurant as gangsters with a distinctly Chinese-British-phony Italian accent try to run him out of business. His "You don't like my rice" line is classic as he has them apologize to his rice. Anyhow anotehr gangster comes to stay with Chow Yun Fat and it turns out that his associates want to kill him (and kill his daughter pretty fast too) and so Chow is in the midst of the gun battle. Shortly thereafter Lesli Cheung gets shot, insists upon calling his wife and in the time he spends talking to her he could have had those bullets removed. I'm just saying. ANYhow it all comes down to one of the most kinetic, drawn-out, enjoyable battles in history of films as the three take guns, rifles, machetes and basic coolness in order to wipe out the entire Hong Kong gangster structure at once. I just can't say enough about how cool the final gun battle is. I don't even remember the boring parts then (and tehre are ALWAYS boring parts in Hong Kong movies. The Killer suffers from the 5th or 6th viewing becasuse of those damn guilty conscience scenes and musical montages) and I even forgive Woo for the first subpar movie (I almost forgive Chow Yun Fat for being in *City on Fire*, but I can't take it too far now) So buy this movie. Or wait until a better DVD comes out as indicated by another reviewer. But definitely go see it if it comes to a theater near you.", "As a favor to friend Dean Shek, who was going towards bankruptcy, John Woo followed up his hit with *A BETTER TOMORROW II*. Surprisingly, it's almost as good as the original. Everything's great here and it's not too melodramatic as the original was. Chow Yun Fat, although not as cool as in the original, comes back with a temper as his character in *ABT1*'s brother. Recommended for action fans and another must for Woo fans.", "While *ABT* was really good it cant compare to this. This movie is ten times better then the original. Chow Yun-Fat gets to be cooler then he did in the original. now more hobling around on his leg. He gets to show his coolness. The story here was also a lot better. People say its slow but i disagree. its always entertaining due to WOO's awesome direction. He has a true eye for visuals. All the actors due expert turns. Also the action here is 1000 times better then what was in *ABT* one is quality but probably not quantity. And the ending. I know others have said stuff but i need to contribute. The ending is one of the top 10 gunfights ever put to film. the three main chracters take uzis, .45's,

grenades, shotguns and strangely, a samurai sword, go to the mobsters mansion , and kill about 50 people while themselves being filled with holes. The bad guys get whats coming to them. Also included is a ruthless hitman w/ out one word of dialouge. I love it when Chow and the Hitman bump into each other and start shooting..classic. Overall this is Woo's first GREAT film and not to be missed.", 'I was completly blown away the first time I saw A Better Tomorrow . Masterfully directed by the John Woo , it focused on the HK gangster life. Sequels, I've learned from experience , are generally [poorer] and just an excuse to make money. Not so with ABT 2.The plot is arguably paper-thin and just an excuse to get the characters all [upset] so they can have sweet gunfights with tons of underworld scum. Ti Lung and Leslie Cheung fit nicely back into their roles as former gangster and HK cop. The whole Mark Gor "twin brother" thing was kinda cheesy , but It gives the movie so much more credibility to have Chow Yun-Fat center stage. Dean Shek did a great job as a traumatized father who eventually regains his sanity in the most stylish way possible.Onto the DVD...The picture quality was great , and aside from some weird one-second scratches across the screen , extremely watchable. For the soundtrack , take your pick of Cantonese or English mono. Defineltly check it out in Cantonese so you can hear the intensity of Chow-Yun\'s voice ...great stuff. I was unusually supriised by the English mono . I find it has an overall stronger sound , and superior music mixing. You see , they occasinally moved around the music ,a bit (1 min , behind or ahead) , and It does wonders for the movie. Especially when Fat is with Shek in the hotel , and he starts blasting with his shotgun , the sweet main theme cuts in faster , and boy , it\'s heaven.Bottom line , defineltly buy this one (it\'s the best version out there).']

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['Loved this movie years ago and had to buy it. Have played it for friends and they all loved it.', 'A moody (almost film noir) movie. Story lines of love and suspense were interwoven well and made this a good film to watch', "I was very pleased with the purchase of this movie. It was pretty good in terms of thrills and romance. Tom Berenger is a detective who is assigned to guard a Manhattan socialite after she witnesses the death of a friend. The killer begins to close in on her and soon Tom Berenger's own family and marriage are at risk. The plot moved a little slowly at times but it did build up to a big climatic finish. The characters in this film have great chemistry and I enjoyed the storyline very much. Plus, this movie was directed by Ridley Scott. A good 1980's film.", 'EXCELLENT. WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT FROM RIDLEY SCOTT. HE IS THE BEST!!!! GOOD MOVIE, ENTERTAINING AND WELL DONE. TOM AND MIMIHAVE GOOD CHEMISTRY.', "If you like cop movies with a good plot. This it. Lorraine Bracco plays Berenger's wife, She really is something else in this movie. She is an ex-cop married to Berenger. One heck of an actress. If you don't know who she is, she played Tony Soprano's doctor and currently plays Jane Rizzoli mother on Rizzoli & Isles. Has a little spice thrown in and the ending is awesome.", 'This movie somehow got overlooked in theatres, but there\'s no need to miss it now.Long story short: Rich socialite Mimi Rogers witnesses a mob hit and thus becomes a target. Tom Berenger is a blue-collar cop assigned to protect her. He is attracted to her, but is married (to Lorraine Bracco, playing the same character she always played before The Sopranos). Complicating matters is that she is attracted to him and the intense situation is constantly pushing them together.What sets "Someone..." apart from other movies with similar plots is that Bracco\'s character is pretty sympathetic so it\'s not a cut-and-dried issue. Berenger is drawn to Rogers because she is a vulnerable woman who needs protection. Bracco\'s character is a strong, independent Brooklynite who can challenge him in the relationship, but can\'t provide the one thing he needs (a chance to be needed). High-concept stuff when you think about it.All of this romance is sandwiched in between a pretty good thriller as Berenger attempts to protect Rogers from some very bad guys. The thriller-story is what the movie was sold on and it succeeds on that level.The DVD offers some good extras, but nothing inventive.Don\'t miss this one a second time.', "I love this movie and nobody but the then stunningly gorgeous and also damn sweet and cute Tom Berenger could have pulled it off. Infidelity in movies or real life depresses me, but hey, without it there would be no movie. mike's inner torment is what

makes this great. He wants to do the right thing but he just cannot stay away from Claire and her world that is so different than his. I can think of few times in movies when I have seen that kind of electricity as the very first time Mike sees Claire. Wow. The sexual tension builds beautifully and of course culminates. I wish we had been able to see a little more sex scene. I mean, we cut from the first kiss to him fully dressed and kissing her goodbye. After that all we ever get is them in bed but they are sleeping or he is thinking or whatever. I am not saying I wanted porn. But just a little more action...they were so sexy and cute together in large part because of their different worlds. The slow dancing scene at the end...Yowza. Now THAT was sexy with all clothes on. They clearly had feelings for each other still. He looked like he was about to cry. So tender. Yes yes I swoon for the old Tom Berenger. I even thought Sgt. Barnes in platoon was hot, and see Betrayed if you REALLY want him hot.", 'The plot in this film has been used many times with small variations that make it worthwhile to watch: a poor, good looking detective from a nice warm family with an adoring wife is assigned to watch and protect a beautiful, rich woman, and the two fall in love. Tom Berenger is the man in this movie, Mimi Rogers the socialite, Lorraine Bracco the wife, and the late Jerry Orbach from Law and Order is Tom's lieutenant, unfortunately without his trademark Law and Order wisecracks. In this 1987 version of the oft-told plot, a socialite sees a brutal gangster knife a man and says she can identify him. Orbach orders Berenger to "baby sit her," which includes being at her house at night while she is in bed. Berenger lives with his charming wife and outgoing, smiling son in a run-down house in a bad and dangerous neighborhood. The socialite's house is larger than a mansion. She is beautiful. The gangster finds a way to get to her and threatens her, but she nevertheless identifies him in a lineup. But he is released because Berenger did not read him the Miranda warning. The socialite is outraged, screams at Berenger, they kiss, and sleep together. When he returns home, he finds two police officers; his wife heard a prowler outside during the night. Berenger's wife suspects what is happening to her husband and throws him out of their run-down home when she sees him wearing a tie that the socialite bought him and hearing him begin to complain about her New York accent, which he enjoyed during their sixteen year marriage. The problems heat up when the gangster sends a henchman to the socialite's mansion to kill her, and reaches a boiling point when the gangster goes to Berenger's home, holds his wife and son captive, and insists that Berenger come home alone. But the socialite goes with him. Viewers will find it interesting to watch the violence at the mansion when the henchman creeps in to kill the socialite, and the ferocity at Berenger's home and how his wife and son act. They will also be fascinated watching what happens to the gangster, Berenger, his wife, his son, and the socialite.', 'Tom Berenger is sensational in this romantic thriller movie from director Ridley Scott. He plays Mike Keegan, a newly promoted detective, who is given the assignment of (as the police put it) "babysitting" the witness to a brutal murder. The witness, Claire Gregory, played to the hilt by Mimi Rogers, is beautiful, classy and well-educated. She's especially upset because she's just seen a close friend get stabbed to death. These actors have real screen chemistry (it's not forced) which makes the movie work. While Mike Keegan is attracted to Claire from the minute he sees her, he tries to keep those feelings at bay and just be professional. However, the more time he spends with her, the harder that becomes. Lorraine Bracco is one tough cookie and does a wonderful job of playing a police officer's wife. The "perp", played by Andreas Katsulas, is really scary; he does a great job playing a psychopathic killer. All in all, a very talented cast, great plot with suspense and a taut feeling throughout really combine to make this an outstanding movie. When you think about it, we all need "someone to watch over us" and that movie really makes that come through.', "This is a very good movie. Ridley Scott has created a 100% authentic world with this movie. Tom Berenger plays his character fantastically. It's really a shame that he lost his talent to low rent action films when he could've continued with films like this. The atmosphere and cinematography, as well as the soundtrack featuring licensed (?) music really contributes to the overall mood, which is kind of casual and realistic. One thing that I think is good is that the story isn't pushed along by action and violence, it's pushed along by the struggles of Mike Keegan who has just been promoted to Detective, and on his first job as a Detective, his life is ruined. Recommended to Ridley Scott and 80's film fans alike.", 'This is an enjoyable movie if you ignore the simple-minded and logic-deficient "thriller" plot (would that brutal guy REALLY be permitted to run around the city for that

long, repeatedly trying to kill witnesses??) and just concentrate on the nicely drawn characterizations of the three main protagonists, with their genuinely complicated emotional dilemmas. Also, the cinematography and music are top notch, as is the image quality of the DVD.', 'This is one of my favorite movies in that it seems to have it all. Romance, Action, Drama ... and the music is beautiful. The scenery is breathtaking. The acting is first rate and just a joy to watch.', 'All right, this is a bit of a difficult film to review, because while I enjoyed it, I can't decide whether I would actually want to be bothered to watch it again -- and that usually defines a great movie, for me. But I'll do my best and we'll see where we go. To sum up the plot, Tom Berenger plays Mike, a happily married (sexy) police detective who's hired to protect Claire (Mimi Rogers), a rich woman who's witnessed a murder. Predictably, perhaps, Claire and Mike fall in love, and as Mike's marriage begins to fall apart, the murderer steps up his pursuit of Claire in an attempt to find and destroy her... Okay, okay, so it's a bit of an average plot, from the sounds of it. But the complexity of the storyline and the decent character developments kept me watching. I actually disliked all the of the performances of the principal actors, but they were probably the only actors for the parts and for each other in this movie. I like how Mimi Rogers's character likes opera, it gives her this artsy, deep dynamic, but all in all, I wasn't that convinced that her character actually develops beyond "learning not to fall in love with bodyguards." The same goes for the others. It's like the plot moves along, but the characters don't quite go with it. Nonetheless! The actors aren't HORRIBLE, the plot is decent, and Tom Berenger is one hot bodyguard. Mimi Rogers DOES get the helpless victim act across well, and the set, costumes, etc. are terrific. The suspense is suspenseful. The movie will keep you interested. One of the other reviewers of this movie wrote that 'Someone to Watch Over Me' is a good date movie. It is. It's definitely worth watching, if you're on a stay-in date, or just in need of a decent movie to kill time, and after watching it you'll feel that the two hours wasn't wasted. It's worth the \$20 or so for the DVD if you like '80s movies; otherwise it's a rental, but a worthwhile one.', 'I have it on VHS but the DVD quality is better. Exciting story; well-acted and with moody, highly effective use of great music and NYC scenes. You will watch this one every few years and still enjoy it.', 'Great police spoof. Tom Berenger made a good cop in this love affair, body guard for Mimi Rogers. A good Ridley Scott movie to own.', 'Personally speaking, I like a nice fairly straightforward thriller-type movie, with a little suspense, and a little romance, so this was up my ally! The characters were amazingly well-developed I thought, given the genre, and their situation was really compelling. Mimi Rogers was wonderful in her role-- not at all the "shallow" socialite stereotype, but a real person with real worries and real needs... Go ahead and check this one out if you're looking for a way to pass an evening! But get the DVD if you can, I found the VHS to be pretty low quality.', 'This is a very entertaining and well-made film by Ridley Scott. The best acting is by Lorraine Bracco, followed by Tom Berenger. The 1.85:1 DVD is enhanced for 16:9 TVs and has very good picture and sound.', 'A mi familia le gustó mucho esta película. Tom Berenger en un papel de chico bueno. Llego en excelentes condiciones y a tiempo.', 'while the story and the plot are dated and of course its very much of the time period, because Fatal Attraction amongst others were the "IN" thing at the time, it was a cool film and it worked. Berenger, Rogers and Bracco made it a memorable film. its a cool watch still. formula storyline, however a cool film', 'Ridley Scott's fourth film has always been a favorite of mine. A guilty pleasure I guess although I see where it is now at 82% at "Rotten Tomatoes". The general audience never warmed up to it and I'm not sure why. The movie grabbed me from the opening scene, scanning the tall monuments of New York City at dusk while Sting sings the title song over the credits. This is one of 4 version of the song in the film if I'm not mistaken, including the proper coda over the closing credits performed by Roberta Flack. While we're on the subject, STWOM has a varied soundtrack ranging from the several versions of the Gershwins' beautiful song to Steve Winwood's "Freedom Overspill" to Christmas themed chamber music to opera arias that have now become common place. I'm pretty sure this film is where I first heard music from Catalani's "La Wally" and "Vien Mallika" by Delibes, now staples on my MP3 player. The filmmakers do a wonderful job placing the music over the proper scene and it adds significantly to the effect. This is probably the first time I saw the gorgeous architectural creation know as the Guggenheim Museum where it is the setting for a chase sequence. Not the last time either. Tom Berenger is perfectly suited as the cop from Queens

assigned to nighttime duty to protect a beautiful eyewitness (a stone cold gorgeous Mimi Rogers) to a brutal murder. Claire (Rogers) is filthy rich and has a multi-million dollar Park Ave. apartment. Michael (Berenger) is clearly wowed by Claire's sophistication, intellect and beauty not to mention her surroundings and influence. This is a different world. There is a scene where Mike and his saucy wife Ellie (terrific Lorraine Bracco) are looking out from their humble home in Queens toward the Manhattan skyline. If only. Happily married though he is, Michael comes under the spell of the forbidden fruit that is Claire. The sets of her apartment are perfectly toned in browns, beiges, tans, egg shell whites and creams. A sense of calm, that Mike's usually hurried life denies him. Claire is rich, beautiful and available. Yes, I'm sucked in too. The film doesn't minimize the thriller aspect either. Claire is set upon by the killer and his henchmen more than once. There is an intense scene in the final act that adds to ultimate conclusion. "Someone To Watch Over Me" remains a great blend of drama, romance and modern film noir.', 'This movie is a classic! Sit down comfortably and watch this great drama. The actors are amazing. Someone to Watch Over Me', 'Out of all of the Ridley Scott movies that I have seen, this is the worst of them. Don't get me wrong, it's still a good movie, but compared to Gladiator or Blade Runner this is nothing. I'm also not a big fan of Tom Berenger, he doesn't seem to come off very believable in his movies and that is why he only does straight-to-video movies now. Mimi Rogers is all right, she seemed like a real person in a real situation. The story is also well developed, my only problem was the length of the film which is approximately 95 minutes. Other Ridley Scott films that you should check out if you liked this: White Squall, Thelma & Louise and G.I. Jane.', 'Tom Berenger is a good actor. The producer picked a perfect actress to play as his mistress. I felt for his wife in the movie.', 'I rented it once, loved it and bought the DVD, with remastered soundtrack. A fan of the film noir genre, I noticed the cliches, but didn't care one whit about them. The acting, the "feel" of NYC, the contrasts between the main characters, I love all of it. Tom Berenger is perfectly cast, as well as Mimi Rogers, a favorite of mine. A romantic at heart, every time I watch this movie, I envision, Part 2, and continue with the characters' lives: what if Mike's wife finally gave him the boot and Claire sent Mike an address from abroad? Can't help but love a film that makes me wonder, "what if?" at the end. I never want the movie to end. I also enjoy watching Claire and her classy wardrobe. This is a guilty pleasure for me, as is "Flashdance." However, it is far superior to "Flashdance." "Someone" is a beautiful mood film from Ridley Scott. I just need the soundtrack now!', 'I saw this movie in the 80's when it was in the theatres. It celebrated all that the decade was known for: glamour, over-the-top consumerism, women moving into the professions in a big way, etc. The female lead couldn't just live in a nice apartment -- it had to be one with a private elevator, several thousand sq. ft., panoramic views of the New York skyline, a chauffeur was standard among her and her friends. She wears great clothes, natch! The plot needed to use all these elements but to give it some edge there had to be a murder (gory is best), she had to see it happen (the only witness), a police officer from the other end of the economic scale had to be put in charge of protecting the key witness -- you get the idea . . . The inevitable sexual attraction between princess and pauper happens, of course. But he's married (of course) to a former police officer, has a son, etc. . . . There were a number of films of that era which followed closely that plot line -- "Witness" with Harrison Ford, "Fatal Attraction" with Glenn Close, you can probably think of others. For an evening's entertainment, it's great eye-candy !!', 'The premise: woman sees murder murderer chases her and tries to kill her police watch her and protect her. But the actual movie plot was about a family man who lusts after a woman and a shallow life of things and money. He is "seduced" by it. So he wrecks his family in the process. That's pretty much it. Not much more too it. I mean Mimi Rogers plays the rich bee well She looks the part. The manhattan apt is beautiful, even by today's standards. Berenger has a good accent going. I mean you could have seen/heard that in a 5 minute behind the scenes audition tape. There wasn't even any suspense. Even the "suspenseful" parts didn't have you on the edge of your seat. So why bother?', 'The story is very simple. Rich lady witnesses murder. Police guy watches over her. They fall for each other. Police guy is married. I think, for the amount of time the story has to unfold, we don't get the sense Berenger ever really develops as a full character. I love Ridley Scott's style, though I think this one was more noir then the story would lend itself to be. Overall, a good watch on a slow night.', 'Review for: "Someone to Watch Over Me" (1987) Studio: Sony Pictures Home

EntertainmentDVD Release Date: October 19, 1999The Widescreen is a Fake Widescreen. They took the Pan and Scan Full Screen Movie Issue (which has the ends of the movie image cut off) and cropped off the top and bottom of the movie to make it conform to the aspect ratio of 1.85:1 for Widescreen TVs.']

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["Here it is a nice and different movie from the 60's, a mixture of Sword&Sandal and terror, with astonishing special effects. Hercules (NATURAL bodybuilder Reg Park) opposes the evil and tyrannical Lyco (Christopher Lee). So Hercules must rescue his beloved princess Deianira (Leonora Rufo) from the curse that Lyco has put on her, and according to the oracle, must go down to Hades. Two friends accompany Hercules, one of them is very funny. After many adventures, the hero fights a stone monster, gets a golden apple and a concoction from a flower, they return from Hell. Before the end there are some incredible, delirious and chaotic scenes in a graveyard with some creatures getting out of the tombs that become living deads and zombies and others like flying vampires all attack Hercules. Finally comes the punishment and the evil Lyco turns into dust. Successful color special effects by Mario Bava.", "One of the best old movies from the 60's Entertaining. Movie is a great adventure to watch. Grab a bowl of popcorn a drink and sit down to watch something very entertaining.", "This movie transfer is horrible. It has distortions, horrible color, and is absolutely dark and dreary. Enjoying this movie was impossible. Save your money and do not purchase this company's dvd. Maybe there is another company out there with a better print.", 'HERCULES IN THE CENTER OF THE EARTH (1961), better known as HERCULES IN THE HAUNTED WORLD, was acclaimed horror director Mario Bava's first color film, and it is regarded as one of the best in the "sword and sandal" genre. The plot concerns Hercules' (Reg Park) adventures in Hades as he tries to secure a golden apple and a living stone which will aid him in rescuing his beloved (Leonora Ruffo) from the evil Lyco (Christopher Lee). Bava's brilliant ability to make low-budget films look like expensively mounted productions is evident throughout. The eye-popping color design is one of the first examples of the psychedelic style for which Bava would later become famous. The climax, with Hercules fending off hordes of flying demons, is genuinely creepy. The sequence takes place in a sparse, spacious setting with mist swirling around silhouetted figures, looking like some unholy version of Calvary - the staccato editing heightening the suspense. Park cuts a good figure as Hercules, hitting just the right note of heroism and nobility. Of course Lee, draped in black with a page-boy haircut, is perfect as the Lucifer-like Lyco. Fantoma gives us a beautiful DVD transferred from the widescreen, original cut of the film, so its visual splendor is finally fully intact. This edition has both the original Italian language and English dubbed versions. A nice batch of extras - liner notes by Tim Lucas, the theatrical trailer and a stills and poster gallery - wrap up a highly entertaining package.', 'I was a big Mario Bava fan until he made BLOOD & BLACK LACE (1964) and swapped Gothic for Giallo. A few films like KILL BABY KILL (1966) and BARON BLOOD (1972) return to his Gothic roots but most of his later movies just aren't my cup of tea. After years of seeing bad TV prints of HERCULES IN THE HAUNTED WORLD (1961) and a recent streaming effort that was seriously lacking, I was pleasantly surprised (blown away actually) by the quality of this release from Fantoma. This is the European version known as HERCULES IN THE CENTER OF THE EARTH which is in widescreen and glorious color. It also gives you the option of English or Italian soundtracks. The dubbing is excellent but I prefer the original Italian although it's disconcerting to hear Christopher Lee conversing in Italian (he's dubbed in the English version as well). This was Bava's first film in color and during its many supernatural moments it looks like BLACK SUNDAY (1960) would have had it not been in black & white. In fact signature visual elements of later Bava films such as BLACK SABBATH (1963) and PLANET OF THE VAMPIRES (1965) first make their appearance here. The scenario, having little to do with actual mythology, has Hercules travelling to Hades in order to bring back 2 relics which have the power to restore his beloved (Leonora Ruffo) to her senses. She's been put in a trance by her evil guardian (Lee of course) who sends Hercules out on this errand in the hopes that he will fail. The scenes in the Underworld feature Bava at his most

creative visually and his use of color and light and shadow give you an indication of what's to come. 3 time Mr Universe winner Reg Park makes an excellent Hercules (and not just in looks although he's really ripped to use 21st century terminology) and Christopher Lee's evil King Lyco is quite an imposing presence (even without his voice). Steven H. Scheuer, the first TV movie critic (before Leonard Maltin), said "In this movie, Hercules literally goes to Hell taking the advice of his non-fans". He must have seen one of the many bad TV prints out there for in a high quality version like this Fantoma release, this is the best Hercules movie (sorry Steve Reeves) and most of the credit should go to Bava. The DVD also comes with a number of special features including liner notes and rare stills.', "I was curious to see this entertaining cult favorite and hoped that Amazon's version would not be a blurry pan-and-scan cropped-for-TV version, but no such luck. It soon can be seen, presumably in a decent widescreen print, at the Los Angeles Music Center in 2015 -- but with LIVE dubbed-in singing voices instead of the canned dubbed-in English speech of the Amazon version! Here's the scoop from the LAO's PR office: Buckle your seatbelts for our most offbeat presentation ever! 'Hercules vs. Vampires' combines opera and midcentury pop culture, synchronizing live music with the cult fantasy film 'Hercules in the Haunted World,' a 1961 sword-and-sandal epic starring three-time Mr. Universe Reg Park. When the actors projected on the silver screen open their mouths to speak, the audience will hear their lines sung by our cast of singers from the Domingo-Colburn-Stein Young Artist Program, accompanied by a 26-piece orchestra. Directed by the great Italian filmmaker Mario Bava, the film itself is fantastic in every sense of the term, swaddled in glorious early-1960s Technicolor. Action-packed and wildly operatic in scope, the film follows Hercules on a heroic journey to rescue his beloved from a fiendish mastermind of terror (played onscreen by horror legend Christopher Lee). Fresh and full of fun, an atmospheric new operatic score by L.A.-based composer Patrick Morganelli provides the perfect accompaniment to Bava's gorgeously gaudy world. Presented in association with American Cinematheque and the Italian Cultural Institute of Los Angeles. SCHEDULE Thursday April 23, 2015 08:00 PM Saturday April 25, 2015 07:00 PM Saturday April 25, 2015 10:00 PM Sunday April 26, 2015 02:00 PM Tickets go on sale to the general public on June 22, 2014. 2014/15 package holders may add-on Hercules vs Vampires beginning January 14.", 'Italian director Mario Bava (1914-1980) is one of the giants of the horror film genre. Bava's big break into the field came with his 1960 black and white classic "Black Sunday" starring Barbara Steele. This was only the beginning, as Bava churned out a series of gruesome shockers over the next seventeen years; his films always promised great style mixed with scenes of murder and mayhem. Perhaps Mario's biggest contribution to the horror genre was his 1972 picture "Twitch of the Death Nerve," also known as "Bay of Blood." It doesn't take too long to realize "Friday the 13th" shamelessly cribbed from this slasher bloodbath. At least two of the murders in the film appear almost unchanged in the first installment of the Jason Voorhees franchise. That's right-- Mario Bava gave birth to the modern slasher film. But he also dabbled in non-horror films with projects like "Four Times That Night" and this film, "Hercules in the Haunted World." After watching his contribution to the peplum genre, I have to express further admiration for this amazing filmmaker; he could make an entertaining motion picture no matter what the subject. Bava's Hercules (played capably by Reg Park) must set out on yet another quest the results of which will have a profound effect on the residents of a Greek city. It seems that the female princess of this town is under some zombie like spell, completely unable to function beyond rambling and stumbling about. In her place, a sinister man named Lyco (Christopher Lee!) "generously" agrees to rule the city until Hercules and his buddy Theseus return from their mission. According to an oracle, Hercules must head into the depths of Hades--ruled over by the evil god Pluto--to secure a special stone that will restore the faculties of the young princess. Of course, our heroes must undertake several other minor tasks before marching into the world of the dead. In order to enter Hell, Hercules must first obtain a magical boat from some large guy who likes to draw and quarter people. Then Theseus and Hercules must sail the boat to the Hesperides, a bleak land beyond the sun where a bevy of beautiful women banished by the gods live. Once they arrive here, one of the men must climb an enormous tree in order to procure a golden apple that will allow them to enter and exit Hades safely. The underworld itself presents a host of problems, including oceans of fire, sexy but fatal mirages, and vines that groan and bleed when cut. Hercules

surmounts all of the obstacles through a combination of brute strength and intelligence, arriving back at the city just in time to take on Lyco and some weird flying creatures. The final showdown is fierce, but will our man save the princess and restore the monarchy in time? Peplum films often rate high on the cheese scale. Bava's film is no exception, but (and this is a big but) "Hercules in the Haunted World" is an enormously entertaining and beautifully made film guaranteed to provide a good time. Sure, some of the miniatures looked schlocky. Sure, the comic relief sidekick Theseus and Hercules take along with them is more of an annoyance than a boon. Sure, Christopher Lee sports a funny Prince Valiant haircut and doesn't really do much. Yes, many scenes and characters in Bava's film possess a decidedly cheesy quality, but the movie succeeds wildly despite these flaws. Just check out the performances. I thought Reg Park made an excellent Hercules; the guy could actually act and really looks the part. Moreover, there are more babes in this film than I remember seeing in 1950s and 1960s cheese flicks. The girl who plays Persephone, the woman Theseus rescues from Hades, looks eerily similar to a young Sophia Loren. In fact, all of the female roles have beautiful women in them, something I greatly appreciated when watching the film. If you don't want to waste time watching the actors and actresses (dubbed, by the way, since the film was shot in Italian), you can appreciate how Bava overcame a tight budget to create a truly bizarre world. When Theseus, Hercules, and the sidekick sail across the ocean to the Hesperides, the horizon takes on a weird, almost psychedelic tone of red, yellow, and black that is very well done. Just as neat is the desolate landscapes of Hades, a world of smoke, styrofoam rocks, and lava pits that swallow up the unwary. As Hercules and Theseus move through the blasted terrain of Pluto's domain, the camera often draws way back to show the two men from afar jumping off cliffs and climbing hand over hand on a vine rope. Again, it does look a bit cheesy, but it also works in an inexplicable way. The scenes where Hercules talks to the oracle and where he battles Lyco and his undead minions are, without doubt, simply wonderful to look at and stylish as all get out. "Hercules in the Haunted World" is a prime cut of peplum that even a non-fan of the genre can appreciate. I was surprised to see Franco Prosperi had a hand in making this film; he went on to worldwide fame as one of the co-creators of the notorious "Mondo Cane" series. I suspect, however, that Bava was primarily responsible for the technical brilliance of the movie. Thanks to Fantoma for bringing us the film in a beautifully restored DVD version with a trailer and stills as extras. Bava completists simply must pick up "Hercules in the Haunted World" as quickly as they can. Even non-fans would do well to invest an hour and a half of their time with this one; you're unlikely to see another peplum film as entertaining as this one.', "Anyone into Bava should see, if not own this movie. Bava once again proved his brilliance with trick shots and color done on a miniscule budget. The man did it all and for pennies. He was a film maker of great innovation. In this film Bava was in control and it shows his shots and the color he used are perfect. The story is typical Hercules but in Bava's hand the film is far above most sword and scocery films of the day. Reg Park is suitably muscle bound and seems a better actor than many in the role. Christopher Lee is in it as the villan (what else!). The story is simple as I said but the action is good and Bava keeps everything moving nicely. This movie is family friendly so you do not have to worry. Just Enjoy!", "I have Sinister Cinema's DVD of this film, which is from a pretty bad print: tons of scratches and the colors washed out until everything is a pinkish-purple. One poster says this version is from a really good print. Do you agree? Forgive me for posting a question where I should post a review, but I don't know where else to get it answered. Thanks!!!", 'The dvd of Reg Parks haunted world came very quickly after ordering, in mint condition..i am happy i now have the whole reg park collection. The movie played through perfect no skips..', 'As you can imagine, Mario Bava's Hercules film has lots of psychedelic red/blue/green color splashed around and is misty and foggy as well. Well, Bava's flair for the visuals makes this a rather unique entry in the Italian Sword and Sandal genre. In this film, Hercules goes to the city of his fiancée, but she's under the spell of some wacky evil, as is the whole town. The town is ruled by Christopher Lee, and even a blind man could see that he has a hand in the evil goings on, but Hercules was never known for his intelligence. So he goes on a quest to retrieve a magic stone from the god, Pluto. This journey leads him to the "haunted world" of the title, which is actually Hades, the land of the dead. Along with his buddy, Theseus, and some unneeded comic relief character, they brave the horrors of Hades to retrieve the stone. Before they get to Hades,

however, they need to stop at an island to get a golden apple from a tall tree. The apple will enable them to pass through to the land of the dead. When the doofus Hercules falls from the tree, what does he do? Why tear the tree down of course!! Will Hercules make it out of Hades alive, save the city, defeat Christopher Lee and get his girl back???? Well of course you know he does, but it's a fun journey if you dig this kinda pulpy action. Or if you like Bava's style. Herculean highlights here include a hilarious and underused rock creature that wants to use Theseus as a Stretch Armstrong figure, a very funny Christopher Lee demise, and a very cool and creepy climax with floating zombies that get smashed to smithereens.', "We have discussed the musclemen movies of the past. This is a good one but not a great one. Reg Parks is not Steve Reeves and does not try to be. But it is a rare combination of Horror and Power. It works. Family entertainment at it's best.", 'Fantoma's DVD release of Mario Bava's Hercules in the Center of the Earth ought to elevate his stature in the film world, if not as a "serious" movie director, then certainly as one of the cinema's most talented and artistic lighting cameramen/cinematographers. The story is fairly generic muscleman stuff and the acting is competent if unexceptional (although three-time Mr. Universe Reg Park definitely has a believable physical presence as Hercules); what really sets this movie apart from virtually any other peplum flick are Bava's neon-hued Technicolor visuals, which at times border on the hallucinatory. Throughout most of the movie he tosses off shot after stunning shot, many only a few seconds long, nearly every one impeccably lit, artfully composed, and accented with vibrant color. Bava's interweaving of light, shadow, color, and sometimes literal "smoke and mirrors" to define space, mood, and even character is consistently impressive, even more so after reading the liner notes describing how little he had to work with. Cool sequences and striking set-pieces abound, including Deianira rising from her sarcophagus and floating across the room (like Lon Chaney in Son of Dracula); Hercules's eerie visits with the sibyl; the psychedelic ocean vistas on the voyage to the Hesperides; Lyco (Christopher Lee) reflected in a pool of his victim's blood; the flying ghouls rising from their slimy crypts (which must have given nightmares to the kiddie matinee crowd in 1964); and the climactic showdown between Hercules and Lyco, shot in an atmospheric Roman grotto. There's almost too much to appreciate in a single viewing. While I'm not normally a huge fan of sword-and-sandal flicks (though I did watch lots of them on Saturday afternoons as a kid), and I could've done without the 'comedy relief' character, I still have to strongly recommend this movie not only to fans of Bava's other movies (particularly Planet of the Vampires), but also anyone who simply appreciates breathtakingly beautiful color cinematography. Fantoma's DVD is transferred in its original 2.35:1 aspect ratio and anamorphically enhanced, from a virtually pristine Technicolor print of the original Italian-language dub. There is only the lightest of speckling evident; otherwise it's crisp and clean, with lush, richly-saturated color, and excellent contrast and detail. Optional English subtitles are included, as well as the (continental) English-dubbed soundtrack. Unless you're extremely subtitle-phobic, I recommend the Italian-language soundtrack with the subtitles. The English dubbing gives the film a campier, less serious tone and often renders the dialogue much more prosaically than the subtitles (example: Hercules's final words to Deianira in the subtitled version, "Man's love is passionate, but often inconsistent. Ours will last forever"; in the English dub, "As long as Theseus steals other men's girls, I have nothing to worry about.") Unfortunately we don't get to hear Christopher Lee's actual voice in either version. The DVD also includes excellent Tim Lucas liner notes; a gallery of approximately 45 color and B&W; stills, posters, and ad mats; and a comparatively rough-looking trailer, matted to about 1.66:1 and suffering from medium to heavy scratching and lining, poor color, and merely acceptable sharpness and detail. The film is broken into 16 chapter stops and the Dolby 2.0 mono sound is full and clear. The definitive edition of an unmercifully neglected film.', 'Somewhere in the recent release of Danger: Diabolick someone points out that although Bava was given 3 million to make that film he only spent \$400,000. Bava worked in that giddy realm of making do when making low-budget films. Roger Corman and his people were great at that but Bava was an artistic genius--his movies are frequently stunning, even though you might be looking at \$200 in sets and props. I love this film, almost as much as "Planet of the Vampires"-- my favorite Bava and very nearly my favorite film (Alphaville and 8 1/2 top it for me). Even the soundtrack on this Hercules flick is spectacular. What's to like? Well, with minimal props Bava comes close to turning a cheap Hercules film into something

rivaling the original "Beauty and the Beast" for sublimely weird atmosphere. One scene with Hercules and the Oracle is uncanny: I know I'm seeing two vases, some colored gels, tinsel, a mirror, and about 50 bucks in other stuff but my ever-vigilant analytical mind goes right to sleep during this bit and the magic of it never fails to overtake me. The Oracle is even wearing a mask left over from "La Dolce Vita." When Hercules and his sidekick enter Hades the real craziness begins (as it should, considering it's Hades). Again, many stunning and surreal scenes. The film has its lumps and bumps but it's amazing that it isn't solid lump, as most budget films can be. It also has Christopher Lee doing a swell job as the villain...as usual. All in all, a great and edifying film experience and I'm thrilled it was cleaned up and given to the world in such a wonderful form. I'd use this wonderful movie in any film production class to show students how art and genius can triumph over budget any day (I'd also use Guy Maddin's "Careful"--in his own Canadian way Maddin might rival Bava, in fact since his plots never force him to exceed his limitations his films are seldom lumpy). Just released--"Danger: Diabolick" another Bava miracle I was glad to put on the shelf beside the previously mentioned films. The most spectacular set in the film was actually painted on glass by Bava in about a day or so. It makes the sets in Bond films look weak.']

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["I had forgotten just how enjoyable this little Audie Murphy Western was until I recently purchased this handsome Universal DVD release. Murphy in this venture is "the silver kid," and his co-star Stephen McNally actually steals the show. The action is fast-paced and believable, the plot way above average. There are shoot outs, claim jumping, and some humor thrown in--Audie has some droll lines. Universal-International made a number of fine Murphy Westerns in the 1950s into the mid 1960s. DUEL AT SILVER CREEK is one of the better ones. Now let's hope that Murphy's finest outing in the genre, NO NAME ON THE BULLET, and some of his other, better films---RIDE CLEAR OF DIABLO, GUNSMOKE, SEVEN WAYS FROM SUNDOWN, TUMBLEWEEDS, get the nod from the engineers at Universal."], 'You probably shouldn't expect too much from a western when you see that the characters have names like The Silver Kid, Marshall "Lightning" Tyrone, Johnny Sombra and Opal "Brown Eyes" Lacy. Still, Duel at Silver Creek has one interesting twist. It's the bickering misunderstandings between the two male good-guy leads, The Kid and "Lightening," Audie Murphy plays Luke "The Silver Kid" Cromwell and Stephen McNally is "Lightening" Tyrone. (It's a shame that we don't give our top law enforcers nicknames like this anymore. J. Edgar "Lightening" Hoover carries authority.) There's a lot of lethal claim-jumping going around in the mountains near Silver City. A gang of killers forces the claim holders to sign over their claims, then guns them down so there are no witnesses. Marshal "Lightening" Tyrone, the fastest draw around, plans to hunt them down, bring them to justice or kill them himself. One of the claim holders had a son. He's aiming to do the same. He calls himself The Silver Kid. He's handy with a gun and good at poker. When "Lightening," no dummy who knows he needs more firepower, offers a deputy's badge to The Silver Kid, the Kid accepts. This is going to be a fraught partnership, complicated by a slick mining engineer (Gerald Mohr), a lush, pink-bosomed femme fatale (Faith Domergue) and Dusty (Susan Cabot), the feisty, pants-wearing tomboy we know will smarten up right fine in a dress. We meet the gang leaders early on. There are no surprises as we watch one shoot down miners in cold blood and another strangle to death a wounded miner. I like Audie Murphy. His early movies leave a lot to be desired, but he grew into a decent actor. In real life he was a man to admire. In Hollywood he gave it his best and learned. In The Duel at Silver Creek he's no match for the hack-written dialogue and those nicknames. Try on "Thanks for the warning, Brown Eyes," "We're trapped! Spread out," "That was a smart stunt! I almost plugged you," "Hey, Dusty, Lightning's back!" and "He didn't have the face of a killer, but he had the cold-steel look of one. I noticed his hands were quick and sure." Stephen McNally was a competent actor, but here he's saddled with providing a dull narration to the story. There's not much he can do with what the writers gave him. This was also one of director Don Siegel's earliest movies. The video and audio transfers are nothing out of the ordinary. You might enjoy this movie if you like Audie Murphy, if you

enjoy the turgid clichés of hack screenwriting and if you have something else to do while you watch. I'm three for three. I'll give it three stars out of five. You might not. One last cliché; to keep in mind. (And clichés aren't spoilers) Remember that in Hollywood, good-natured old coots are always gunned down.', "I enjoy Audie Murphy westerns and this one does not disappoint. However, Audie Murphy is not really the star of this movie despite the cover and title. He is the sidekick to the Sheriff and his character builds up pretty slowly. That is the only reason I didn't give this 5 stars.", "The Duel at Silver Creek (Don Siegel, 1952, 77') Duel at Silver Creek was the first film where Audie Murphy played a character who was good all throughout the movie. Else, true Don Siegel, a lot of bad and lots of action. 198us -The Duel at Silver Creek (Don Siegel, 1952, 77') -Tough enough - 25/10/2012", 'Hollywood used to produce Western dramas like it now grinds out police procedurals. "The Duel At Silver Creek" is a better than average example of the genre, featuring Audie Murphy in a solid performance as the two-fisted, gun-toting Silver Kid. In our story, Silver City, Nevada, is terrorized by a gang of claim-jumpers, who force miners to sign over their silver claims before being murdered. The town Marshal, "Lightning" Tyrone (Stephen McNally in a movie-stealing performance), is injured early in the story and hires the Silver Kid as deputy. The Kid has his own agenda: the gang murdered his father. The love interests are played by Faith Domergue as the Marshal's classy girl and Susan Cabot as the tomboy who falls for the Kid. A young Lee Marvin has a nice cameo as a local tough. Don Siegel, who would go on to work with Clint Eastwood, directs. The action moves briskly, leading to a final nasty shootout at the hideout of the claim-jumpers. The dialogue and much of the action are standard fare. However, the plot gets a boost in the interesting way the interaction between Lightning and the Silver Kid plays out, and in a nasty act of betrayal that sets up a deadly showdown for the Marshal. "The Duel At Silver Creek" is highly recommended to die-hard fans of the Western genre.', "We're not talking classic here but this is a good example of the solid little B westerns the studios were churning out in the fifties. There's a ton of action crammed into the modest 77 minute running time, from the opening montage of violent killings through to the final gun battle between the baddies and the town posse. Audie Murphy is his usual average self as The Silver Kid (yeah, it's that kind of western where characters get saddled with dumb names like Brown Eyes and Sombrero), but Steve McNally is good as the sheriff (making a change from his role as the villainous brother in the classic Winchester 73) and Lee Marvin adds solid support in a small role as a town heavy (it's never really made clear whether he's in league with the bad guys or not). Don Siegel who would go on to make Invasion of the Body Snatchers, Dirty Harry and The Shootist, directs with an eye for tough action (this is one of those rare fifties westerns where you actually see blood on the guys who are shot). Universal has come up with a beautiful full screen print. Sure, there's not much in the way of extras (theatrical trailer and that's it), but it's not really the sort of film you can say a lot about. Good, modest entertainment that I'm sure western lovers will enjoy.", 'This is one of Audie Murphy's Best. A real adult western. Audie Murphy, out to avenge the killing of his father by the gang who jumped their claim, gains a rep as a real fast gun. He rides into a town where the sheriff/gunfighter (McNally) uses his rep to keep the local gunmen in line. When the sheriff is crippled he covers his injury with bravado and hiring the "kid" as his deputy. It's cross and double cross as the sheriff chases the kid away because he thinks the kid betrayed the secret of his injury to his enemies. It's up to the kid to save the sheriff, get the gang and his revenge, and save the day. Great performances by a perfectly selected cast make this a must watch for classic western fans.', 'Universal International Pictures presents "THE DUEL AT SILVER CREEK" (1952) (77 min/Color) -- Starring Audie Murphy, Faith Domergue, Stephen McNally, Susan Cabot, Gerald Mohr & Lee Marvin Directed by Don Siegel A group of vicious claim-jumpers is killing the miners in a Western settlement. Their latest victim is Cromwell (Harry Harvey), who is shot to death at his mine just after his son Luke (Audie Murphy) leaves for town. Luke has three passions in life: poker, guns, and the silver ornamentation he carries on him - and is better known as the Silver Kid; he kills one of the claim-jumpers but can't catch the rest. The marshal of Silver Creek, "Lightning" Tyrone (Stephen McNally), is also trying to cope with the claim-jumpers, and he has a problem of his own, courtesy of a bullet in his shoulder - he can still draw faster than almost anyone, but he can't pull the trigger like he used to, and he doesn't know how long he can bluff some of the tougher citizens he's been riding herd on, especially a fellow

named Johnny Sombrero (Eugene Iglesias), who's been itching to draw on him. These two cross paths and the Silver Kid ends up as Lightning's deputy, just in time to become suspicious of newcomers Opal Lacy (Faith Domergue) and her brother Rod (Gerald Mohr), who are in the mining business. Lightning's attraction to Opal and the Kid's distrust of her could just cost him the services of a deputy who is, literally, his good right arm. From live theater to film, McNally gives one of his best performances, even steals a few scenes from Murphy and the rest of the cast. Nicely balanced western helmed by famed Dirty Harry director Don Siegel.

1. Don Siegel (Director)
Date of Birth: 26 October 1912 - Chicago, Illinois
Date of Death: 20 April 1991 - Nipomo, California

2. Audie Murphy [aka: Audie Leon Murphy]
Date of Birth: 20 June 1924 - Kingston, Texas
Date of Death: 28 May 1971 - near Roanoke, Virginia

3. Faith Domergue
Date of Birth: 16 June 1924 - New Orleans, Louisiana
Date of Death: 4 April 1999 - Santa Barbara, California

4. Stephen McNally [aka: Horace Vincent McNally]
Date of Birth: 29 July 1913 - New York City, New York
Date of Death: 4 June 1994 - Beverly Hills, Los Angeles, California

5. Susan Cabot [aka: Harriet Shapiro]
Date of Birth: 9 July 1927 - Boston, Massachusetts
Date of Death: 10 December 1986 - Encino, California

6. Gerald Mohr
Date of Birth: 11 June 1914 - New York City, New York
Date of Death: 9 November 1968 - Södermalm, Stockholm, Sweden

Mr. Jim's Ratings:
Quality of Picture & Sound: 5 Stars
Performance: 5 Stars
Story & Screenplay: 5 Stars
Overall: 5 Stars [Original Music, Cinematography & Film Editing]
Total Time: 77 min on DVD ~ Universal International Pictures (UI) ~ (August 23, 2005)

'Celebrated war hero Audie Murphy (1924-1971) packs a two-fisted punch in this action filled western adventure, which also features legendary Oscar winner Lee Marvin (1924-1987) in one of his screen appearances. Stephen McNally (1913-1994) is lightning, the quick-drawing Marshal of Silver City whose intent on capturing a ruthless gang of claim jumpers that have been terrorising and murdering local miners -including his best friend. After losing the use of his famed trigger fingers in a shootout, Lightning deputizes the sharp-shooting Silver Kid (Murphy), whose own father was killed by the gang to help bring the outlaws to justice. But their plans are complicated when Lightning falls for beautiful new lady in town (Faith Domergue 1924-1999), whose interest in the Marshal is a thin disguise for her own dangerous agenda, in this unforgettable drama brimming with puls-ponding thrills, danger-tinged romance and Gun-Blazing glory! This is a classic and well done plot! High Quality digital transfer. Highly recommended', 'it was a normal Saturday cowboy western of years gone by and i love it', 'The premise is claim jumper gang who kills prospectors after forcing them to sign over their claim. But nobody can figure out who they are. You'd think when the jumpers try to cash in or use the paperwork to claim ownership that'd make it pretty obvious who they are. And Audie Murphy comes riding back to help his dad at the beginning of the film and scares the whole gang off into a chase scene-- there's only one of him, it makes no sense. Lone gunman on foot takes a shot at the posse riding in, which would be suicide even though he wings the sheriff. Lamé and unbelievable plot events throughout.', 'This wasn't for me but I'm positive that my brother loved it since he is an Audie Murphy fan. Glad to find a rare movie so easily', 'I might not have bothered picking up this little 1952 b-western at this time if not for the director, Don Siegel (later of DIRTY HARRY fame). This is just Siegel's 4th feature, and it's his first western. I've seen one of the earlier films, the 1949 seriocomic noir THE BIG STEAL, and quite a few of his later ones; it seems he really hit his stride a couple of years after this film with a couple of punchy noir titles, RIOT IN CELL BLOCK 11 and PRIVATE HELL 36, and then of course he hit serious cult status with INVASION OF THE BODY SNATCHERS in 1956. It strikes me that Siegel in this film and some of his other work comes off in some ways like a cross between Samuel Fuller (hard-hitting, punchy direction of action sequences, quick pacing) and Howard Hawks (complex-for-the-period male/female dynamics, a love of male camaraderie). I wouldn't put him on the level of either of those two - and I think that sometimes the sheer amount of stuff going on can be exhausting - but such a volatile mixture sure helps keep the films from being boring! In this case, we start out with Luke Cromwell, aka The Silver Kid (Audie Murphy, also fairly early in his career and sometimes a bit hesitant) and his father getting bushwhacked by a group of claim jumpers who force owners to sign over their lands and then kill them. The Kid escapes, seeking revenge - then we cut quickly to Marshal "Lightning" Tyrone (Stephen McNally) on the trail of the claim jumpers himself. Lightning narrates the film too, and his world-weary, somewhat cynical demeanor and the

presence of a real Bad Girl, Opal Lacy aka Brown Eyes (Faith Domergue) - who we know is in with the villains right from the beginning, but who puts the charm on the unaware Lightning - help make this a very noirish-feeling western at times. Lightning is wounded, but soon back in Silver City, where he meets the Kid and rapidly makes him a deputy, and we find that Brown Eyes has a brother, Rod (Gerald Mohr) who doesn't exactly come off as trustworthy after his first 30 seconds or so onscreen. Somehow, the identities of the claim jumpers have never been established, but Lightning thinks that Johnny Sombrero (Eugene Iglesias) and his no-good pal Rat Face (James Anderson) may know something about it. Also along for fun and games are Lee Marvin as a questionable gambler, and Susan Cabot as the Good Girl who loves Lightning despite his obsession with Brown Eyes and is in turn ignoring the advances of the Silver Kid. This is a mixed bag all in all, with a somewhat ridiculous central plot problem - nobody knows who the claim jumpers are, but wouldn't they find out pretty quickly when the bandits tried to sell the claims? And it tries to pack just a bit too much into its 77 minutes - the instant reversals of opinion that the Marshal has to exhibit more than once would seem to make him a little too scattered for such a job - but on the whole it's a lot of fun, with most of the acting pretty solid - in particular I think Cabot, Marvin and Iglesias are strong - and some entertaining characters and a couple of terrific action sequences including one of the more visceral and "realistic" horseback chases I've seen in a film from this period. Irving Glassberg's color photography is also quite excellent. The DVD transfer is quite sharp and shows off the photography to good effect; it's limited in extras to optional subtitles in English, French and Spanish, and the trailer.', "Another Audie Murphy movie for my collection and I enjoy Audie's movies. As a Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient from World War II, he's a True American Hero and I really like To Hell and Back---his autobiography.", 'Great movie to add to my collection of Audie Murphy movies! I am a big fan of this great American Hero! Real Life Hero!!!', 'I love this movie with Audie Murphy. He is a great all around actor and I have several of his movies. I would recommend this movie to anyone that loves Audie Murphy and any great western.', 'enjoy old westerns/glad to have the opportunity of seeing these films on dvds. Audie Murphy was a true American hero.', 'I've been avoiding Audie Murphy for years, copping the attitude Howard Cosell had for the Frank Giffords of the world. Cosell devoted a good portion of at least one book attacking "jockocracy," the invasion of the professional broadcasting booth by unqualified ex-jocks. Audie Murphy was a war hero but the bits and clips I've seen of his work always made it look like he was in over his head. Murphy's appearance in a movie meant one unemployed real actor. So I was a little trepidatious when I hit the play button on DUEL AT SILVER CREEK. I hung with it through the slow opening exposition scenes (a pod of claim jumpers are terrorizing silver miners, forcing them to sign over their deeds and then shooting them.) By the time Murphy's pa was kilt and he morphed into the poker playing Silver Kid I was hooked. DUEL AT SILVER CREEK is a fun little flick. Look, this movie made me laugh at things decent folks don't laugh at, but I believe these elements were put in deliberately. This is director Don Siegel's first western and his first Technicolor production. He would go on to work with the likes of Clint Eastwood (Dirty Harry) and John Wayne (The Shootist.) Siegel knew what he was doing. One of the humorous elements, to me at least, was the proliferation of nicknames. Murphy's Luke Cromwell is the "Silver Kid," or just "Kid." Sheriff Stephen McNally is "Lightning," there's a character called "Rat Face." Lee Marvin plays a heavy nicknamed "Tinhorn." The lovely Faith Domergue (Opal Lacy) is nicknamed "Brown Eyes" early on by "Lightning." Then there's mondo-heavy Eugene Iglesias, who plays Johnny Sombrero. I honestly couldn't refrain from laughing every time he was on screen. Dressed in red and white striped pants and wearing an impossibly large sombrero pushed back off his head he was a caricature of... something. How can a guy in candy stripe pants and a balloon hat intimidate? Wisely the film-makers don't overload Murphy in this one. Although he's the nominal star, McNally does most of the heavy lifting. Murphy is along more as a wise-cracking (!?) sidekick. My uninformed take on Murphy was that he was a Roy Rogers/Gene Autry type. Squeaky clean, you know. Siegel gives the Silver Kid an edge, and to Murphy credit that edge remains sharp. Still and all it was a bit of a surprise to see Lightning and The Kid interrogating Brown Eyes and hearing The Kid impulsively say "I bet I can get it out of her." Heeheehee. I was half expecting The Kid to call her a punk and ask her if she was feeling lucky. DUEL AT SILVER CREEK is a dandy little horse opera. It will satisfy

without offense those who love traditional westerns, and sate those with less conventional tastes.']

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["Highlights: Yet another incredible performance from Phillip Seymour Hoffman; poignant script; darkly hilarious moments; good maintaining of a pessimistic atmosphere.Lowpoints: It is evident that it's the director's, Todd Luiso's, debut - the film seems to avoid subjects that get excessively intricate, and bombards the audience with pompous, supposedly meaningful subtlety - in other words, Love Liza is pretentious at times; the film supplies its audience with no resolution, though foreshadows one throughout, which might leave some agitated; Love Liza's perpetual pessimism might upset viewers.Conclusion: Though ostentatious at certain points, Love Liza is a worthy little addition to any indie DVD collection. It will dazzle with its central performance, and astound with some incredibly nuanced scenes.SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: Magnolia, Punch Drunk Love, Wings of Desire, About Schmidt.DON'T SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: Maid in Manhattan, any Julia Roberts film."], "Love Liza, written with Philip Seymour Hoffman in mind, is a showcase for arguably one of the greatest contemporary actors working in film. Hoffman portrays Wilson, whose wife unexpectedly took her own life, leaving him with only memories and a suicide note he is too afraid to read. Unable to cope, Wilson turns to huffing gas to dull his senses, and it is a move that plunges his life further into ruin. Along the way, the film explores the friendships Wilson has forged with his mother-in-law and an unusual RC toy enthusiast.With each cleverly-framed shot, director Todd Louiso effectively portrays the sense of isolation and solitude that the film's protagonist must be experiencing, and Hoffman's characterization of Wilson is absolutely devastating in its effectiveness.However, on some level, Love Liza fails. Obviously meant as a character study, Love Liza loses a great deal of its effect in the fact that the supplementary characters don't really possess a lot of depth, nor do they help elucidate much depth in Wilson's character. The plot is rather thin at times, and doesn't really explain how Wilson gets hooked on huffing. Was this something he did before his wife's death, or something new he does to cope?However, the movie is redeemed in part by the denouement, which ends in a way both predictable and unexpected, though I won't divulge any details.All in all Love Liza, is an excellent showcase for Hoffman's talents, but it falls a little flat by underplaying its potential for emotional effect.", "The acting by Philip Seymour Hoffman is the absolute best performance I have seen since Nic Cage in "Leaving Las Vegas".The story is simply captivating which allows for good story telling with great acting.ONE NOTE, out of all the people I have shown this movie to they didn't like it too much.I suppose this is a very dark movie which some people do not like.The character is very much like Nic Cage's character in 'Leaving Las Vegas'. Depressed and abusing himself.Unlike LLV, this one does have displays of caring and touching characters that help keep the movie entertaining. It's like a adventure movie to discovery of one's plight and characters that intermingle very well into the film.If I was to suggest this to anyone,I would say this:IF YOU ENTIRELY LOVED EVERYTHING ABOUT "LEAVING LAS VEGAS", then you should love everything about "Love Liza".Has the same qualities and story telling as that classic. If "Leaving Las Vegas" had ANY elements that you didn't like about it, then you probably won't like 'Love Liza". Plus this movie is a bit shorter unfortunatly at only 88mins.I loved everything about this movie and if I was an Academy member it would've won Best Actor & Best Picture for that year.For the DVD extras it has about as much as they could give you.The witters along with Hoffman do the commentary and give some great insight to the movie and their thinking.", "This is a strange movie about grief, despair, and a man who just doesn't quite know how he can go on living in light of them. Philip Seymour Hoffman gives another interesting performance as a gas-sniffing mourner who can't come to terms with his wife's suicide. Worth seeing one time for the unique experience.", "Philip Seymour Hoffman does his best to elevate this sorry excuse for a movie, but even an actor of his caliber can't save a script that's cliché'd, maudlin and just bad. This is the kind of film that proves how nepotism works in Hollywood. If the screenwriter's brother weren't Phil Hoffman, Love Liza would never have made into a film. So in addition to being a wonderful actor, Hoffman is also a nice sibling, but that doesn't

mean you should waste your time watching this wreck.", "I really enjoyed this movie, but it was difficult at times for me to watch. It involves a character named Wilson Joel, played by Hoffman, and his inability to deal with his wife's recent demise by means of suicide. He finds a letter left to him by his wife, presumably a suicide note, but is unable to find the strength to open it and read the letter. Instead, he carries it around with him, maybe as a link to his wife, but also seeming to lack the courage to open the letter and see what his wife's last thoughts were. He starts a slow, downward spiral as he becomes addicted to huffing gas, or taking a rag soaked with gasoline and putting it up to his mouth and nose, deeply inhaling the fumes as a means to escape reality. Problems start developing when he starts having difficulty hiding this habit, and at one point he makes up a lie about being involved in radio control (RC) planes to cover the gas smell in his house. A friend introduces Wilson to Denny, played by Jack Kehler, who is a true RC buff and they develop a tenuous friendship. Wilson gloms on to Denny and his passion for RC, and the scene where they meet up at a RC competition is really very funny. Anyway, Wilson's life keeps going sour due to his avoidance of the inevitable, and we're along for the ride. His career, along with whatever personal relationships he has start to deteriorate. The scenes where Wilson huffs the gas from the rags were pretty hard for me to watch, as they made me somewhat queasy. There are some genuinely funny scenes, but ultimately this is one man's sad decent into his own personal hell. I thought Kathy Bates character as Wilson mother in law was quite good. This movie is not for everyone, as there are quite a few questions that never get answered, but then life can be like that.", "This movie was phenomenal and was gone from the theatres way too quickly -- but luckily for all of us, it's now available on DVD. Phillip Seymour Hoffman's tragic, grief-stricken performance was one of the highlights of this film -- it's about time he was cast in a role that was tailor-made for him as this one was ("Love Liza" was written by his brother Gordy Hoffman). This film is an excellent portrayal of a man who is coping with the suicide of his wife and who adopts a hobby to cover up a huffing habit as if he were a rebellious teenager. The film ends as abstractly as it begins, without falling into the Hollywood trap of tying everything up into a neat little package, and for that we can all be grateful. It will be interesting to see where director Todd Louiso and the two Hoffmans go next.", "Love Liza is a bizarre little film, very slow moving and incomprehensible, as though the viewer is supposed to be as unclear and dazed as its main character, Wilson Joel (always excellent Philip Seymour Hoffman). Wilson Joel is aimlessly drifting, a grief-stricken widower. He lives in a state of perpetual denial, unable to cope with the fact that his wife has committed suicide without explanation (although she has left behind a letter he refuses to open, much to the anger and disappointment of his dead wife's mother, played by Kathy Bates). In "coping" (if you could call it that) with his grief, he neglects his work, becomes addicted to huffing gasoline, and obsesses about remote-operated vehicles. His friends and colleagues begin to worry about him, but also seem to have a certain disdain for his increasingly erratic behavior. Unfortunately this is a very real part of grief: the grieving party just is not ready to move on and feels like self-destructing but the rest of society expects grief to be contained and temporary, like you can put it on and take it off so simply. While Hoffman's performance here is solid, the story is a bit too bizarre and off the beaten path. While there is nothing inherently wrong with "off the beaten path", I would say this one gets a little lost in the woods. Though it might well portray accurately and sensitively the various stages of denial, loss, grief and acceptance as they occur, it meanders and lacks a certain concision. However, as a debut by director Todd Louiso, it is promising. Louiso is best-known for playing small, offbeat roles in films like *The Rock* and *High Fidelity* but clearly has a talent for directorial pursuits.', "The movie was very good. Hoffman was excellent. Of course, he always is. He is the reason we bought the movie. Sad he is no longer with us.", "I have to ask the question what was the point? This film simply goes nowhere; for around ninety minutes we see this guy sniffing gas, yelling a lot and acting just plain weird. No one that I've known has ever committed suicide but I'm sure there are better ways to portray grief than this mess. I kept drifting in and out of sleep because I couldn't give a damn about the main character. I can't believe it won an award; I guess there is no accounting for bad taste. Down the toilet for this one!", "Wearisome, like its character. Sorry folks, this film is a big miss. Mr. Hoffman and Ms. Bates are two great talents vastly wasted in this film. With careful pruning this would have made a fascinating short, both hilarious and heart breaking. As

it is the extended scenes of Hoffman's exhibitions of grief, gas sniffing, waking up in various locales, staring into space or at the unopened envelope containing his wife's suicide note become quickly wearisome. Then there are touches of brilliance such as the two recurring gas sniffing teens lending a wonderful, bizarre, John Waters quality. Talented as Mr. Hoffman is, he has of late played a string of characters too similar in their compositional make-up and offering far to minimal variance. This necessitates doing that actor thing: substituting "acting" for emotion, drawing attention to the "acting" rather than the story, inspiring a certain type of audience to say - usually during the movie: What A Great Actor! He probably does a job than probably anyone else could have with this material, and therein lies the problem: the screenplay. Great monologues, dialogue, etc. are not always necessary to make great cinematic art, but a too heavy reliance on blank stares, forced smiles, odd characters, nervous laughter and long shots does not automatically equate great art either. In fact, not only do they become flaw revealing, they put everything under the microscope or magnifying glass as in *Love Liza*. There is a leaner, tauter wonderful little film waiting to break out of this bloated, gassy mess - I only wish someone would have made it.", "*Love Liza* is one of the best dramas I have ever seen. There is little that is funny about it but there are three scenes in the film where one's EQ is brought under a major hammering. My favourite scene in the film would be the one where Hoffman goes for a swim in a pond. Especially since "Corpus Christi Carol" by Jeff Buckley is going on in the background. The epic song was used perfectly. I love depressive films and it's been a while since I saw one of the stature of *Love Liza*. There are not many characters in the film which makes it ever so interesting. No Background instrumental music but yet the soundtrack by VA rocked. I was wondering why the letter contained the matchstick towards the end. Excellent interpretation of emotions. *Love Liza* shows how a distraught man rebounds into a further state of extreme emotions. Hoffman can not act any better. I rate this movie higher than "as good as it gets" but I don't even know why I'm comparing the two. P.S - the whole fetish for inhaling fuel was rather interesting", "I am a Phillip Seymour Hoffman fan. This is a strange movie but an unrelenting downer. It's not for everyone. A real film buff should see it. I saw it once but will not view it again.", "such a good film. the acting is incredible. you experience their pain along with them. a very authentic and honest portrayal of an addict's descent into depression", "Philip at his finest. The empathy, sorrow, despair and humor he brings out in this character is amazing. Be forewarned: you will cry.", "To have such an amazingly deep sense of drama but yet have such a shallow and flat story that does little more than put you through hell for 90 minutes is a shame...but *Love Liza* is not a bad movie. There is little in way of symbolism or lessons learned in this film, it merely tells of a man who tragically loses his wife to suicide and attempts to comment no further. If watching a movie that attempts to challenge your patience for the sadness is something you enjoy then *Love Liza* would be recommended, but the film simply lacks the meat that exists in so many films that are meant to entertain and/or to make you think. On the upswing we get to see Phillip Seymour Hoffman in a feature role where he is free to do what he does better than anyone...whine, gripe and look utterly disoriented. He is a fantastic actor and this role sharpens and showcases his talents brilliantly. Kathy Bates is also very enjoyable as his mother in law, the mother of his late wife. One thing is for sure, you'll be sad and wanting more from this film but part of that is intentional. It's a small movie in more ways than one but if you've enjoyed Phillip Seymour Hoffman in *Boogie Nights* or *Happiness*, this is his reprisal of those roles in some respects and we seem to get an even closer look as he takes it to another level here...that counts for something. Hoffman is a phenomenal actor.", "It is really, really difficult to know what to make of this film. On the one hand, it is a decent, honest, and well-acted character study of a man whose life spins out of control despite his best (?) efforts after his wife commits suicide. On the other hand, it can come off at times as a self-indulgent pity-party that you can't help but wonder why you are watching. As extreme as these two 'takes' are, the film is both of them. I won't be saying anything that hasn't been said when I tout Phillip Seymour Hoffman's gut-wrenching portrayal of the protagonist; he conveys the loneliness and, one might say, futility that our main character, Wilson, must feel. Equally strong is Kathy Bates' portrayal of Wilson's mother in law - a woman trying both to come to terms with her daughter's suicide and her son-in-laws increasingly dangerous and erratic behavior. Together, these two alone make the film a good overall effort. But then there is the script and story. If all the above sounds

unduly depressing, that is because it is. Now, dark films tend to work best when (a) you get to know the characters enough to care about them and (b) there is at least some bright spots or redeeming moments in the film. This film, I'm sorry to say, has neither quality. In fact, the major flaw seems to be that by the end of the film, we know precious little about Wilson and nothing about his deceased wife and their relationship. By the end, one can't help but wonder why, without having been provided any info on these characters by way of 'backstory,' we were supposed to care so much about them - obviously the intent of the film all along. As I tend to be a sucker for downtrodden films like this one, I came away liking "Love Liza" more than not. However, this is a film that I would literally be embarrassed to show any of my friends because, in the end, it is simply a bit TOO dark and, if I may be so bold, lacking in tact or message. But I will give the film three stars, on the condition that, as other reviewers have stated, the prospective viewer knows what they are getting themselves into. If you liked films like 'Leaving Las Vegas,' and more recently, 'House of Sand and Fog,' then there is a chance that you will take to 'Love Liza' as well. (If you didn't enjoy those films, this one isn't for you). Just keep in mind that even the darkest of movie-lovers may, in the end, find the onslaught of this film, combined with its lack of depth, a bit too much in the end. So we ask ourselves: "Is it existentialism, or self-indulgence?" "This film broke my heart. I bought it because it stars the late Philip Seymour Hoffman and because it was filmed here in Mobile. It broke my heart because Hoffman was just so good and so good at portraying gut-wrenching, fall-to-your-knees grief. Although there are comedic scenes in this film, this is not a comedy - dark or otherwise. Hoffman's turn as the widower of a suicide wife is so spot-on. For anyone who has experienced huge loss, especially huge unexplained loss, his portrayal reflects the madness that one goes through. He shows us and allows us to feel the depths of his pain and his futility in trying to make sense of the loss. There are no neat tying-up-loose-ends to this film. We are left to wonder what became of his character. Did he come to terms with his loss or did he completely succumb to the grief and continue on his self-destructive path? What the film DOES have is an honest snapshot of someone in the deep hole that a huge loss can cause. We've likely all been there; not everyone is able to climb out. It broke my heart because I have imagined his friends and family going through those same emotions these past weeks. It broke my heart because we won't have any more such performances from him.", 'Movie theorists agree that a good movie only needs three strong scenes to carry an audience. Love Liza meets this criteria 1) office laughing scene; 2) yellow pages; and 3) gasoline with "niece". Am I the only one who laughed (as appropriate)?', "I am a fan of Philip Seymour Hoffman and indie films in general so this movie already had a lot going for it. Although the premise of the story and Hoffman's portrayal of it is extremely depressing, I found myself laughing uncontrollably at some of the situations the main character finds himself in. At times the story seems to be moving along slowly, but before you know it, the movie is over. This is one of those few movies that I have been able to watch multiple times.", 'PSH is (as always) a pleasure to watch on the screen- he's amazing. Bates... what more can I say? Perfect. People who rate this 1 star because it's boring or slow are confused... it's supposed to be! It's a realistic walk in an addict's shoes- not Die Hard! If you want to see a deep, moving dark comedy with superb acting- then watch this movie. If you want car chases, gun shooting & explosions, watch something else. This is an intellectual movie for deep thinkers- I bought the dvd after watching it- it's a keeper! If you liked this movie- you'll also like "About Schmidt", the original "Death at a Funeral" and "Happiness" also starring the brilliant PSH (but it's a weird movie... you've been warned ;)', "I don't think you're likely to stumble across a bigger Philip Seymour Hoffman fan than the one writing this review. Magnolia shows that he has more acting ability in his pinky finger than 99% of the people in the movie business. Heck, I've even willingly put up with sub-par fare like Along Came Polly to see this guy. However... Love Liza, though it has some great scenes (one of which--actually a quick series of cutaways--is hysterical) and Hoffman is his usual brilliant self, is one long, dragging, and ultimately bitter mess. Suicide really, really sucks. Sometimes life goes on. Sometimes it comes to a screeching halt for a long, long time. Either way, funny scene aside, why choose to spend 2 hours voluntarily signing up for suicide's after effects? Watch Love Liza if you must. Your time would be much better spent on Magnolia or Hoffman's most over-looked movie: State and Main. I do not recommend this movie.", "It's difficult to describe the visceral desolation conveyed by this film. I can't think of a single other performer

(perhaps maybe Billy Bob Thornton) who could have carried this off. Hoffman's pain is the audience's pain. His compulsion to dull the pain (by, of all things, huffing gasoline) is sadly understandable, even familiar. He's trapped. He can see no other acceptable way out. He sleeps on the floor because it's the only place in his home (the home where his wife committed suicide) where he CAN sleep. He should move out, buy a new place. His obnoxious mother-in-law (also grieving) only reminds him of his pain. He should reach out to her - they can help each other work through this pain. His mother-in-law understands their need for each other - he does not. A profession of attraction for him from a colleague only reminds him of his loss and desolation, causing him to sprint back to his increasingly grim, wood panelled abode where he huffs fumes to the point of delirium, ultimately taking off for days on a bizarre odyssey involving miniature boat racing and his only would-be friend, a hobbyist whose friendship he ultimately rejects. People who care about him are everywhere - yet he pushes each and every one of them away. Toward the end of the film, his desperation is palpable and his home has become a mausoleum - empty, desolate, full of fumes (can you smell them?), and his own, almost dead, soul. Almost. He can run. But he cannot hide, from himself, or from God. Hoffman's embarrassment, cowardice and fear are achingly real. This intimate film makes us feel his pain yet not reject him for his failings. Who among us is unlike him? Do you dare to look down your nose at his suffering? The ending to this film is oddly satisfying. It requires genuine faith on the part of the viewer to believe that Mr Hoffman is going to be all right, after all. I believed it. Did you?", "Love Liza (Todd Louiso, 2002) Much was made of Philip Seymour Hoffman's performance in Love Liza before the film came out. Then it did come out, and very quickly faded from view. Those tracking it down these years later will quickly figure out why: while Philip Seymour Hoffman's performance is, in fact, exceptional, there's not a single other thing about this movie to recommend it. Hoffman plays Wilson Joel, a web designer whose wife Liza (Runaway Jury's Annie Morgan) commits suicide. She leaves a note, which Wilson is afraid to open. Liza's mother Mary Ann (Kathy Bates) tries to find new ways to broach the subject with every conversation. Feeling cornered, Wilson turns to drugs, and his life quickly begins to spiral out of control. Adding to the pressure is co-worker Maura (That Thing You Do! beauty Sarah Koskoff), who's attracted to Wilson. He takes refuge in developing a new obsession with model aircraft, which only makes things worse. Hoffman does a fine job with what is, in essence, a really demented role. But so little of what goes on around him works that even that can't be counted a success. This was obviously meant as a comedy, however black it may be; its comic timing fails to fire every time. No, really, every time. Not a laugh to be had, however nervous or guilty that laugh might be. Instead, there's a vague sense of discomfort, the kind you get when someone's told a horribly offensive joke without in any way realizing there's an offensive component to it. **", 'Philip Seymour Hoffman has made a career out of playing deeply depressed characters. In "Love Liza," he has found what might well be his most perfectly suited role to date, that of a young man trying to come to terms with the suicide of his wife. Written by Gordy Hoffman and directed by Todd Louiso, "Love Liza" is a searing study of grief, one that chronicles the many stages a man goes through in coping with this type of tragedy. Wilson first finds himself unable to sleep in the same bed he used to share with his wife. Then he returns to the place where they spent their honeymoon in a vain attempt to find some solace or answers there. Then there's the turn towards self-destruction as he seeks escape from his pain by inhaling mass quantities of gasoline. All along the way, well-meaning friends, colleagues and family members proffer what they can in the way of support and sympathy but, invariably, they find themselves ill-equipped to deal with grief at this level of intensity. This is even the case with Mary Ann, Wilson's understanding mother-in-law, who is having to cope with her son-in-law's dysfunction while also dealing with her own grief at the loss of her daughter. The title of the film comes from a signed suicide note Liza left to Wilson under his pillow. That letter, which Wilson cannot bring himself to open, only adds to the man's despair, for he fears it may reveal that he was somehow responsible for his wife's actions. Thus, wracked with guilt as well as grief, Wilson slides ever further into that deep dark hole of despair. The filmmakers, in an effort to mitigate some of the misery inherent in the subject matter, invest the story with a number of sly, quirky touches, such as Wilson's sudden obsession with mechanized toy airplanes. But the overwhelming sadness is never far from the film's surface. "Love Liza" is, at its core, an actor's film - and the cast proves itself worthy of the

challenge. Hoffman's portrait of a man whose entire meaning for existence has been knocked out from under him is devastating in its understatement and power. Kathy Bates turns in an equally fine and subdued performance as his grieving mother-in-law, and Sarah Koskoff and Jack Kehler offer fine support. Is "Love Liza" a "dark" film? Absolutely. But it is also a brave, insightful and compelling one for those willing to enter its world. It may not be easy to watch, but it is probably harder not to. 'I like this movie for what it tries to be and for its willingness to take big risks with a subject that audiences don't like to deal with -- grief. It is somehow unAmerican to linger long with feelings of loss. A whole grief counseling industry has sprung up around our need to achieve "closure" when someone we love dies. We are impatient with the person who makes us uncomfortable with their inability to get on with living, even replacing the lost loved one with someone new. This movie wants us to look at the deep emotional dislocation that death can bring, most especially when that death is the suicide of someone close to us. When the young widower in the film takes to inhaling gasoline fumes, he not only dulls the pain of his grief, but the slack, dazed expression on his face becomes the mask of grief itself. It suggests something of the overwhelming power of grief, to render us numbly out of touch with the rest of the world and beyond the entreaties of others who can't or won't understand. And like an addiction, grief can lead to behavior that looks irrational, impulsive and obsessive. You have to give this movie credit for tackling this subject without cliches or sentimentality. Hoffman's performance captures the total haplessness of a man in the grip of deep grief -- even to the extent of letting us see his behavior as near farcical. His sudden interest in motor-driven model planes brings him into the world of flying enthusiasts, who are as single-mindedly obsessed with their planes as he is by his grief. The wonky friend who takes him to a weekend meet is a comic version of himself -- unaware of his own self-absorbed quirkiness. The dead wife's mother (Kathy Bates, who can do no wrong) somehow deals with her daughter's death without going to pieces. She represents the audience's sensible acceptance of death and does what we expect, bravely soldiering on, even possessing the energy and will power to continually try pulling her son-in-law "back to his senses." And I think the film actually wants us to wonder how she does this -- how she manages to escape from the valley of the shadow of death. Having continued downward in his spiral, losing a job for a software project he never begins, the main character eventually opens the suicide note left behind by his wife, signaling a step toward resolution. The note, of course, sheds little or no light on the reasons for her death and seems even indifferent to the devastating impact that it will have on her husband. The film ends as he "crashes and burns," and it's difficult to read the closing image as a step back from the brink or over the edge. This is not going to be many people's idea of entertainment, although there are moments that are dramatically compelling or enjoyable for their unexpectedness. The performances are fine (Hoffman just never ceases to amaze me), and the script plays against movie conventions by being nicely unpredictable. Still, it requires patience and a stomach for difficult material. I recommend this one for those who want to take a risk on a risk-taking movie.", 'There are plenty of reviews deriding this film for being a depressing downer. How can that be a worthy criticism? If the viewer didn't know the film was likely to be bleak, not only were they going in blind, they should stick to Rob Schneider movies. Love Liza had the potential to be a great, depressing, heart wrenching film along the emotional lines of Ordinary People or About Schmidt. The backbone of Hoffman's wife's suicide is a solid foundation for a film of true impact. Even the strange, adult addiction of huffing gasoline isn't a bad idea but, regardless, this whole film was spotty at best. I wanted the full frontal depression it should have delivered and all I got was, "huh?" The three main components of the story; the husband's grief, huffing gasoline and model airplanes are thrown in a blender and what comes out is a movie without cohesion. We get few glimpses at all what is going through Hoffman's head as he tries to come to grips with his wife's suicide. Yes, he's into airplanes, apparently to hide his use of gasoline and not to be seen as a liar but where is this going? Why does he care about this guy anyway? They're not friends. Is he spiraling into heavy addiction or is this huffing a way to kill momentary pain, and about half the film? There are a few good scenes that hammer home his agony (his odd, over-laughing at an office joke, sleeping on the floor) but they are few and far between. Between a strong opening and solid ending, the viewer is subjected to what feels like a drifting waste of time. He does this and that, sees one person and then another,

goes here and there, buys gasoline at the same damn places every time as if there is no other stores in town, etc... The whole thing would have made more sense had he fallen to his knees and screamed at the sky for those 50 minutes. Or stood on a bridge somewhere, one leg over the side and thought about it. I found the few scenes of him walking down the street alone more compelling than most in the film. Unlike bad movies that never had a chance but had a budget, this had a chance. It had all the pieces of a great, grim puzzle of pain but no one spent time putting the pieces in the right place.', "tour de force for Hoffman, really an amazing performance. but that doesn't make it a good film. it's just misery with no redemption."]

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[I will be the first to announce this here. I have a growing list of films that I have seen this year (ranging from the early 1920s to present) that I have ranked among my favorites that I have seen. While most do a list of what was released this year, I go beyond that because I see more than what is just released at the theaters. While I have consistently kept to just cinematic releases for this list, I believe with this series, The Vicar of Dibley, I am going to make an exception. This was, in my opinion, one of the funniest, cleverest, poignant, and original series that I have ever witnessed. While I am a huge fan of Scrubs, Family Guy, and the very underrated Arrested Development, this BBC released series takes the cake. Up until the final episode (which seemed forced and very strange), this series was chock full of some of the best one-liners imaginable on television. Each episode will continue to impress you, continue to make you laugh, and honestly make you dream that you lived in a community like Dibley. It is a feat that many modern, American, television shows fail to accomplish. Big businesses, aka "corporations", are slowly turning the small individual communities into a suburbia frenzy. With shows like Friends and Everyone Loves Raymond, you see this mythological world where no bills need to be paid, everyone looks perfect, and jobs seem like a thing of the past. It creates this false sense of security, this idea that you need to live in a GAP world to be truly happy. Finally, there is a series that gives you hope that without the fancy clothing, without the fast cars, with just the simplicity of your neighbor, you can live a very meaningful life. Perhaps I am searching too deeply into this series, but The Vicar of Dibley gave me this newfound appreciation for the unique in my community. To witness a bunch of literal, bumbling stooges, run a facet of the Church's organization made me laugh constantly. Not only was writer Richard Curtis attempting to bring to view the idea of women at the pulpit, but also I believe that he was also taking a slow stab at local governments and their idiosyncratic ways. After watching this series, I miss the closeness that my small town used to have before the influx of mini-malls, multiplexes, and those horrid payday lenders. I wish I could live in Dibley, be a part of this nurturing community, and finally find piece in a non-commercial induced world. Overall, this is one of the best programs that television has to offer. I suggest to everyone reading this review to run, never walk, to your nearest family-owned store to pick yourself up a copy of The Vicar of Dibley. The unique character development, the insanity of every situation (which bring about buckets of laughter), and the bond that these characters have cannot be seen in any other television series currently out there. The jokes are fresh and smart. There is not an outpouring of physical humor that you can see in nearly every pre-teen film released today. It is witty, charming, and (not to sound too repetitive) THE BEST television shows EVER! I do not think that I am speaking hastily, but honestly. I have never been ready to re-watch a series again as I have this one. So, join me, the Vicar, David & Hugo, Alice, Owen, Frank, and Jim on a wild ride. Should you watch this television series more than once... "No no no no no no no no no no no no no no no ... yes!" Grade: ***** out of *****', "Richard Curtis (whose name seems to be connected with a startlingly high percentage of the comedy coming out of the UK these days) has created a collection of eccentric villagers as seen through the eyes of a bumptious, overweight and beguiling female vicar played by the unique Dawn French. The show somehow manages to embrace the vulgar and the absurd while retaining a basic sweetness. Went to see a Broadway comedy the other night and realized I hadn't laughed as much all evening at that show as I had watching a half-hour episode of DIBLEY. Very highly

recommended.", "i am a big fan of the VICAR of DIBLEY - watch it when they actually show it on t.v. - but what better way to be able to watch it when ever you want - when ever you need a good laugh - whenever you need to unwind.this program is not at all 'religious' nor is it for children's viewing - adult humor - but in good taste - i have watched these over and over and always see or catch something new! a must have for those nights that the tele is just not happening!", 'WHEN I BOUGHT THIS DVD SET AND KNOWING THE PAST BBC PROGRAMS I THOUGHT I WAS GETTING A NICE COMEDY, BUT OH NO. IF THEY WOULD HAVE HAD THE PEOPLE GETTING USED TO A WOMAN VICAR THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN GOOD BUT, I DON'T THINK PERSONS ("CHRISTIANS") WHO ARE ON A CHURCH COUNCIL SHOULD NOT BE SAYING AND DOING THE THINGS THAT THEY DO, I KNOW THAT THIS IS "COMEDY" BUT THEIR IS A LINE DRAWN AND IN EVERY EPISODE THEY CROSS OVER IT EVERY TIME. ONE OF THE MEMBERS WANTING TO HAVE SEX WITH THE VICAR. THE LANGUAGE USED IS NOT RIGHT FOR THE SETTING, AND ONE MEMBER DOING THE FULL MONTY IN THE CHURCH HALL WAS NOT NECESSARY AT ALL, ETC, ETC, ETC. IF YOU ARE A CHRISTIAN, DO NOT BUY THIS SET OR ANY OF THE VICAR OF DIBLEY. IF THEY WOULD HAVE ONLY DONE EVERYDAY THINGS THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN GOOD BUT THE THINGS THEY DO AND SAY WOULD NOT HAPPEN IN THE REAL WORLD. I'M GOING TO TRASH MY SET.', "A small rural English church gets a shock when their elderly vicar suddenly dies and gets a second shock when the bishop sends a female replacement who fortunately (for her and us) has a sense of humor. The main characters of the show are the female priest and the parish vestry committee whose members all have their own eccentricities (which is a big part of what makes the show so comical).If you like British comedy, you'll love this show. If you like the show, you'll love this dvd collection. It's that simple.", 'Funny puts it into perspective quite well. There is a bit of drama to keep it real. Great British comedy.', 'This is the funniest comedy series ever. I have never laughed so hard. The characters are hilarious and very unique. Very funny, thought provoking, heartwarming, well done series. You'll double over with laughter. I have introduced many of my friends to British Comedy with this series. I just love all the funny characters. As my mom said, while she was laughing "this is a naughty show". Very funny and another British Comedy well done!', "This is a one of a kind wonderful series and although it is a few years old, it is fresh every time I watch it. My cousin recommended it and while I was going thru a horrible time with one of my felines having brain cancer I kept this running on the dvd - it is very funny, sometimes a tiny bit naughty for a vicar! but the acting is excellent and the stories are so very uplifting. It helped me and even gave me a smile or two in my horrible fear and pain - I will always love this series and it is worth getting just to get the jokes Dawn French tells to her verger at the end of every episode - don't miss this if you love British comedy!", '. . .is there possibly an AGENDA here???The parish council is hysterical (except for the constant vulgarities from one member -- WAAY overdone); the predicaments are quite good (and somewhat predictable) and Dawn French is a gifted comedienne.BUT. . .Having grown up in a rather high Anglican tradition, and having seen what has happened to the church of my boyhood and a tradition I loved very deeply, I find some of the stereotypes painfully unfunny. Note the following:Male priest bad -- Female "priest" good.Tradition bad -- (Radical) innovation good.Parish conservatives bad -- parish revisionists good."The Vicar of Dibley" takes many of the factors which drove me away from Anglicanism and makes them funny -- sometimes hysterically so. But in so doing, a worthy (and fast disappearing) hristian tradition is mocked and ridiculed.Five stars for humor.One star for agenda.Average -- three stars.', 'I first saw Vicar of Dibley back in the days when they first aired it on PBS. I absolutely loved it then and when I saw years later that the complete series was on DVD, I decided to snatch it up. My taste in comedy has changed a little since I first saw this, but it still made me laugh. There were some parts that seemed to drag on, but it was soon over with another hilarious scene. I still love the show, and I think any fan of Brit coms will enjoy this. Others may want to try renting from an online dvd rental company before they invest in it.', "'The Vicar of Dibley' is a wonderful series based on the adventures and misadventures of Geraldine Granger, new vicar (and one of the early representations of a female priest after the Church of England formally permitted such) in the sleepy hamlet of Dibley. The parish, formerly a tiny place whose attendance could be counted upon one hand, grows as Geraldine (Mrs. God, according to

Hugo's appellation) becomes increasingly popular in her role, much to the consternation of traditionalist David Horton, somewhat autocratic ruler of the Parish Council. Into the mix viewers also come to know Alice Tinker, the ditzy but good-hearted verger (helper in the services), Frank Pickle, Owen Newitt, Jim Trott, and Letitia Cropley, other eccentric members of the Parish Council. In the course of the series, the group endures a televised song service, an animal blessing service, a village fair, and other scenarios which never turn out quite what they seem. In the end, the whole town is about to be destroyed to make way for the new water plan's lake-building programme (shades of 'Little House on the Prairie', where at the end of the series, the whole town was blown up). But there's life in the old town yet, and Geraldine Granger leads the charge to save this quaint if often dotty, very special part of the world. The Vicar, Geraldine Granger, is aptly and ably played by Dawn French, half of the comedy duo French & Saunders (Jennifer Saunders, her partner, played the lead in the BBC series 'Absolutely Fabulous'). Other characters include Gary Waldhorn as David Horton, Emma Chambers as Alice Tinker/Horton, James Fleet as the bumbling Hugo Horton, John Bluthal as the irrepressible Frank Pickle, Roger Lloyd-Pack as the direct, dishelved Owen Newitt, Trevor Peacock as the stammering Jim Trott, and Liz Smith as the experimental-chef Letitia Cropley. All the actors seem perfectly suited for their roles; indeed, part of Liz Smith's online biography states that she 'frequently plays eccentric or dotty old women.' The village settings are very sweet, and the church is quite well done to be a solid, rustic, truly village centre church far from the modern world. Despite the raucous humour, one finds that the theology is quite mainstream and traditional, thus setting up a good juxtaposition.", "For Anglophiles and/or church folks who like original comedy, this is a good collection. To those who are considering just buying one of the DVDs, I would suggest that you'll want the others as well, so you might as well buy the complete set. I value it for the fact that it charmingly evokes both the English pastoral countryside and the small church environment. Even those familiar only with the American small church experience will find plenty to make them smile in recognition, which is the charm of the series: it never goes for the cynical jugular, and doesn't make snide statements putting down the church or church people. The stereotypes are here, but not to get eviscerated, just a gentle ribbing. As comedy, honestly, I am not sure how well it has aged. I enjoy it for what it is, but as humor has evolved, some of what was funny in the early 1990s causes groans today. Four stars if the content described is what you are looking for; somewhat less if you're hoping for the next Fawlty Towers.", 'Geraldine Granger, played with zany inspiration by Dawn French, is everything Dibley convention dictates its village pastor should not be: boisterous, profane, irreverent, caustic, unabashedly libidinous, hopelessly unable to pass up a meal or a drink, and . . . female. And she is all these things with such relish and verve that it takes the villagers a while to understand that she is also everything a good pastor should be: kind, caring, patient, and -- while occasionally wilfully confused about the letter of dogma -- infinitely suffused with the spirit of Christ's message. This delightful series follows the dawning of awareness in the villagers of just what a treasure landed in their midst. And it's all made endlessly funny because the dawning of any awareness about anything in this collection of oddball villagers must surely involve the hand of God. No unassisted mortal could possibly break through the fog of misapprehension and unintended hijinks in which these villagers -- whom one suspects can be accounted for only by a sustained tradition of inbreeding -- live their lives. While this series is perhaps a bit more uneven in quality from episode to episode than such Britcom classics as "To the Manor Born" or "Coupling", it never really flags. But when it is at its best, it's a towering pinnacle of comedy. If you don't die laughing when Alice, the vicar's imperturbably clueless assistant, confuses the antique script "s" with an "f" in her scriptural reading one Sunday morning, you're probably already dead. And when Owen, the farmer whose spare time is best not inquired into, evinces an ability at the annual nativity celebration to differentiate the physical attractions of one ewe from another, you just pray through tears of laughter that the whole story doesn't come out. Never have I seen such an overtly irreverent telling of a tale of ultimate humaneness and love. As our means of public expression have coarsened in recent decades, as it has become harder to hold a television audience without resort to sexual innuendo and titillating storylines, it has become harder to tell stories of gentle spirituality. In successfully enlisting the vulgarity of modern television discourse to tell such an old-fashioned tale, "The Vicar of Dibley" pulls off quite a feat.', "THE VICAR

OF DIBLEY series must be seen if for no other reason than for the delightful eccentricity of its characters. It played on the British telly from 1994-2000. As the first episode opens, the aged male vicar of the St. Barnabus Anglican church in the small, rural, village of Dibley dies during Sunday service. The parish council, chaired by the sensible and straight-laced landed gent David Horton (Gary Waldhorn), requests a new vicar from the local bishop. Much to the council's surprise, who should be assigned but the Rev. Geraldine Grainger (Dawn French). On her arrival by cab in the midst of a rainstorm, Geraldine, a young, single, full-figured woman, stuns Horton by saying, "I'll bet you weren't expecting a woman. Or someone with these" - while gesturing to her ample bosom. Thus, Grainger invades the Dibley community. And, as Horton later - much later after many differences of opinion - admits, she's the best vicar the parish has ever had. The strength of the series is in the supporting roles. There's squire Horton, of course, driven to frequent bemusement and exasperation by Geraldine and his council members. These include his own dim-witted son, Hugo (James Fleet), who's in love with the mentally challenged parish vergger, Alice Tinker (Emma Chambers), who has the intellectual capacity of a brick. Then, there's Jim Trott (Trevor Peacock), who has the nervous habit of prefacing any statement with "No, no ... no, no, no." (During one episode, the viewer is introduced to Mrs. Trott, whose foible is the opposite: "Yes, yes ... yes, yes, yes." But she's never seen again.) There's Frank Pickle (John Bluthal), the council secretary who records the minutes in infuriatingly compulsive detail, and Owen Nesbitt (Roger Lloyd Pack), the profane and blunt-speaking farmer who develops a lust for Geraldine. Finally, there's Letitia Crolepy (Liz Smith), killed off in the 1996 Easter special, who has a penchant for experimenting with the most bizarre food recipes, which she tries out on her hapless council colleagues. Filmed in the quaint hamlet of Turville, just off the M40 about 20 miles west from its junction with the M25 Ring, THE VICAR OF DIBLEY is consistently amusing. For me, the funniest episodes were: "The Easter Bunny" (disc 2), wherein each member of the parish council must decide what to give up for Lent, which, for Geraldine is chocolate; "The Christmas Lunch Incident" (disc 2), wherein Geraldine bites off more than she can chew, literally, by rashly accepting several Christmas lunch invitations; "Autumn" (disc 3), wherein Geraldine is seduced and abandoned by David Horton's hunky brother Simon. And, there are a couple of celebrity guests in brief appearances: Sarah Ferguson, the Duchess of York, and Johnny Depp. You know, the Duchess is a Babe. I can't award five stars because there are a couple of clunker episodes. But, on the whole, THE VICAR OF DIBLEY is top drawer British comedy, and certainly superior to the ubiquitous garbage sitcoms on American TV nowadays.", "My wife and I discovered "The Vicar of Dibley" by accident when we were going through the cable channels and it came up on our local PBS station. Soon we became addicted to this hilarious little BBC comedy and now we walk around the house going "no, no, no, no, ... YES!" O.K. maby things are not that bad, but it is certainly delightful, that the show in it's entirety has been released as a three disc, box set entitled, "The Devine Collection". For those unfamiliar, the show takes place in the bucolic, British country village of Dibley. In the first episode, the elderly (bordering on ancient) parrish, Vicar dies in his sleep. The citizens of the village council send for a replacement. To their shock and astonishment the new Vicar turns out to be (gasp!)...A FEMALE! She in fact turns out to be Geraldine Granger (a comically great, Dawn French), a short, roly-poly women, who's preferences include junk food, good looking men and cracking racy jokes. But the town council are not the only ones to be surprised. Geraldine soon finds out that her new flock puts the capitol 'E' in the word 'Eccentric'. In other words...there all pretty nuts! They include David Horton, the village Grinch, Jim Trott, who's a stuttering letch, Frank Pickles, the most boring man alive, Owen Newitt, an outspoken farmer, who seems to do unspeakable things to livestock, Mrs. Crolepy, an elderly women, who creates culinary nightmares and finally, Alice Tinker, a pleasant young women, who has raised being an idiot to a high art form! It's with this looney bunch that the new Vicar gets into some really gut busting, funny situations over the course of sixteen episodes. The DVD quality is only fair but the series truely makes up for that. Extras include two "Comic Relief" sketches plus some back stage footage. Also included is a documentary "The Real Vicars of Dibley". If your a fan of British Comedy or just good comedy in general than I highly recommend "The Vicar of Dibley-The Devine Collection" (no, no, no, no, ...YES!).",

"The Vicar of Dibley" is one of my all-time favorite Britcoms. It centers around the arrival of a new vicar to the small town of Dibley. Unlike the previous frail & elderly head of their congregation, the people of Dibley are treated to a fun, buxom, invigorating younger woman named Geraldine Granger (played wonderfully by the always funny Dawn French). Gary Waldhorn stars as David Horton, head of the town council, and all-around dissenter to Geraldine's enthusiastic and modern approach to the church. Over the course of the first season, David starts to warm up to the new vicar, and things really start to click. Two things which are needed to make a successful comedy are the right actors and the right script, and "Vicar of Dibley" has both in abundance. Richard Curtis & Paul Mayhew-Archer have created some of the most unique and funny characters to ever grace a television screen. These characters are in-turn portrayed by a great group of actors, most notably Emma Chambers as Alice Tinker, and Roger Lloyd-Pack as Owen Newitt. But they are just my personal favorites. The others are great, as well. The humor of this fantastic Britcom is rather bawdy and broad. It has its own cozy charm, due in part to its village setting, quaint characters, and episodes dealing with nice holiday dinners, but this is not cozy along the lines of "As Time Goes By" or even "Good Neighbors". If you're more a fan of the slower-paced, gentler Britcoms, then this may not be your cup of tea. Personally, however, I think it a perfect blend of both broad and gentle humor. At a short and sweet length of 16 episodes, the show knew when to quit (although I'm not a huge fan of the last episode). Over the course of the series we get to see the vicar arrive in Dibley, overcome the initial hostility of the townfolk, to eventually become welcomed and accepted, by the community and its endearing inhabitants. There are marriages, celebrities, romances, and babies. All of these things are handled with a deft comedic touch, and it helps to make "The Vicar of Dibley" one of best Britcoms ever."

Between 1994 and 1999, the BBC produced a hilarious television series called "The Vicar of Dibley" starring the well-known Dawn French. The plot of the series was that the small English farming village of Dibley needed a new vicar after its 102-year old vicar (played by Preston Lockwood, 1912-1996) passed away. To the surprise of many village residents, their new vicar is a boisterous woman by the name of Geraldine Granger (Dawn French). One villager in particular, the wealthy David Horton (Gary Waldhorn), is especially not pleased with the situation, but over time, his opinion changes. David and several of Dibley's more eccentric residents regularly meet to discuss various issues addressing Dibley. These villagers include David's son Hugo (James Fleet), their secretary Frank Pickle (John Bluthal), the farmer Owen Newitt (Roger Lloyd-Pack) and the stuttering Jim Trott (Trevor Peacock). Until her character passed away during an Easter special (following the show's first season), the village meetings also included Dibley's most experimental cook, Letitia Cropley (Liz Smith). Upon becoming Dibley's vicar, Geraldine is treated to having her own scatter-brained assistant, Alice Tinker (Emma Chambers). The first season of "The Vicar of Dibley" aired in 1994 with 6 episodes. Three 40+ minute specials followed in 1996 & 1997, as well as one 11-minute special, before the second season aired in 1998 with three episodes. The third (and final) season of 4 episodes aired in 1999. The three-disk DVD collection of the series contains the 16 regular length episodes and specials, but not the 11-minute special from 1997. These episodes and specials (with my rating for each) are listed below:

Disk 1:

1. "Arrival" (5+). Dibley's aging vicar passes away, and Geraldine Granger arrives to take his place.
2. "Songs of Praise" (5+). A BBC TV program wants to feature a show about Dibley's new female vicar, and Geraldine decides to have auditions for church choir.
3. "Community Spirit" (5). Geraldine promises a huge Autumn Fair turnout thinking that she can get Elton John to appear thanks to Alice, but Kylie Minogue arrives instead.
4. "The Window and the Weather" (5). A wind storm causes a tree to fall through the church's stained-glass window.
5. "Elections" (5). Geraldine and David clash over bus service to Dibley and becomes his unintentional opponent in the race.
6. "Animals" (5+). To David's disapproval, Geraldine holds an animal church service.

Disk 2:

1. "The Easter Bunny" (5+). Letitia passes away and bequeaths her Easter Bunny duties.
2. "The Christmas Lunch Incident" (5+). Geraldine gets talked into several filling Christmas lunches.
3. "Engagement" (5). Alice and Hugo get engaged with a little help from Geraldine.
4. "Dibley Live". Geraldine is in charge of "Radio Dibley" that exists for only one week and is live.
5. "Celebrity Vicar" (5). Geraldine appears on a TV show and becomes a celebrity.
6. "Love and Marriage" (5+). Geraldine presides over Hugo and

Alice's wedding and meets David's brother Simon (Clive Mantle). Disk 3: 1. "Autumn" (5). Geraldine finally gets to spend time with Simon and Alice is pregnant. 2. "Winter" (5). Geraldine is in charge of Dibley's annual nativity reenactment. 3. "Spring" (4.5). Alice & Hugo's daughter who they named after Geraldine is baptized. 4. "Summer" (3). Dibley struggles through a hot drought and the water board wants to turn Dibley into a reservoir. Overall, I rate "The Vicar of Dibley" with 5 out of 5 stars. The vast majority of the shows are very good, with the exception of the final episode that didn't seem as well written.', "As if the idea of a lady vicar isn't funny enough on its own (it is) you've also got a rude farmer and a man who says 'no, no, no, no, no, yes!' a few times every episode thrown in for good measure. Don't be without it!", 'The Vicar of Dibley-The Divine Collection is a terrific DVD boxed set for comedy fans to own. The episodes are well worth viewing on all levels of perspective. This delightful British situation comedy makes me very happy. The cast members have very eccentric personalities and are all really unique. After I discovered this series I immediately set out to look for the show on DVD. I am glad with what I have purchased. My favorite cast member is Emma Chambers, who portrays the highly attractive and lovable Alice. Out of all the sixteen episodes contained on the set, my number one favorite would have to be The Easter Bunny. The Vicar of Dibley-The Divine Collection, starring Dawn French, is a durable DVD title for any collection. This series is a lot of fantastic fun and it is great to view late at night.', 'They could have made more in the series for those of us who like them. All the actors in the show are funny in their own right.', 'This show has always been one of my faves, I have been able to hook many people on this show. This show really brightens your mood and the humour is top notch. I have watched this series over and over again and never tire of them. If you are looking for a DVD set to take on a long plane trip with your portable DVD player, then this set is for you! This is the best, most relaxing, and funniest show ever!!!!!!!!!!!!!!', "I was assured as a child that god must have a sense of humor, look at the platypus. Now I am totally convinced that god does or else we wouldn't have all the hilarity of the Vicar of Dibley in one set of DVD's. I was introduced to the Vicar by a friend who brought her set of VHS tapes into the office one week end. We spent the entire afternoon laughing out loud at the eccentrics of Dibley. Now I own all of the episodes as well as some nice extras and when I feel a little down Dawn French and rest of the cast help cheer me up.", "I discovered this show on YouTube. I watched a scene and was hooked. I watched a whole episode and fell instantly in love. Afterwards, I immediately ran to Amazon to see if it was on dvd. As much as I enjoy BBC America, for whatever reason, they don't show us shows like this, but they should. Vicar of Dibley is an absolutely fantastic show filled with warmth, humor, and honesty. It doesn't feel as forced or as staged as some American comedies. When watching this show, you genuinely feel like everyone enjoys being together, and like you're peeping in on the goings on in a little town. It's a bit odd, but Dibley technically ran for 13 years, yet they only produced about 20 episodes. This is the bulk of those episodes. The Christmas specials are on another disk. The last Christmas episode aired this year as a two-parter ending on New Year's Day, but after much research, it does not look like that one will be released any time soon. Shame, because I would very much love to own all the episodes. I dare you to find an episode that you don't like at all. Every episode and every character just reaffirmed my purchase of blind faith that much more. :)]

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"If you are a fan of the 1960's Batman series, this (overpriced) DVD is a blast to watch. Lots of info and behind-the-scenes videos.", "You can also go to Ebay and get one of the Better sets I have seen it has The JOKER on the cover holding a playing card of , that's right Batman you can't miss it ! , it was done in a Purple theme I love my set I purchased one .", 'This is a Batman's fan dream! Never mind that the documentaries have some footage in common. And yes, they could have included more. But with four documentaries plus an extra DVD full of TV spots and tidbits that only a real fan could appreciate, who's complaining? This is a 5-in-1 package no fan of the television series should be without, with three specific documentaries about the actors (Adam West, Julie Newmar and Cesar Romero), one about the series as a whole and a second disc full of extras. Of all

the documentaries, the one I liked best was the Julie Newmar one. Even if her parents were home movie buffs (something I can only assume), it is still hard to believe that there exists so much footage of Julie from her childhood to her twenties! She seems to have as much footage of her early years as any celebrity child, except, to my knowledge, she wasn't one. It is great to be able to see little Julie in the swimming pool, in her dance classes, then again as a teenager, and even the aspiring actress starting a new life in a new town. All the documentaries include excerpts from other movies and projects the actors were involved in before and after "Batman". Cesar Romero was the only one of the three who had long made a name for himself prior to the television series and had already secured a place in movie history. Relatives and acquaintances are interviewed and it is touching to hear Adam's children speak fondly of their father. The real treat on DVD 2 are the screen tests of Adam West, Burt Ward (who got the parts), Lyle Waggoner and Peter Deyell. Both the Batman costume and the sets were different from the ones they would eventually use in the series. The Batcave looks darker and smaller, being more reminiscent of the 40's serials and comic books. I'm glad they chose Adam and Burt instead of Lyle and Peter, though their tests are interesting to watch. This is a must for Batman fans. I just hope they don't take too long to release what we are all waiting for: the series, of course! "I've wanted this DVD ever since I heard about it! It is well worth your time! Screen tests, promos, wrap arounds and trivia and great documentaries on the show, Cesar Romero, Adam West, and Julie Newmar, (though they kind of play down her Catwoman role) Great fun and informative though! Well worth any price!", "I really enjoyed this 2-disc "Holy Batmania" DVD set. It was especially fun because I purchased the 2008 "Batman: The Movie (Special Edition) at the same time, and watched the movie first. Someday the TV series will be released on DVD, and I'll be buying that, too! DISC ONE Disc 1 has the main TV special, called "Holy Batmania" plus 3 special features. Some of the interviewees/commentators in the main documentary also appear in the special features, but in addition, each has its own commentators. 1. "Holy Batmania" This TV special is like a 109 minute documentary. Really a lot of fun, with a large number of participants, stills and outtakes from the TV show and the movie, plus rehearsals and promotional appearances. Most of the interviews are from 1989. Commentators include: Adam West (Batman/Bruce Wayne), Burt Ward (Robin/Dick Grayson), Julie Newmar (the 1st and BEST Catwoman), William Dozier (executive producer), Charles Fitzsimons (associate producer), Ralph Garman (radio personality/Batman expert), George Barris (car customizer), Frank Gorshin (The Riddler), Cesar Romero (The Joker), Stanley Ralph Ross (writer for Batman TV show), Vincent Price (Egghead) and Matt Groening (creator of "The Simpsons"). Fitzsimons talks about casting the TV show: "It was a tough search because you've got to find an actor who was prepared to play Alice in Wonderland as if it were Hamlet." The show was an instant hit. Romero says: "Batman became such a popular, tremendously popular show, that it became a thing to be a villain in "Batman". And everyone was anxious to do it." Not just as villains, but guest stars as the people who pop open the window as Batman and Robin are walking up the wall. The joke didn't last, and "Batman" was cancelled after 3 seasons. When Michael Keaton's "Batman" movie came out in 1989, Adam West and Burt Ward enjoyed a resurgence in popularity. Trivia: Adam West mentions that Robin/Dick Grayson says "Holy" 370 times in 120 episodes of "Batman". Holy Amazing, Batman! 2. "Adam West: Behind the Cowl" This is a 90 minute in-depth biography of Adam West, who started life as William West Anderson. Adam was 37 when he signed up for "Batman". How he was typecast afterwards was a horrifying surprise to him. As the narrator starts the special: "It would take 2 painful decades for West to make the transition from prime time superhero to pop culture icon." New commentators include: Bill Maher (TV host/comic), Nina West (daughter, 3rd wife), Fred Wostbrock (current manager), Hunter Anderson (son, 2nd wife), Hal Lifson (special events publicist), Yvonne Craig (played Batgirl in the TV show). 3. "Julie Newmar: The Cat's Meow", an 85 minute biography. Newmar is certainly my favorite Catwoman - ever. She was 6 ft tall, absolutely gorgeous, lithe and graceful, not to mention brainy. Ruta Lee, who first met Newman when they both played kidnapped brides-to-be in "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers", says, "Julie was a flower child before we knew what flower children were." This bio really shows what a big-hearted focused woman and mother Julie is, born in 1933, so she's now 79 years old. I really think she didn't have a bigger film career because people were just intimidated by her. Commentors include: John Newmeyer (brother),

Faith Flam (friend), Ruta Lee (actor), John Epperson (drag performer), Ronald L. Smith (writer), Joel Gray (actor), Ted Guefen (publicist) and Thierry Mugler (fashion designer).4. "Cesar Romero: In a Class By Himself", a 45 minute biography. Two characteristics stand out about Romero. 1. He was a man to whom family was everything, 2. He was the consummate acting professional. Commentators include: Eduardo Romero (brother), Marcy Vosburgh (friend), James Parish (film historian), Jane Wyman (actress), Alice Faye (actress), Evie Wynn Johnson (friend), Anne Jeffreys (actress) and Marti Romero (niece). Romero was 58 years old when he took the part of The Joker. Watch his acting - there's more life and action in him than men 20 years younger! He died January 1, 1994, from heart failure.

DISC TWO1. "Batman" screen tests2. Presentations & Promos3. "Batman" Spots4. "Batman: The Movie" teasers, trailers & spots5. Batmania wrap-arounds6. Bat Trivia.

Presented by Adam West and Burt Ward, here's 16 trivia questions about the TV show and movie.', 'This release of the Biography channel's look at the Batman TV series is excellent, especially for someone who grew up on the Series, like yours truly. It features clips from interviews with the series creator/narrator, the writers, and the actors involved. Highlights include Frank Gorshin (the Riddler) pointing out how Adam West (Batman) made one of my favorite lines from the '66 movie work and a few of the cameos (e.g. Lurch from the Addams Family TV series; fitting, since both Addams and Batman were light-hearted '66 series based on darker comic strips). Allow me to compare this with "Return To The Batcave". This features documentaries from the original, including several scenes from the series, while "Batcave" used actors playing the younger versions of the series actors. The atmosphere of this documentary is also more wholesome, showing some of the flaws in the people involved but still very upbeat and suitable for the family; "Batcave" seemed aimed for the not-as-wholesome mindset we have today.', "This series was like Haley's Comet. It would air every five years or so. I was too young to catch its original ABC run. But jumped on the BATWAGON when it ran in syndication on WPIX New York on channel 11. So if your somewhere in your mid 40s like I am, or even early fifties then you might relate to what I'm about to say. When I was 8-10 years old, BATMAN was a serious crime drama. When I was a teenager, BATMAN was a silly embarrassment that if I wasn't making fun of it, my peers would surely put me in a bat-trap that not even Batman himself could escape. When I was in my mid 20s, BATMAN was the most innovative sit-com ever creative. When I reached my 30s, BATMAN was what it always has been... THE GREATEST AND MOST BRILLIANT TV SHOW EVER. I'm also a fan of the comic books and this series mirrored the comic book very closely during the 1960s. It wasn't until the 1980's that the comic books started to re-emphasize Batman's origin, the painful memories of his parents' murder, his determination to protect the helpless at all costs. The knowing his next nightly patrol could be his last. But that's no reason to hate this show. Adam West and Burt Ward were on the now defunct David Lee Roth radio show earlier this year and said they were finishing up work on the Batman DVD, so there is still hope for the series to be released.", 'Good documentary, but I'd rather have the tv series with it. This was originally made to be released as special features on the tv series DVD release, but due to annoying copywrite issues, they were unable to release the tv series so I guess we true bat fans will just have to suffer with the excellent 1966 movie and this good documentary about the tv show. First, I love all forms of Batman from the serious to the not so serious. The tv series was campy as hell, but boy was it fun to watch... and still is. The thing that made it great was that it was a great action adventure for the kids and a witty comedy-action for adults. Along with great writing and great humor you also get impressive sets, one of the best Batmobiles ever, and some really great acting by a really great cast. This documentary takes you on a journey of the making of the tv show from seasons one through three and the 1966 feature film with some great clips from the tv show included in the documentary. It includes a documentary on Batman actor Adam West, one on Joker actor Cesar Romero, and one on actress Julie Newmar who played Catwoman in seasons one and two. It also includes trailers (one of which includes many scenes from the first two episodes "Hi Diddle Riddler" and "Smack in the Middle" including the famous Batdancer from Batman) as well as some humorous promotion clips from Adam West and Burt Ward in 1989 when the series started airing reruns again and some fun trivia. All in all, I would love it if they would release the Batman tv series on DVD, but since that's not going to happen any time soon, we bat fans will just have to settle with this great documentary DVD which would be great to have in any bat collection. Highly

recommended!", "Holy Batmania! is a 2-DVD set of documentaries about the iconic ABC television show and its actors. This famous series ran from January 1966 to March 1968. With this set you get to see and hear how this series was conceived through interviews with some of the cast members, creators, including Executive Producer William Dozier, some of the writers, screen tests from 1965, network promos, syndication promos, theatrical trailers, TV spots, a trivia game, the Batman craze, and much more. I found the stories that were shared were very interesting and fascinating. The two DVDs are broken down this way: Disc 1 contains four 44-minute documentaries: 1. Batman: Holy Batmania! - a documentary about the series itself 2. Adam West: Behind The Cowl - a documentary about the career of Adam West 3. Cesar Romero: In A Class By Himself - a documentary about the long career of Cesar Romero, who played The Joker on the series. 4. Julie Newmar: The Cat's Meow - a documentary about the long career of Julie Newmar, who played The Catwoman for the first two seasons of the series. Disc 2 contains screen tests of Adam West and Burt Ward and also of Lyle Waggoner and Peter Deyell, who were the runners-up for the roles of Batman and Robin. This disc also contains the Network Presentation from 1966, network promos for all three seasons, syndication promos from 1983 and 1989, theatrical teasers and trailers for Batman: The Movie (1966), TV spots from 1989, a Bat-Marathon and Bat-Trivia (1989). I found the documentary about Julie Newmar to be probably the most interesting (not by much, though), but all of them are excellent and very well done. I think viewers will gain a new appreciation for Cesar Romero as The Joker. In the last twenty years or so he's sort of been forgotten about when it comes to actors over the years who have played The Joker. It seems like when people compare who's the best movie Joker of all time, they always compare Jack Nicholson and Heath Ledger and forget about Cesar Romero and the fact that he was in Batman: The Movie (1966). Either they forget about him or they've never heard of him or they just dismiss him as campy. Sometimes animated Jokers and the men who have voiced them get thrown into the contest, such as Larry Storch, Kevin Michael Richardson, and Mark Hamill. Personally, Cesar Romero is my favorite Joker of all time. He was 58, 59, 60, and 61 years old when he played him. Amazing. He was the most animated, lively and energetic Joker and had by far the best laugh, in my opinion. All in all I feel this set is worth purchasing even though it doesn't contain any of the actual episodes from the series. For those of you who are waiting for the entire 120-episode series to be released on DVD, there is some squabbling going on between several parties as far as rights and legal issues are concerned. But this set will quench your thirst for the classic '60s TV series for the time being. Highly recommended.", "Kevin Burns has done excellent research work on the sci-fi fantasy shows on the sixties. His previous project has involved "The Fantastic Worlds of Irwin Allen," and now he turns his attention to the Bat-Craze of the sixties. I have to confess that when I heard about this DVD, I thought I finally could get read of those "Holy Batmania" videos I purchased ten years ago, that had great deal of Bat "odds and ends" from over the year. Burns calls in Bill Mumy to be the narrator for the Batmania special, and Mr. Mumy proves to be a great commentator for this documentary, and again Burns proves his that he knows his Batstuff. While many wonderful extras are here. Including the screen tests for Adam West and Burt Ward, the alternate ones with Lyle Waggoner, the bumper bits for the Batmania wrap arounds in the late eighties (and all of this is great), I found myself noticing a few absentee spots such as the Batgirl Yvonne Craig ad for equal opportunity pay that was done in the early seventies, the ABC 1967 tv special, which had Adam West and Burt Ward discussing the new fall lineup, and the Yvonne Craig/Ambush Bug screen test, which shows up in the old videos. Then it dawned on me, it seems that there's been a kabash on most of the Batgirl stuff, probably due to legal situations, we can only guess at. Maybe there can be a Batmania 2 DVD, in a few years to come. But as someone else pointed out, this DVD will have to do, until Fox and Warners can hammer out a deal to release the Adam West series out on DVD. And it is well done, with three other full length documentaries on Adam West, Cesar Romero, and Julie Newmar. Who's left? Burt Ward. Hopefully, Mr. Burns (not the Ken one), can do research on some other sixties and seventies programs that haven't had their specials of documentaries yet. But, it's hard to beat the sixties for their pure campiness and fun. Mind you, this was before tv and pop culture turned dark in the eighties. So go ahead and get this BatDVD, add it to your Batcollection, and remember back when the Caped Crusader was fun, fun, and more

fun.Sincerely,JThreecarolyn@dia.net', 'A fun DVD to watch, but I was hoping for more footage of the bad guys. Contains 3 great documentaries...Cesar Romero, Adam West & Julie Newmar.', "I didn't grow up with this, but my tastes are older than me. Now-a-days, there aren't too many shows or movies that catch my attention.", "I don't want to bash this DVD, but it seems to me all the material on these discs should be included on the Batman TV series DVD release. Although it's not set for release at this time, I can't help , but feel this DVD has all the available footage they're allowed to use. The Batman Documentary here is interesting enough as well as each of the star's documentaries (West,Romero and Newmar), but in each Documentary when they get to the Batman years, it's the same footage! To make matters worse the bonus features on disc two, seem like they could have fit on the first disc, making the two disc set a ploy to squeeze more money from fans of the series. If you own the movie, you already have a good portion of the Batman stuff. It's cool, but I could have waited for the series with this material added as extras. Holy Bat-poop! I've been scalped again!", 'Grew up watching this movie loved it great quality people a steal ,came home after school everyday what was on Batman loved it !', 'It really doesn\'t make any difference how one percieves the quality of the television series Batman back in the 60\'s. The bottom line is that it was there for all to enjoy in all it\'s colorful jest and superhero humor! People who insist on seeing seasoned actors with deep meanings behind character are in for a real jolt with off the wall campiness that this series meant to project. Batman Begins was hailed as an extreme Batman movie because it was "deep", and the leading actor presented his problems, like the other Batman movies tried before previously, but failed with undeciding paths to seriousness, and campy humor. This Batman version shows no such struggle, but relishes in it\'s campiness with humor, costumes galore, camera angles, and added animation imagery. The villains in this series have become legendary, even if one doesn\'t side with the superheroes. I liked it, as well as the continued cliffhangers from the great television era long past us. So glad it\'s now available on dvd, for those hooked on superhero campy humor.', 'this really bring me back when I was a kids, your kids will love this show also I remember runing home form school to watch this show', "This is a pretty decent documentary on the much beloved T.V. show that so many of us enjoyed as youngsters way back when. It covers all of the often repeated, better known anecdotes from behind the scenes as well as some more obscure tidbits and information about the show and the lives and careers of some the principal actors. The liberal doses of archival footage, like the screen tests and convention videos, are simply fascinating! Thanks to what looks like a great deal of time and effort put into the research and production value, there's definitely a lot on this DVD for us Batfans to discover and enjoy.The DVD is split up into four different documentaries whose subjects are: The Show, Adam West, Cesar Romero and Julie Newmar (where's Burt and Yvonne??). I don't know why they did this as it just allows for a certain amount of repetition and makes it seem like the producers are artificially padding the overall runtime. On the other hand, it's not too bad and there must have been a reason for it, I suppose, like perhaps they were originally made to be broadcast on television. Overall, it is very enjoyable and I definitely got my money's worth! The real problem is that the original T.V. series is not available on DVD yet! What's up with that?", 'Very disappointed this was not the original series. Returned it. Should have read the description more closely. Unfortunately I sent this as a surprise gift to a young nephew who is very enthusiastic about the original series.', 'If you enjoyed Adam West and Burt Ward\'s campy portrayal of the dynamic duo, then you will enjoy this retrospective look at the whole Batman craze sparked by them.Especially interesting are the looks at Cesar Romero\'s and Julie Newmar\'s lives. If you enjoy this, you may wish to consider "The misadventures of Adam and Burt: Return to the Batcave" as well.Now if only they would release the series and movie in a boxset.']

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["We got this DVD because we were looking for Zaboomafoo for our kids 6 and 3 and this seemed like a better deal. We had no idea what to expect, but we've been pleasantly surprised most of the time. This is a little graphic for a 6 and 3 year old at times-- or I should say for us as parents. Like

on the Wild dog episode my wife was not ready to see a dog regurgitate about 3 pounds of meat on camera. Nor were we ready as parents to explain why the alpha kangaroo male on the kangaroo episode was trying to mate with as many of the female kangaroos as possible.) However this is a nature video-- parents should expect some of this. It is more realistic and less sanitized (and fewer cheesy pratfalls) than an episode of Zoboomafoo and more engaging for adults. It is something we can all watch as family and enjoy.", 'When I first saw the title for this set of four DVDs, representing the first season of this series on the National Geographic channel, I was sceptical. Of course, I had never seen the programs when they were aired on TV, and assumed that these followed the popular "subdue the crocodile" genre. I couldn't have been more wrong. The Kratt Brothers always display a remarkable degree of enthusiasm on camera, and their work is characterized by keen insight and astute behavioral observations at a very knowledgeable and a very personal level. Highly innovative approach. The photography is splendid, and gives one a good feel of the entire environment of each group of animals. A terrific value given the variety of diverse episodes. I am looking forward to more seasons with the Kratt Brothers in the future!', 'The Kratt brothers are awesome, the heart-pounding thing is that in many episodes you actually feel for their safety. The episode with a pack of lions taking down an elephant was extraordinary to view!! and the Kratts were within a few feet of it. Video and audio quality is clear and superb from National Geographic. Makes you anxious for the next season release.', "Our family is a big fan of the Kratt Bros, having watched them through a number of their various incarnations, including their current *Wild Kratts* series. We have been studying manatees as a family and recently re-watched the 'manatee' episode of this DVD (watched the whole thing some time ago) and I was really impressed at how much information they packed into the hour presentation. I felt that more information was communicated in that time than had been in the various books we'd read together on the subject. Quite impressive! See more of my reviews at [...]", 'The Kratt Brothers make you wonder whether or not they've had a few when you see how close they get to the action. This is a great show with unbelievable photography, and a great insight into how these "creatures" live their lives. Highly recommended. Great picture quality and sound make it a gem.', "Have seen my patient gravitate toward more realistic tapes/dvd's and he like zoboomafoo and am sure he will enjoy. thank you", "I have watched Zoboomafoo TV program few years ago with babysat kids. Love these guys with humor sense! I bought this movie because I always wanted to have DVDs/VHS of Kratt Brothers. My family and I watched almost the entire program on this DVD. We love that movie! We learned many new things from that movie! Kratt Brothers doesn't mind get themselves dirty or wet. Looking forward to Be Creature - The Complete Second Season coming out soon!", "The Kratt Brothers videos are both entertaining and educational. I hear my grandson repeating facts from the series often which is quite impressive. He's learning about the world around him and loving the process.", "We've seen a lot of nature shows and videos, but none as good as these (including the David Attenborough dvds). My wife who is a wildlife biologist is just as intrigued as my son and I. What a great perspective! What great shows! Highly recommend!", 'This is the Kratt Brother's third television show, their first being "Kratt's Creatures", then moving on to "Zoboomafoo". Also, this is their first show geared towards an older audience. This first season contains thirteen 47 minute episodes. Since no one has previously listed these out, I'll do so now. Underneath each, I will label which have more graphic predation scenes, as some have wondered about that. Disc 1:1. BROWN BEAR: The Kratt brothers go to the Alaskan Peninsula to see how bears coexist feeding and in everyday life. Then in the second half, they go to a new section of the Alaskan Peninsula to see how mother bears successfully raise their cubs. PREDATION - Only mentioned in this episode, never shown. 2. WILD DOGS: The Kratt brothers go to the Okavango region of Botswana to see how Wild dogs raise their pups. Then it's off on the hunt to see if they can keep up with the dogs. Finally, they emigrate with the young Wild dogs that are looking to start new packs. PREDATION - There are some quite graphic predation scenes when the Wild dog's overtake their prey. *Also* - Regurgitation of the meat for the pups is shown. 3. LION: The Kratt brothers go to the Chobe region of Botswana to witness the spectacle of lions on the hunt. PREDATION - This may be the worst episode as far as predation scenes go. 4. LEMURS: The Kratt brothers go to the Mozambique Channel off of Madagascar, to see as many lemurs in as much of Madagascar as they can. PREDATION -

None.Disc 2:1. MANATEES:The Kratt brothers go to the Florida Peninsula to follow the plight of Manatees in winter, and talk about the danger that human's are bringing to their environment.PREDATION - None.2. JAPANESE MACAQUE:The Kratt brothers go to the Mountains of the Shiga Heights to witness the Monkey's unique hot-tubbing behavior and discuss their culture. They then travel to Southern Japan to see the Coastal Monkeys, and their different forms of culture.PREDATION - None.3. COASTAL CREATURES:The Kratt brothers go to the Patagonian region of Argentina to see the lives of the many coastal creatures that live there. Also, they try to document the Orca's unique method of beach hunting.PREDATION - The final scenes of the Orca's catching seal pups is quite graphic.Disc 3:1. CHIMPS:The Kratt brothers go to the Ngamba Island Sanctuary in Uganda, Africa to see orphan chimps getting a second chance at life. Then, they go to the Kibale Forest Reserve to witness Wild Chimpanzees on the hunt of Colobus Monkeys,PREDATION - The scenes of Chimp's eating monkeys is quite disturbing.2. MONGOOSE:The Kratt brothers go to the Mweya Peninsula in Uganda, Africa to follow the lives of a pack of Banded Mongoose.PREDATION - A pup is killed by a monitor lizard.3. SHARKS:The Kratt brothers go to False Bay, South Africa to witness sharks seal-hunting.PREDATION - Sharks leaping out of the water to snag seal decoys and a shark chasing a seal. No actual killing or disturbing scenes here.4. BATS:The Kratt brothers go to Bracken Cave, Texas, to see the largest concentration of Mexican Free-tailed Bats in the world.PREDATION - Some young bats being eaten by beetles and snakes are sad.Disc 4:1. KANGAROO:The Kratt brothers go to the Snowy Mountains of Australia to live with a mob of Eastern Gray Kangaroos. This episode depicts the life-cycle of the male and female.PREDATION - None.2. BABOON:The Kratt brothers go to the Simien National Park in Ethiopia to find out who's in charge of the Gelada Baboon society.PREDATION - None.Special Features:Explore a Creature Fact-files.This is a great collection from the Kratt brothers. Can't wait till Season 2!UPDATE: Season 2 is looking highly unlikely by now. :(]

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"I bought this movie because Zhang Ziyi is in it, probably also because it came up in some Amazon customers who buy - also buy Purple Butterfly recommendation. You don't get many extra's, just subtitling for the movie (not my favorite type style but readable), a very scratchy trailer for it and some trailers for other DVD's by the same DVD company producer.Despite Zhang Ziyi's promotion on the jacket cover for House of Flying Daggers, Hero, Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon, even Rush Hour 2 she is not in every part of the movie, you'll be disappointed if you expect that. I liked most of her work here, she's good at portraying emotion, but I just could not get myself into the movie.The plotline of 1930's China and the Japanese Occupation is interesting but needed some sort of help here. It looks as if almost everything is shot through a blue lens filter on a hand held camera (someone wasn't very steady with that thing)and there were too many subplots going on. There really wasn't much dialog, it was subtitled well enough, but I had trouble keeping up with and track of what was going on. I did get the main storyline but there was also a subplot about some poor guy who accidentally gets pulled into events by being mistaken for a resistance member, I was never really clear about what was up with him. Judging by names in the film credits the Japanese characters were probably all really Japanese, not Chinese actors.House of Flying Daggers, Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon, even Hero are all better movies in my view- I know they were easier for me to follow along with.", "Francis Ford Coppola once said that if he'd had a budget of one dollar for his film BRAM STOKER'S DRACULA, he wanted to spend 95 cents on set design and costumes, with the remaining nickel spent on the screenplay.Lou Ye's PURPLE BUTTERFLY follows that approach, although I would argue which film spent more conservatively on its writing.The premise begins in Shanghai in 1928, a few years before the Japanese invasion. Zhang Ziyi plays Cynthia, whose Japanese boyfriend is called back to Tokyo. Coincidentally, Cynthia's brother is murdered immediately afterward for his anti-Japanese activism. She then joins a militant movement named Purple Butterfly, presumably motivated by her brother's death. Three years later, when her former boyfriend is found back in Shanghai, she is given the task of targeting him.The film

is often beautifully shot, with a lot of handheld camera movement suggesting a cinema verite style. Period design is outstandingly rendered, with lots of detail deep into the shots. The street scenes, interiors, and costumes provide a Chinese version of a film noir. This is a real slow-burner of a movie, surprisingly devoid of substantial plot development. The film bogs down in lots of wordless interplay, suggestion, and furtive glances. The actors must carry numerous, protracted scenes in this manner, often in oddly framed, off-focus shots and extreme closeups. Scenes seem to go on and on without ever meaning very much. Even with a repertoire of expressions as varied as Zhang Ziyi possesses, the brooding never seems to end. What perplexed me the most about this film was that its climax occurs only a quarter of the way through, turning the entire rest of the movie into a confusing muddle of flashbacks and foreshadowing. The film then ends, incongruously, with an epilogue of stock documentary footage of the Japanese invasion in 1937-38. It is some very strange cinematic decision making, adding up to one of the most disjointed movies I've ever seen. Lou Ye is undoubtedly a skilled director, and he has a fine group to work with. But I would suggest that for his future films, he should leave the screenwriting and storyboarding to others, so he can better showcase his talent.", "Purple Butterfly is Lou Ye's follow-up to his dreamy Suzhou River, a Wong Kar-Wai-esque tragic love affair. This movie is also a tale of doomed romance set in 1930s Shanghai. In some respects, this is Ye's In the Mood for Love as Purple Butterfly is also a richly textured period piece about a love affair between two people that can never be together because of the dictates of their society. It's a classic story of a couple who should be together but meet in the wrong place and time in history. Zhang Ziyi has such a wonderful, expressive face that Ye uses so well in the movie. For example, in one scene he captures the child-like glee on her face as she spots a cute knick-knack in a store window. In another scene, he shows the soul-crushing anguish on her face as she watches her brother and his friends blown apart on the street by a terrorist. Lou Ye's film shows how revenge is a powerful motivator that transcends politics. It is the reason why Cynthia and Szeto do what they do in the movie. Tragedy has touched them so deeply and so profoundly that revenge is the only option that they have for some kind of closure. In their eyes, those responsible must also suffer. And yet, the Purple Butterfly's conclusion suggests that world events and politics ultimately eclipses what happens to these characters and what they do. They are at the mercy of fate and the machinations of history.", 'Palm Pictures DVD represents either a poor transfer, or use of degraded film stock. Therefore, if you wish to watch this moody "art" film, I would recommend you rent it from Netflix rather than waste money on this sub-par DVD reproduction.', 'This film is deeply intense. There is often silence that is thick with meaning. The camera often tells much of the story, honing in on the actors and actresses faces ... the spartan rooms ... the city scapes/ scenes ... the commotion of workers going to and from work ... the riots, protests and rebellions ... the crowds of people at the railroad station in Shanghai. The film begins in Manchuria, the year is 1928 when Cynthia (Zhang Ziyi) a Chinese young lady has a love affair with Itami (Toru Nakamura) a Japanese young man whose father is part of a Japanese delegation who are seeking political opportunity to destabilize the region. Times are tense, the atmosphere is ripe for political change and explosive events. Itami is called back to Japan to serve in the military and their brief but very passionate love affair is cut short. The film is impressionistic and surreal in how it portrays events and relationships. There are clandestine organizations at work, and it is not often clear who is involved in what until some complicated twist and turn in the plot occurs to reveal the truth. Early in the film, Cynthia's brother is ambushed by a Japanese underground group. He is murdered before her eyes. This causes her to join the "Purple Butterfly" a clandestine Chinese resistance group who try to bring about justice for China and eliminate the Japanese threat. Zhang Ziyi does an outstanding performance in this serious role. After witnessing her brother's murder, she takes on a false identity, Hui Deng, a nurse who works at Marion Hospital. Hers is a stellar performance along with Itami played by Toru Nakamura. Hui Deng participates in an assassination at the railroad station. There Szeto loses his lady love, accidentally killed in the crossfire. He is also given a briefcase by mistake which puts him in the middle of some very serious problems. Szeto becomes heavily embroiled in the activities against the Japanese but he falls into a trap which puts his life at risk. He is in a very precarious position. He makes a deal, it saves his life but ultimately because of the direction he went ... he ends up losing it. Itami returns to Shanghai to take over as the leader of the Japanese

movement. He is replacing Mr. Yoshikawa who is being recalled to Japan. Itami is managing the upheaval and creating more dissension and rioting, through his spy network and underground operations. The Japanese want to control Shanghai. Cynthia again enters Itami's life and becomes personally involved renewing their love affair but with ulterior motives. However, Itami is not who he used to be and neither is Cynthia the same person she was. Unknown to Itami, she is now an assassin and revolutionary. Itami asks Cynthia to return to Tokyo with him, he even arranges for legal authorization with his boss. Itami and Cynthia attend a party at the Japanese Club, where they dance to a very haunting and beautiful Chinese tune, called "A Garden Bridge". The events which transpire at the party are jaw-dropping. The twists and turns of the plot are unpredictable and very satisfying. The ending will astonish the viewer ... At the very end of the film, there is actual black and white film footage of the Japanese invasion of Nanking around 1937 which brings *full* closure on the film. This is a most astonishing complex story with exceptionally artistic cinematography and great acting. Erika Borsos [pepper flower]', "OK, so I'm a Zhang Ziyi fan. Not a huge fan, but enough that, one day, out of sheer boredom, I decided to get this movie while surfing through Amazon.com. The best part about this movie is that Zhang Ziyi is in it. And that's it. This is not one of her better movies, definitely. The plot is not that difficult to figure out. What is hard to figure out is how and why things happen the way they do in the movie, since nothing much makes sense. What the filmmakers have tried to do here is disguise an incoherent and unrealistic plot as film noir, by using dense layers of atmosphere. The story starts in 1928 in Manchuria, with Zhang's character, Cynthia, at the end of a love affair with a Japanese man, Itami, who is heading back to Japan. Zhang appears in classic schoolgirl dress with pigtails. In the next scene, her brother, who is involved in some sort of newspaper or anti-Japanese organization, gets murdered by a pro-Japanese terrorist. Tears from Zhang Ziyi in both scenes. Cut to 1931, in Shanghai. We meet Szeto, and his girlfriend Yiling. Like an old war movie cliché, this brief scene of their happiness together is meant only to set up Yiling's tragic death in the next scene. Szeto leaves on a brief trip, and then on his return, as he hurriedly leaves the train, he accidentally grabs the jacket of a Purple Butterfly operative (presumably a professional brought in to perform the assassination of the Japanese agent Yamamoto). Mistaken for the real assassin by the other Purple Butterfly members waiting at the train station, they hand Szeto a briefcase containing info on Yamamoto and his organization, and then chaos and shooting breaks out. The original assassin, realizing that Szeto has taken his jacket, chases after him, and is mistaken for an enemy by the other Purple Butterfly operatives, who kill him. Szeto is packed into a car by the Purple Butterfly operatives as they make their escape. Yiling, who has gone to the train station to meet her boyfriend, chases after Szeto, and is shot by Cynthia, who has been watching the scene unfold. Cynthia shoots some other people also, all to help cover the escape of the Purple Butterfly operatives who have Szeto in the car. Just three years later, Cynthia has become a seasoned Purple Butterfly operative, with the look of a mature young woman. Confused? Baffled? That's only the first quarter of the movie! Like I said, it's not hard to figure out what is happening in the movie. What's harder to figure out is how and why things happen the way they do. How does a schoolgirl get from Manchuria to Shanghai and in just three years is involved in killing people in public places? Just what the heck is the Purple Butterfly organization? Their goals and methods seem to be more along the lines of a quasi-governmental death squad rather than a resistance/liberation/terrorist organization. But the movie states later on explicitly that they are not affiliated with the government or any other organization. Why arrange to have this meeting and hand-off of a crucial mission assignment in a crowded, chaotic train station? Why have the only form of identification be this non-descript suit with a Purple Butterfly over the left chest? It seems almost to be a parody of spy movie clichés to have this sort of Mission Impossible style mission assignment go wrong like this. The rest of the movie goes along similar lines. The pacing of the movie is excruciatingly slow. There is very little dialogue in this movie. Much of the movie is filled up by long tracking shots of people walking from point A to point B to point C, as well as long close-up shots of their facial expressions. I'm guessing that these boring interludes are meant to convey some sort of a Deep Meaning. I got more deep meaning out of this movie, in a much shorter time, by watching it in Fast Forward mode. 8x speed was about right - I could still read the subtitles at that speed. A few other comments: A particularly odd feature of this

movie that I noticed was that the three main male characters have this ectomorph body type that just isn't seen much anymore in either Western movies or in the Chinese martial arts movies, where the male actors are built more sturdily. These are REALLY skinny guys, with some seriously narrow shoulders. In a number of shots, their heads look to be much larger than their torsos, making them look like bobble-head dolls. The final scenes are from classic film clips of war atrocities and other carnage inflicted on the Chinese civilian population by the Japanese invaders. This is heavy duty stuff, and remains an unsettled issue in Asia to this day, a source of deep anger among the Chinese people, and continuous denial by the Japanese. It's too important of a subject to be casually tossed in at the end of such a lightweight and confused movie as this one.", "I'm not stupid and this movie was a lot of work to watch. The effort involved in keeping track of the characters and action in this movie prevented me from immersing myself in the story. This is a near-great movie that would be easier to understand if the plot points and characters were drawn with more care. Hitchcock would have done the mistaken identity sub-plot with more clarity and Tarantino would have made the characters more distinctive. This director's lack of delineation makes it hard work for an audience suddenly thrust into a period of history that most people know little or nothing about. Check out Visconti's *SENSE* or *THE LEOPARD* to see how history that is foreign to the audience is made to be more easily understood.", "I loved this movie...the acting is amazing (Zhang Ziyi, gorgeous as always), the shots are INSANELY gorgeous and it just tells the story of such an incredible, almost "Casablanca" type of love. Plus, I disagree with Amazon saying it's jumbled...the way the story is told just adds to the intensity of the emotions it's trying to provoke. It's an incredible, different kind of Asian movie that I'd definitely recommend.", "Brilliant story of how love struggles to grow in harsh and blistering conditions. The tale is not one told in a straightforward manner. This is what alleviates any boredom that may seemingly occur due to the somewhat slow pace. Yet Zhang Ziyi shines in all the chaos....quite a different character from the one she played in "Road Home". If the viewer is not accustomed to Asian cinema then they may not get this movie.", "This is just a really cool movie! The cinematography is great and Zhang Ziyi is her usual breathtaking self. The 122 min runtime never left me bored for a second, mainly because I was always trying to figure out what was going on - not feeling befuddled or frustrated, but enjoying trying to untangle the story.", "Purple Butterfly is a brilliant Chinese film. It takes place during the war between China and Japan in the 1920s. This film sees a departure for Zhang Ziyi from the usual martial arts film. The love story is very well developed, and the action is awesome! A great action movie that isn't martial arts.", "To enjoy the Chinese-French film 'Purple Butterfly,' some patience is required. To follow the story was hard for me (and I am a Japanese who knows the historical background of the film), but once you understand what is going on, you see the merits of this period romance. First, remember the following four characters. Zhang Ziyi is Ding Hui/Cynthia, a Chinese girl whose brother is a member of one underground organization protesting against the Japanese invasion. The time is set in 1928, and the place is northern China, then called Manchuria. But one tragic thing happens to her brother, and she is also drawn into the activity of the organization. Toru Nakamura, Japanese actor, plays Itami a Japanese whose father works as an interpreter in China. But young Itami must leave this country and his love Cynthia because he was drafted into the military service by the Japanese army. Three years later, Itami comes back to Shanghai as Japanese military officer, who had been trained for espionage in China. Now Itami meets Cynthia again in this city, but this time Cynthia's love seems to have a hidden agenda for she is meeting her new lover Xie Ming (Yuanzheng Feng). In addition to the main story above, there is a sub-plot. Lie Ye ('Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress') plays Situ, a young, ordinary Chinese man. He and Yiling (Bingbing Li) are innocent sweethearts, but when Situ is mistaken for someone else at the crowded station, a tragic thing happens. [Noir in China] The fates of the characters are closely intertwined with the film's complicated plot. This film can be called a romance, but it would be more correct to call it a noir film. The images themselves are beautiful, and the production designs are realistic, but the murky photography and the shaky camera may not be your taste. Though there are shooting scenes, and you can see Zhang Ziyi shooting a gun - far cry from the image we associate with her (oh, and let's forget 'Rush Hour 2,' shall we?) - the sequences are sometimes confusing, and probably that is one of the reasons for the general complaint about the film. Whatever your reaction may be, the film proves that Zhang Ziyi is an immensely gifted

actress, but I am not sure if her acting here is her best. But to me, though the time allotted to her character was not long enough, Bingbing Li as young telephone operator is more impressive. There is one brief but memorable scene, in which Bingbing Li quietly sits in a streetcar as if unaware of the riotous street outside. The contrast between the two worlds is represented in this short sequence, and in the middle of the battles and the deaths there is a woman who is clearly in love. Bingning Li literally becomes the image of love, which is too fragile in the time of war. Writer/Director Lou Ye succeeds in creating such remarkable sequences resonant with the film's serious themes, but the jumbling of the time order and the confusing relations between the characters often do harm to them. 'Purple Butterfly' is for the viewers who can be patient with the slow-moving and complicated story. It will be a rewarding experience only after you put the pieces in the right places.", 'The music from the Very (and I Mean Very) romantic dance scene with Situ (Lie Ye) and Yiling (Wonderful Bingbing Li) is listed in the film credits as "Could Not Get Your Love" -- However it is available on Amazon MP3 under the title of "De Bu Dao De Ai Qing (This Love is Not For Me)" sung by Yao Lee. It is sold as a remix and as the best version which is the original. This dance scene, and music is extremely moving -- especially when the following story is revealed. After much looking I have not been able to find the music from the final "dance" scene with Cynthia (Equally Wonderful Zhang Ziyi) and Itami (Toru Nakamura). The film credits list it as "The Moon Of A Garden Bridge" sung by Utako Matsushima. If anyone knows where it is available or the Chinese title please post it. Thanks BC']

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["Great product - exactly what I was looking for! Story is dark and draws you in without having an ending that makes you want your money back, lol - it's a keeper. A very Positive purchase, well packaged and good price - would buy from, again!", 'This 1985 adaptation of Charles Dickens\' "Bleak House" is not nearly so detailed as the 2005 adaptation, with Andrew Davis\' screenplay. However, the film is still quite good. Reasons: 1. The mood of this film is excellent. Where the 2005 adaptation is colorful and overall uplifting, this 1985 adaptation is very dark and moody. In London (especially Krook\'s dwelling) and Chesney Wold, the scenes are shot with little sunlight. Often, the viewer can only notice characters speaking, with the background partly obscured in darkness. The street scenes are especially well-done, showing the massive amount of fog and other industrial pollution. Additionally, the cobblestone streets contain much horse manure. While the 2005 adaptation was meant to tell the story in a more positive, less melancholic light, I think there is something to gain in watching an adaptation where the real depression and poverty of London is shown. 2. In the 2005 adaptation of Bleak House, Andrew Davies\' screenplay is exceptional. Additionally, with 21st-century technology, more digital effects can be included. The grandeur of the 2005 BBC adaptation is financially impossible for this 1985 BBC/A&E co-production. This said, the cinematography is still excellent because of the minute inexpensive details that do not exist in the 2005 adaptation. For example, the crying of indigent children covered in fifth. The 2005 adaptation does not as effectively penetrate the slums of London to show the poverty of the lower classes. Additionally, the scenes in Chancery are not as well done (from the ironic viewpoint) in the 2005 adaptation as this 1985 one. For one thing, the 2005 adaptation places the parties in Chancery suits near the chancellor, where the 1985 adaptation correctly places them in a balcony above. 3. The screenplay of this film is much more Shakespearian and Dicksonian from the standpoint of ironic and poetic phrases (i.e. The characters in the 1985 adaptation speak very differently than in the 2005 adaption, where they use modern language.) While the 2005 adaptation included Mrs. Flite saying, "I will receive my judgement on the day of judgment," Mr. Crooks\' ironic phrases are not well-explored in the 2005 adaptation. 4. Additionally, this 1985 adaptation is more effective in showing just how poisonous Jarldyce and Jarndyce is, and how the case poisons the lives of nearly everyone involved in the case. In the 2005 adaptation, I do not recall hearing any mention that the wards of Jarldyce and Jarndyce are trapped in the case with no way to forfeit their claims. 5. In short, I believe the 1985 adaptation does a better job than the 2005 adaptation culturally explaining the time period in light of the time period. (In some ways, this film reminds me of the 1988 adaptation of

Little Dorrit, especially in terms of using sunlight and darkness to convey emotions.) Bottom Line: The 2005 adaptation is excellent because of the acting and Davies' script, which tie the characters together wonderfully. The acting in this 1985 adaptation and the script are not nearly so brilliant. However, this film should keep the attention of someone who observes well through VISUAL rather than AUDIBLE methods. In short, the visual scenes of this 1985 adaptation tell the main story very well. (Note: many subplots are excluded from this 1985 adaptation.) However, for the individual who loves well-written scripts that effectively tie together the many plots and subplots of Dickens' "Bleak House" in a fast-paced story, I believe the 2005 adaptation is the better choice. (Certainly, many more words are spoken in the 2005 adaptation than in the 1985 adaptation.)', "My review goes from a warning about when NOT to view this DVD to a recommendation to be sure not to miss it. Just choose the right time. The surroundings are probably as close to authentic as anything you'll ever see. The plot is full of intrigue. Dickens must have been feeling depressed as he wrote it and the despair was overwhelming to me as I watched it. It was so powerful that I felt as if my heart was in my throat, almost too much to watch for more than an hour. If that sounds dramatic, it is. This is drama at the highest level of severity. Bleak House is probably not the place to start if you are new to Dickens. It's also not where you spend time if you are easily depressed or trying to cheer yourself up. The plot, as usual, is twisted and complex, but in this one it's even more so because of the dreadfully dreary surroundings. It has a very HEAVY feel to it. London is shown as dirty, depressing, almost hellish. The scenes are dark and at times difficult to see much. Some of the settings are claustrophobic. Now to the better part. The actors are excellent and the characters for the most part charming and lovable. There is some comic relief, and with all the despair and poverty, your emotions will be ready for a break before going back into the dirty, murky, foggy streets of London again. The plot is extraordinary. I hadn't read the book, so this is a new Dickens novel to me. If you read a description of the plot, as I did, you might wonder why you would want to watch it, but I started caring about what happened to the characters from the first couple of moments. I don't know how helpful this has been to most people, but if you are a new Dickens reader/viewer, start with David Copperfield or Little Dorrit. Come on back to this one when you are in the mood for something dark, dreary, and mysterious. It's equally brilliant, maybe even more so, but the mood is severe. Choose to watch it when you are ready for it. Otherwise you may start it and put it away about 30 minutes into it, and you would miss out on a story worth viewing.", "I am new at this review; but, the movie held my attention and I enjoyed it. I never read the book, I knew none of the characters, so I cannot compare their acting or the story line. I enjoyed the movie and would recommend it to someone else. It held my attention and kept me in suspense as to what would happen next. I was rather disappointed at the ending because I was hoping they found the mother alive and that mother and daughter would get to know and enjoy each other's company.", 'Only the always watchable Dame Diana Rigg and Denholm Elliott give this dark, poorly lit, cumbersome production any flavour. Charles Dickens had much wit and told great tales and drew lively characters - very little of that is in evidence here. Poorly directed, badly paced and witless. The supporting players are boring. This is possibly worth sitting through to the end. Watch "Martin Chuzzlewit" instead to see how well a Dickens novel can be transferred to TV.', 'This production is far better and more authentic than the more recent one with Gillian Anderson as Lady Dedlock. Denholm Elliot is wonderful as John Jarndyce, Peter Vaughn is a brilliant and creepy Tulkinghorn - and the flavour and atmosphere of the 19th Century is perfectly rendered. This is a great production and very much worth having in your collection.', 'I wasn't familiar with the story prior to watching the DVD. While this one is well done, I found it left some unfilled gaps. The 2005 release seemed to do a better job of providing that background. I did find it hard to follow the dialog with the various dialects of the characters, so I wanted to use subtitle. Alas! Subtitles are not enabled on DVDs in this series (BBC white covers). I switched from viewing the DVD via the component connection to viewing via the coax "VCR" connection. That allowed me to take advantage of the television's closed captioning capabilities. However, I had to sacrifice picture quality.', "I don't purchase any BBC period dramas if they do not have subtitles. Too many of the actors have accents Americans find difficult to understand so subtitles are necessary. Those that have them are fine; others I skip. I think this one does not have any.", 'My wife liked this but it was not one of her Dickens favorites. It is convoluted and, well, bleak.

I have not yet watched it, so this rating is second-hand.', "Although this interpretation of Charles Dickens' Bleak House lacks the flash and intensity of the 2005 remake, in many respects it is a more faithful rendition of the novel. Dickens wrote Bleak House as a serial spanning well over 70 chapters. The serialization allowed Dickens to introduce numerous characters and plot lines, much like the Soap Operas of today. When the BBC first decided to transform the novel into a series (a suitable format for such a long rambling tale), they streamlined the story, eliminating some of the extraneous characters and events. This made for a much more coherent plot, and allowed the screenplay to focus on the main themes of Bleak House: the misery of the poor, the abuses of the legal system, and, of course, the redeeming power of kindness. This 1985 production was remarkable for its depth and subtlety. It truly captured the feel of the novel: the mud, the hopelessness, the perpetual fog (both literal and figurative). Much of it was filmed in candlelight, which contributed to the overall murky mood of the series. The portrayal of the characters was perfect. Dickens liked to include a number of quirky personalities to offset the more realistic main players in his stories, which can lead to a production rife with caricatures. This production avoided that pitfall by including an element of sympathy. Miss Flite, in the fine tradition of Shakespeare's Fool, was a spokesperson for unpalatable truths. Guppy, far from the buffoon in the remake, proved himself to be an honorable man. And Esther, in contrast to her rather insipid counterpart in the remake, showed considerable backbone, proving herself to be a true daughter of Lady Dedlock. While all of the performances were excellent, it was Denholm Elliott, playing the role of John Jarndyce, who was the anchor of the series. Elliott performed with passion, with fury, and with an eloquence that voiced all of Dickens' deepest feelings. As its central figure, Elliott held the entire series together, providing an overarching sense of continuity that was lacking in the remake. While I admit that the dramatic impact of this series was reduced by its tendency to rely on exposition rather than showing the events themselves, I enjoyed it more than the remake. Dickens was a marvelous writer, with a passion for his characters and for the ideas they represented, all of which came across clearly in this series. Rather than struggling to figure out what was going on, I could sit back and appreciate what the characters had to say--what Dickens had to say--which, after all, was the point.", 'Wonderful story - Great acting - Marvelous scenery - Great actors ---- How could you ask for anything more... hm dodd', 'Although the 2005 Andrew Davies BBC version attracted even more attention in its day than this 1985 version did in its own, this is by far the much better adaptation of Dickens\'s most critically esteemed novel. For one thing, this version really has the look that is required of it: the gaslit smoky fog (or as we would call it today, smog) of the London scenes is spectacular, and you really feel as if (to quote Dickens) "it would not be wonderful to meet a Megalosaurus, forty feet long or so, waddling like an elephantine lizard up Holborn-hill." Krook's rag-and-bottle warehouse here is suitably like the massive and mysterious junkshop of an entire nation's accumulations, and the city graveyard where Nemo lies buried is horrifyingly bleak and rat-infested. Even the costumes and hairstyles are much more appropriately severe and mid-Victorian than in the prettified Davies version. Although this version does dispense with such beloved minor characters as the Turveydrops and the Jellybys (Peepy's absence here seems particularly regrettable), the focus on the main stories more than compensates, and the crucial roles of the haughty, haunted Lady Dedlock and the kindly John Jarndyce (Dickens\'s ideal adult man) are cast as ideally as possible, with the superlative Diana Rigg and Denholm Elliot (respectively). This is the best and most faithful filmed adaptation of BLEAK HOUSE.', 'There is an excellent 2006 BBC version of BLEAK HOUSE, but the 1985 production is my favorite. I won\'t compare the two--other than to remark that each version ignores certain plotlines, while emphasizing others. The original story is quite involved, so you really can get away with making major cuts here & there for staging. I will say this, I believe the 1985 version is truer to the spirit of Charles Dickens--that is, comic, over the top characterization...and very compassionate. At the center of the film is a famous probate/family court case in the London House of Chancery. The case has dragged on for years and at least one party has committed suicide over it, while others have been driven to madness & ruin. It also sparks a murder investigation in which practically everyone is a suspect. Some pretty bleak things indeed--except Dickens presents it all within a funny, satirical framework loaded with melodramatic situations--a literary fashion of the time. As is often the case in Dickens\' stories, the

characters bear satirical names that explain their role in the plot. In this proto-crime show there are names like Lord & Lady Deadlock; money grubbers Mr. Krook & his pernacious relative Mr. Smallweed; the evil lawyer/solicitor Mr. Talkinghorn, the solicitor wannabe Mr. Guppy (small fish in a large pond) and so forth. Some highlights: Diana Riggs' outstanding performance as Lady Deadlock, a noblewoman with a dark & fatal secret to conceal. The pathetic, homeless orphan, street-sweeper Joe, constantly harassed by the law to "move on," but who has no place to move on to. In the end Joe becomes a sort of Christ figure. The (true) Christian spirit (or lack of it) is an important theme in BLEAK HOUSE. Before he succumbs to smallpox, the illiterate boy, who blames himself for exposing one of the heroines to his disease, begs that a billboard be made & with giant letters write on it the words, "I'm sorry" so she'll be sure to see it. The actor playing Joe is outstanding. The element of forgiveness is central to BLEAK HOUSE--an element in most of his work. When the pompous Lord Deadlock rudely learns of his beloved wife's dishonor & disgrace, he suffers a severe stroke and becomes physically dependent on his housekeeper & her son (who treat him with kindness & gentle care.) Even though he is barely able to speak, he forces himself to request of them to "find my lady" and to tell her, "All is forgiven...nothing changed or altered...all is forgiven." When Esther meets her mother for the first time, the guilt-ridden woman falls at the feet of her daughter saying, "Forgive, forgive...please forgive." The cunning & slightly insipid Mr. Guppy also spiritually benefits from his association with the true Christian Esther. He realigns his priorities and matures from "being on the make" into a less selfish, upright man. Another interesting thematic concept of the novel that is more evident in the 1985 version is the fact that it is women who most accurately reflect the Christian spirit, and it is the female characters who actively motivate the plot. This has some interesting implications. Towards the end of the film, the ward & housekeeper Esther must go on a journey in search of her mother who is herself on a sort of Calvary mission before she dies. Within the course of one evening, Esther experiences scenes of utter human desolation & despair that brought to mind the lighter transitional journey of Scrooge in A CHRISTMAS CAROL. Dickens lampoons the idle rich & the false religion of "do gooders" who preach to the poor, but seldom offer any real help or assistance to them. He often went on all night walks through London and interacted with the night people--and you can see the literary results in BLEAK HOUSE. A final thought: BLEAK HOUSE the novel and both film versions has one of the saddest scenes in literature or drama. The poor, mad little Miss Flight keeps dozens of canaries in her squalid one room hovel. She herself is the product of a failed law case. She names her birds Sadness, Want, Decay, Envy, Greed. etc. She has placed her hopes in the eventual success of the two young wards of the central probate case--and, of course, names two of the birds accordingly. In the end she sees the destruction of these desperate dreams & she lets all her canaries fly away into the dingy London smog. PS. Charles Dickens was a fascinating personality, a genius who could speak to all classes of society. Not only did he write wonderful novels, he very successfully performed them in 1-man shows in England, Continental Europe & the United States. Charles Dickens: A Pictorial Biography The Charles Dickens Collection (Oliver Twist / Martin Chuzzlewit / Bleak House / Hard Times / Great Expectations / Our Mutual Friend) The Mystery of Charles Dickens Charles Dickens (Chesterton's Biographies)', 'I have nothing but loved this dvd, I enjoy the older british series and this one is the best I would recommend it to anyone. I really enjoy watching it over and over again for years to come.', "Dickens sure has some strange stories. I watched the later edition with Anderson on PBS a couple yrs ago, and couldn't wait for next show to come on. It seemed more intense. Ms Rigg did a wonderful portrayal. I loved the guy that was in the wheelchair, always calling Judy to sit him back up, the looks he gave her were so funny.", 'I agree with those who say the 2005 version is better overall, but the acting is excellent in both. I was disappointed in the musical accompniment in this version which I found so intrusive - especially in the last episode. It could certainly not be called "background" music but more a musical dialogue that was ongoing. I especially noticed it in the last episode in which it was very much too loud. At one point near the end a character whispered a crucial reply to a question put to him, which was bad enough but the musical dialogue remained undiminished & interfered with understanding what was said. Musical backgrounds are only very rarely handled well in movies or TV presentations & in this presentation I could only rate it as amateurishisly done - which unfortunately detracted from the

presentation. Dickens deserves better.', 'Civil Court, trial-lawyers and their lawyer-Judge pals string a young man along for years. The young man believes if he writes a clearer presentation, files one more paper; then the Court will be just. We watch the young man's health fall to ruin, his relationships with his wife, children and friends ruined, and the self-serving, crooked, trial-lawyers enriched. There is a humorous scene at the end, when the young man realizes he has believed liars, believed a self-serving Cartel of lawyers and lawyer-Judges. Thus, the Civil Court-house is the Bleak-house. Mr. Dickens wrote Bleak House to expose the self-serving, corrupt, Cartel of trial-lawyers and lawyer-Judges. The other, 2005 version, written by lawyers, shows the main character's home with dark furnishings, filmed by candlelight, for a bleak home to confuse and defraud Mr. Dickens's true message. There is also a murder-mystery plot; and a plot about man who extorts a woman with a secret. However, "Bleak House" will appeal most to someone who has been to Civil Court. This film is too slow. Charles Dickens's "Oliver Twist" DVD's are excellent, because, before television, movies, or radio, every town in America and England performed plays. "Oliver Twist" was a popular play; every town did it. Each town improved upon their neighboring town's version for fifty years, until we have the polished version in DVD today. "Bleak House" also has some gems to be mined and polished, but no one has done it yet. Read more about how trial-lawyers and lawyer-Judges have stolen your Rights and how to improve this film; under the comment-button below.', "This is a fair adaptation of the Dickens' novel. Dianna Rigg and Denholm Elliot are excellent, as you'd expect. But it just doesn't come to life. For a far better adaptation, see the 2005 version.", 'Having not read the book...but knowing of its "classic" status...i gave this video version a try. I have to say i found it a bit boring and tedious... so i gave up on it after about 45 minutes. I found the colloquial English accents difficult to understand at times..which is not unusual for an American, i suppose. I'm sure they are quite authentic...which speaks highly of the cast...but it can be hard to follow at times. Dickens has always been sort of a "hit-or-miss" author to me...i love some of his books...but don't care much for others. The over all plot just didn't do much for me...atleast in video form. I read that it was a complex book with lots of sub-plots...which intrigued me since i'm a big fan of Tolstoy. I'll try reading the book first and then re-visit this video and update my review...if i change my mind.', 'This is a must for Dickens fans. Great story about estate and probate litigation gone crazy.', 'I decided to purchase the Original Bleak House after watching the remake. This production moves at a slower pace than the remake and the camera work is done very modern in the remake than the Original. Which is understandable when you think that this production was made 20 years before the remake. Having said that, it is enjoyable to watch but I found the remake keeps you interested. Maybe because it moves alot quicker. Give it a go. I dont regret the purchase. But if you are deciding which of the two movies you should buy. I recommend the remake.', 'Anytime I get a chance to see Dame Diana Rigg in anything, I jump at the chance. This is a classic tale - a wonderful costume drama, and you get Diana Rigg. What more could you ask for?']

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[I REALLY love this workout! For some reason I just feel complete after doing this one! The workout seems very balanced. The cardio is easy, but if you use the blue section for all of the step cardio parts, you will get a more advanced workout. I never owned the actual "Transfirmer", but I DO own the purple/blue one and the old "wooden" 14 inch step from the Classics. ;) You can do this without the Transfirmer. I don't use incline anyways since doing lunges and dips, etc...on an incline actually hurts my knees MORE (not sure why). I also think you get a bit more of a harder workout if you do lunges and dips straight on the floor (because you are lifting higher). ;) I think out of ALL of the BSS workouts, this one comes close to the more "classic feel" of the FIRM. Her cuing is good, the music flows, and the reps are just enough to work you out without being too hard or too long. You can modify heavier weights a bit easier with this one as well. I do like the abs in this one too! A solid A! And I use this one ALL the time still!', "As a person who is new to the FIRM series, I have to say I really enjoy this workout! I am totally unaware of old FIRM workouts so I have nothing to base this

on but I think it's great. I won't go into total descriptions of the whole routine but coming from a person who is awkward and has difficulty getting down choreography on workout videos and aerobics, I can say that I picked up on this one quickly. Also, I love the transitions between aerobics and sculpting. Everytime I do this workout, I feel like I have definitely, well, worked out! My body has shown some big changes too and I attribute it to doing this and the others in the series. I like Allie too, I think she is cute, upbeat, and her bod isn't overly intimidating. She looks like a real person, who is fit, like I want to be! My sister, who is much more athletic and into working out saw how I have changed and bought the series and the Transformer too and loves it!", 'I don't understand the reviews on here that say this workout isn't challenging and complain about it not getting your heart rate up. First of all it's the Firm's style/technique to mix in cardio segments with lifting segments and that's generally disclosed in their DVD descriptions. Second this workout has three types of segments: some straight cardio, some just lifting/strengthening and some cardio w/lifting. If you aren't using the weights during the cardio w/lifting segments add some, trust me your heart rate will go up, if you are using weights than maybe they're too light. All I know is that when I'm repeatedly stepping up onto a 14" step, extending my free leg behind me and my arms out in front of me holding 5lb weights then yeah my heart is going good. There's also a cardio section that is mostly hopping, jumping and kicking it's not long, but it's long enough and gets me sweating. I was in great shape after working out with the Firm Cardio Sculpt and jogging for a year straight, some weeks I was even walking upwards of 20 miles plus and doing the Cardio Sculpt, after a year of that I moved onto this video and it kicked my butt. I also noticed that in about two weeks my legs were getting even shapelier (my husband noticed too). The only way I think that this workout would be considered easy is if you were used to doing something like the Insanity Workout or maybe Crossfit. In any regard I love this workout. Like I said after a year of doing Cardio Sculpt I needed to switch it up. This workout is fun, more challenging than Cardio Sculpt, but like CS let's you work your way up by adding or increasing weights. The bunny hop and aforementioned step up w/leg and arm extensions are my favorites. This gives you a decent arm workout which I appreciate, it's so hard to find cardio workouts that do both arms and legs (usually just legs). I also like the step around segment, the music is good, there's one part that's funny and you can even see Ali giggle a bit. I def. recommend this, Cardio Sculpt and Supercharged Sculpting.', 'I enjoy this dvd quite a bit. It is an excellent intermediate workout, which means advanced may have to really heavy up or modify in some other way. It is enjoyable and the time flies and the instructor looks great in a very "real woman" as opposed to "hollywood" way. In other words, her results are achievable. You will need the transformer however for best results and cardio on the transformer seems easier on my old knees. Good luck!!!', "This is one of the new video's from The Firm. It uses their new transformer which is a step with two peices. This video (and 2 others) comes with the Transformer if you purchase it. There is a 6 inch and an 8 inch step that can be used apart or combined into a 14 inch step or an incline step. Allie DelRio is the teacher on this video. She is very personable. Some of the old familiar Firm faces are also on this video but there are some new people as well. One person in the back right demonstrates the beginner moves although the camera is not always on her. You will also need (besides the Transformer) 3 sets of dumb-bells: heavy, medium and light. They recommend 3, 5 and 8 lbs to start. This video is typical of The Firm, in that it combines cardio with weight training intervals. In short, this video starts off with a warm up and some stretching and then moves into some squats with and without arm work. After some lone arm work, you will use the 14 inch step for some leg presses. Then you'll move into a short cardio step segment that utilizes the inclined step. Then you'll do some more leg toning with the 14 inch step. This switches with some arm work. Next comes another short cardio section that you'll march up and around the incline step and you'll tap on it and do some reverse straddles. Then comes a segment where you'll use the incline step to work on your legs (with some lunges) that also switches off to arm work using the incline bench. Another short cardio section follows with a lot of low jacks and box steps. Again, you'll use the incline box for arms and legs. Then you'll move to another short cardio section with a lot of bunny hops. Then some more arm work. At the end there is some buns/thighs work that uses the 14 inch step then some ab work and a stretch. Overall this video runs just short of one hour. The cardio segments are not as hard (nor as fun) as previous Firm videos. If you are not an experienced Firm

user there will be a slight learning curve for this video... don't get discouraged! These videos are fun and you'll see results if you stick with it (or any workout program)! I don't think the stretching is especially effective and because this video isn't as hard or as fun as previous Firm's I am giving it a 4/5. Also, there is a lot of switching of Transfirmer positions and dumb-bell sizes, and usually it is done faster than I can do it. This means I usually have to stop and rewind the DVD, which is frustrating. I think overall the video is enjoyable and a decent workout. As an added bonus there is an 8 minute lower body workout using the Transfirmer added to this DVD with lots of squats and lunges.", 'This is basically an "interval" workout, alternating strength-training segments with cardio segments to keep your heart rate up throughout the entire session. Intervals are a great way to burn maximum fat while building muscle (which not only looks great but helps increase your metabolism in the long run)! The strength-training segments are very well-rounded, hitting all the major muscle groups and sequenced perfectly between upper and lower body which a) keeps you from completely burning out on one muscle group before you're finished toning it from all angles and b) keeps the blood moving quickly back and forth between the upper to lower extremities to maximize your fat-burning potential. Some reviewers just don't seem to be fans of the instructor, but I like the fact that she seems to understand exercise science very well and communicates some of the "whys" (i.e. "Use your heaviest weights for this movement because you're utilizing a large muscle group") instead of the usual "Get ready for bikini season!" fluff in a lot of workout videos. I also want to give props to the Transfirmer step system itself, what a great way to work your body in new and interesting ways when you can't go to the gym! I'll be using this a LOT!', 'I am a long-time FIRMer and own many of their workout DVDs. Allie, who leads this one, has been a favorite of mine for years. With that said, while she looks AMAZING in this video, she lacks some of the enthusiasm she normally has. It's almost like she's "phoning it in." That's a little disappointing for me because she's usually more motivating. That's not to say she doesn't say motivating things in this one, but somehow it seems less genuine. Maybe she was having an off day. I won't hold it against her, though. Overall, this is a really good workout. I workout to FIRM videos 5 or 6 days a week and I feel this one 2 days later. Since I rotate videos and equipment, I guess this one hit muscles I hadn't hit in a while. (Note: I LOVE when I feel like I've worked out, so this is a definite plus.) The toning work is great in this one. The reason I didn't give it 5 stars is because I really didn't like the cardio portions. They were boring and not as good as FIRM cardio usually is. The cardio parts didn't really bring my heart rate up either. Overall, I like this one and I will keep it in my rotation. I just might also throw in a different, quick cardio workout in too.', "I bought this with Ultimate Calorie Blaster & the TransFirmer. I am very fond of this work out and use it often. It is intense. However Allie, often does not transition smoothly. I noticed the same in her Maximum Cardio Burn + Abs. Don't get me wrong I like and use both, but find my arms and/or feet coming down in one place and then having to be in the next in a heartbeat, making it a bit awkward. In addition I find myself feeling that I'm throwing my body around somewhat, rather than controlled movement, but that may be just me. OK and one big gripe...I'm really satrtting to hatie this march around the box move, Allie your a good instructor, come up with something else, or try not to make this so prominent and drawn out. However as far as it is overall, I enjoy this work-out. I feel very good when it's completed, again feeling like my body worked from my shouders to my feet-I just make myself get through the around the box thing. I use this and Ultimate Calorie Blaster quite often in tandem with each other. And could tell my strength and tone was improving within the first few times of use. After getting over the soreness, which was welcoming in that it told me this was really working. I'd certainly recommend it.", "As an advanced Firmer, I have to say that I was slightly disappointed with this tape, along with one other tape in the new Transfirmer series. For those unfamiliar, the Transfirmer series is comprised of the new Transfirmer box and the DVD's or videos that come along with it. I found that I didn't begin to sweat as quickly as with the other workouts in my extensive Firm collection. I felt I was doing the same moves for the majority of the video, and The Firm is famous for their superior choreography and ability to incorporate fun steps in with the workouts. I don't feel that Allie put a lot of thought into this tape, or perhaps she was aiming towards new Firmers just starting out. If that is the case, I don't feel that's a good reason to deplete all of the nice moves and steps utilized in previous workouts. Beginners can work up to and advance, but for those that are advanced (which most beginners

should hope to become) it could be very boring. My other Firm workouts fly by, but this one won't be one that I do so often. That said, it is a good video that will definitely burn calories. Maybe I just don't care for Allie as an instructor. I prefer Stephanie Huckabee as an aerobics leader.", "The video requires you to be coordinated and somewhat of a dancer. The moves are hard to pick up unless you are a natural dancer or cheerleader. You will need their specific step to do the workout or you won't be able to do half of it. I recommend Jari Love DVDs if you want a step workout that will burn a lot of calories. Her DVDs don't require you to be a dancer.", "This is one of my favorite Firm workouts. I use only the Firm for strength training and tend to keep the workouts that combine enough cardio & total-body sculpting. The reason I keep coming back to this one is because it's so much fun. There are some new cardio moves which are real boredom-busters for me as well as solid weight lifting. This is one workout I actually look forward to doing. One word about the equipment-My Firm rotation spans Classic Vol.1 through the Fitprimes/KickButts to the Transfirmer series. I've kept my Transfirmer and gotten rid of all the other Fanny Lifters. If you have this, it's all you need. Simply turn it vertically for the older tapes. I actually like having the larger surface for leg presses-it feels more stable. I've never had the sculpting stick-to me 8 lbs. never seemed worth the bother. With those workouts I hold 5 lb. dumbbells in each hand & simulate the moves. Works for me. I have a 4 lb. bar for an adjustable dumbbell set that I hold for the ab work using the sculpting stick, or again use hand weights. I know some people are put off by the amount of equipment used, but you really can get by without purchasing everything. Happy Firming!", "To sum it up, "Aerobic Body Shaping" is not as good as the older firm videos (Such as the Cross-trainer series and Total body shaping mix)The cardio segments are too slow, repetitive, boring, and stiff. I couldn't get my heart rate up. The lifting segments were OK, except for some of the lunges that were awkwardly executed on the incline step. The movements were so odd that I couldn't concentrate on any particular area of the lower body. At last, the abdominal segment was terrible. The instructor suggests that you straighten and extend your legs out to do the crunches. You end up just working your hip flexors and compressing your lower spine. I suggest you bend your knees to 90 degrees and push your belly button towards the floor, then proceed with the crunches.', "I love this workout! The first time I did it, I had the sorest muscles the next two days. Especially my back muscles. After awhile, I came to really enjoy this workout. It's one of my favorites now. Works every part!", "This workout is part of the Firm's new Transfirmer series. The Transfirmer is a 2 part contraption similar to the Fanny Lifter but longer in length and a lot more versatile. The 6 and 8 inch platforms can be used individually, stacked together for a 14 inch platform for the Firm's famous leg presses and tall box climbs, incline position for added intensity for step routines and strength work, or in a side by side position which resembles a staircase. It is a great piece of equipment very sturdy and stable, definitely an improvement over the Firm Box. This workout calls for the Transfirmer but if you don't have one you can use a normal step and a stool. You will also need 3 sets of dumbbells, light, medium and heavy. On to the workout, Allie Del Rio leads you through 55 minutes of strength training and aerobics. She is joined by 4 fellow Firm Master instructors including Alison who shows beginner modifications. You begin with a simple warmup, using the 6 inch portion of the Transfirmer, though you begin on the floor for a few minutes before moving to the TF. The first strength segment starts with heavy 4 limb work using medium weights, hover squats then adding hammer curls into overhead presses, like a clean and press in hammer position. Then you will grab some heavy weights and do more squats and overhead presses, this time with palms facing outward. Then you will move into leg presses on the right leg, reverse hammer curls for biceps, and finish out with leg presses on the left leg. Time for the first cardio segment, a fun step routine performed on the incline which includes press steps with an option to add triple steps, turn steps, knee lifts, L-steps, and knee and hamstring repeaters. Later in the segment the repeaters are performed on the 8 inch portion to add a little extra intensity but you could always just do them on the 6 inch part if you want to. Back to strength work, more leg presses, this time you will start by doing them off the back then you will step down off to the side targeting the inner thighs a little more. Then you will move into one arm lat rows on the right arm, then you will do some tall box climbs while using light weights (3 lbs). Starting with the right foot you will step up and tap with the other foot, later adding glute lifts and then frontal shoulder raises. Of course you have the option to skip the weights here if you are not

ready for them. Next are pushups done on the step, I prefer to just do them on the floor myself. Then it's back to tall box climbs on the left leg, then one arm lat rows with the left arm, then you will finish out this segment with leg presses on the left leg. More incline step aerobics, this segment is actually performed more on the floor than on the step though. You will straddle around the step, sort of like a V-step, then you will add taps on the step then reverse straddles on the step which is the only part that you are actually on the step. I liked this segment a lot. For the next strength segment you will leave the TF in it's incline position. Starting with side lunges on the left leg, then you will face the TF and do double arm lat rows, then you will do forward lunges onto the incline, which to me is much safer than doing forward lunges on the floor. Next you will lie down on the incline and do some upper body work, pec flies then ribcage pullovers. Then you will stand back up and do a set up dips (reverse lunges), the TF is not used for this at all. Time for low impact aerobics, Allie shows you the "Box Step" which is a little tricky and might take a few tries to get it down, I am still trying to master it myself. You will also do some low jacks, repeaters (later adding hi-med-lo), with the option to do a small hop or a calf raise to keep it low impact. This segment was a lot of fun, despite the fact that I stumble a bit while attempting those box steps. Time for more strength work on the incline, you will repeat the side lunges on the opposite leg, then you will do french presses for the triceps, face the incline for more forward lunges, then you will lie down on the incline again for more chest work. This time you will do bench presses later adding rotation to target the triceps some more. Then you will do lying tricep extensions, Allie just uses one dumbbell here, holding it at it's ends. I personally use 2 dumbbells as it is more comfortable for me. Then you will stand back up and do reverse lunges (dips) which completes the standing lower body work. One more aerobic segment which is low impact. This segment includes bunny hops with turns, then marching up and back with power options later added, step kick/tap rears, then some mambo cha chas with triple steps. Another fun cardio segment. Final strength segment, here you will do bicep curls, tricep dips and rear deltoid raises. Then you will move on the floor and do some lower body work unweighted. You will prop your heels up on the TF and do some bridge work with inner thigh squeezes and some hip rocks from side to side. Then you will scoot away from the TF and do some ab work. Starting with traditional crunches, oblique twist with added knee crunches, alternating oblique twists, traditional crunches with legs extended straight out while adding knee crunches. After this you will do a brief set of planks then it's time to cooldown and stretch. This is my favorite in the BSS4 series, you target all the muscle groups and you get some cardio too. The workout is fun and it seems to fly by. Allie does a nice job leading here as always. I would consider myself to be high intermediate to low advanced, and felt this workout was intermediate level but suitable for all fitness levels. In addition there is a short bonus 10 minute lower body section which is led by Allie by herself. It is floor work done while lying on the Transfirmer, I personally just do it on the floor. Here you will see more bridge work, table work and outer/inner thigh work. It is a nice little add on or it can be done on it's own. I would recommend this one to anyone who enjoys the Firm workouts, it's become one of my all time favorite Firms.', "This is a quick, mostly strength workout. Not a lot of cardio - my heartrate is around 40-50% of maximum during most of the workout. Plus, it's pretty short. The routines are pretty basic, and get boring quickly. I find most of The Firm routines pale in comparison to CIA workout videos."]

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[Based on a true story. Well written and well played. I like the air of mystery about it. has a lot of truisms in it and I like the life lived the way it is presented', 'The spiral staircase at the Loretto Chapel in Santa Fe, New Mexico, is legendary. The nuns of Loretto needed a staircase to protect their modesty-- for a time, all seemed hopeless. Then a stranger came, made the staircase, and mysteriously vanished. According to tradition, the man was St. Joseph himself. It turns out he was a reclusive French architect. "The Staircase" aims to demystify the legend, with less than mystifying results. In "The Staircase", the made-for-TV movie starring Barbara Hershey as the mother superior, and William Petersen (before his CSI glory days) as the enigmatic carpenter, the story

becomes turgid melodrama. The mother superior is arrogant, hates the Native Americans, and curses. She's self-righteous--until the mysterious man comes into her life. He gets preachy with her about being loving & compassionate.; To make matters worse, he gets falsely arrested for murder (how CSI! Too bad the team wasn't on the case) The mother superior realizes she's dying from cancer; she better get right with God before the hereafter. In the end, the staircase is completed and she makes an agonizing (for her and the viewer) ascent up the staircase. Melodrama at its best. It's Black Narcissus set in New Mexico! "The Staircase" isn't very inspiring. The characters are unsympathetic and one-dimensional. In "demystifying" the legend, it's the usual made-for-TV fare. "The Staircase" is turgid. If you're holding out for a hero, look elsewhere.', 'This movie is excellent. I saw it years ago and was moved by it. My travels took me to Santa Fe, so I visited there. Had to wait for a wedding to finish before we could go in. Being a passionate amateur photographer, I took about 300 pictures which are in my archives. (they are precious to me). This movie is well worth the money and will help you to grow spiritually.', 'While the actors did a fine job, there is simply not enough to this story to keep the movie interesting. The staircase [the actual staircase (or lack thereof)] in the movie is given an inordinate amount of attention and imbued with a sense of importance that is just not believable. They even go so far as to shine a heavenly light on the floor where the staircase is destined to be while playing divine choir voices in the background. For me, that is where the movie completely jumped the shark. I had to stop watching. If you are buying this only because William Peterson is a great actor, think again. While Peterson is awesome, he cannot carry this movie. On the other hand, if you would like to see a wholesome story about an Irish-American nun who is very determined to get a staircase built in her chapel, you might like it.', "I love this movie, I remember watching it on television way back then and couldn't believe it when it came out on DVD. It was very fascinating how they made the staircase work. It keeps your faith alive waiting to see if they finish the staircase. Even though it's in the old west it's still a good family movie.", 'for Catholics, particularly. Others, of course. A real great story to think about. It is supposed to have really happened. Would love to see the church.', 'I purchased this DVD hoping for a script of miraculous historical significance, but it turned to be somewhat of a love story and political/personal/monetary feud, the ending has a very short meaningful significance regarding the staircase..overall it is still a good movie to watch during the Holy week.', 'This movie would be good for everyone to see. It was about a spiral staircase which was built by a stranger. There were no nails used and the type of wood was a pine that only grows in about 10 locations on the Northern continent. The construction of the staircase was that of a helix design. This means the steps revolved around and around a single core (helix) which also was springy vertical depending on how much weight was on the staircase. The staircase was completed many years ago in Santa Fe, New Mexico and still stands today, and maybe visited. A real good movie.', 'This movie will inspire! Based on a true story and done in a big budget way. Well worth a purchase to add this to your movie collection. I was glad when Amazon got this one in and I purchased immediately. As always, I was pleased with the prompt delivery.', 'The other reviews outline the plot, so I won't retell it. I'll just tell you what I like about it. What is interesting to me, is that the staircase is really there and it really was built by a mysterious stranger with technology and techniques that were rarely practiced at the time. I don't know if it was a miracle, or just a kind man that wanted to help those in need. Either way, it is an inspiring story. On the question whether or not it was a miracle, there is something that took place historically that doesn't appear in the movie. The nuns had been praying to St. Joseph the carpenter for nine days. On the ninth day, the stranger showed up and subsequently started working on the mysterious staircase. This "coincidence" has caused many people to believe that the mysterious stranger was St. Joseph himself. The movie is very inspiring because, whether you believe there is a divine or saintly intervention or not, it is refreshing to see people help each other. If there is one thing that I love to see, it is the charity and care that some people gladly give to their fellow human beings. In other words, whether divine or humanistic, it is a tale of kindness. It is nice to see something like this on your television screen and a great family movie.', "I watched this one years ago and became interested in the staircase story. I was lucky enough to buy a copy through Amazon, and it's just as interesting now as it was years ago - the ending is a little corny, but I have personally enjoyed watching it again.", "This was an excellent movie that can be enjoyed by the

entire family. A good movie for anyone's collection of DVDs", 'I'm not Catholic, but I think anyone who enjoys movies of faith will like this one. The story is about a group of nuns who have traveled from Kentucky to Santa Fe, New Mexico Territory, circa 1876. They are led by a general-like Mother Superior, Mother Madelaine (Barbara Hershey). Through hard work, she and her group are able to build a convent. All it lacked was a chapel. Using her forceful personality, she is able to get a local contractor, Mr. Philger (David Clennon) to accomplish the goal. In the process of building the chapel a mistake is made wherein the stairs to the choir loft are forgotten. Madelaine cannot get money to fix the problem so she prays for answer to her problem. In the process of the story, a man rides out of the desert on a mule. He claims to be a carpenter and offers to build the stairs. The man Joad (William Petersen) and Madelaine develop a deep affection for one another as they both put their hearts into building the staircase. At the end Joad disappears into the desert in the same abrupt way he arrived. Although this story has been embellished by writers it is based on the true story of the "Sisters of Our Lady of the Light" in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Madelaine is supported by what could only be described as her conscience, Sister Margaret played by Diane Ladd. Petersen played his role of Joad with sensitivity and humility as one would expect from a man of faith assisting the nuns. Diane Ladd was given a small part in this movie, but being the professional she is, she took it and made it her own. I loved her portrayal of Margaret. I was definitely surprised by Barbara Hershey's performance of Mother Madelaine. I was disappointed, her performance was flat, with little genuine emotion. She played the character as a one-sided person and even my untrained eye could tell there were more layers to the character than what she brought across. All in all, I really like this movie and do recommend it.', 'Based on a true story, THE STAIRCASE is one of those uplifting Christian movies heavy on morals and faith, and thanks to an intelligent script and very good performances, it works. Barbara Hershey gives a smooth and touching performance as Mother Madeleine, a dying nun who wants to see the completion of a chapel in the Santa Fe territory before she dies. This seems impossible when the architect "forgets" to put in a staircase to the choir loft. Without the funds necessary to complete the staircase, that dream seems unlikely...until a mysterious stranger named Mr. Joad shows up out of nowhere and offers to build a spiral staircase with no charge. CSI's William Petersen gives a strong understated performance as Joad, whose mission becomes both a blessing and a curse as the original contractors (David Clennon and Justin Louis) don't want Joad to do the staircase. It may all play out with predictable results but it's sincerity is so genuine, it's a fine little film.', "This is an awesome movie. It was beautifully directed and the actors were very stunning in their performances. It was believable which is a good thing since the Staircase is a true recollection. I was immediately drawn to it when I was flipping stations one day. I was instantly involved in the storyline though I hadn't seen the beginning on that particular day. Ever since then I have desired to see the movie in its entirety and now I can proudly say I own it and it is just as inspirational each time I watch it as it was on that first time. It causes me to desire to head West and see that wondrous Staircase!", "I remember when CBS first aired this back in 1998. I fell in love with it instantly. Hershey and Peterson are superb in their lead roles as Mother Madalyn and 'Joad'. Originally titled 'The Spiral Staircase', this is the true story of the legendary spiral staircase built for the Loreda Chapel in Santa Fe NM, by a mysterious drifter. After original contractors 'accidentally overlooked' the actual staircase while remodeling the old chapel and its choir loft, "Joad" arrives on-scene as the answer to their prayer, and coincidentally armed with fine carpentry skills, builds the sisters their wooden spiral staircase entirely without the use of nails. Diane Ladd also costars as Sister Margaret, Mother Madalyn's right-hand.", "A marvelous and inspirational story. I waited a long time for this to come out on DVD and I'm so happy to own it now!", "This is a lovely piece with an excellent turn from William Petersen as the mysterious Joad. Barbara Hershey is also wonderful as Mother Madalyn, a dying nun intent upon completing the missing staircase for her new church in Santa Fe, circa 1870's. The two of them share a great chemistry (they acted together in Return to Lonesome Dove in 1993) that leaps off the screen. This is a true story of a mysterious carpenter that showed up out of nowhere to create this spiral staircase without the use of nails then disappeared once it was done. The staircase still stands today. This was a TV movie made in 1998. I wholeheartedly recommend it.", 'The story of the Staircase to the choir loft was well known to me before I saw the movie and this played everything out very well. Barbara

Hershey and Diane Ladd are wonderful as the leaders of the community that builds the chapel. The only problem with the beautiful stone chapel is the choir loft was completed without stairs. Out of nowhere a man comes and builds a beautiful staircase without any nails or supporting columns. William Petersen plays this part beautifully, as if he has been sent from God to answer the sisters' prayers. He portrays a warm, loving and almost spiritual character. I highly recommend this movie and it should be shared with children to teach them to believe in themselves and others.', "This 95-minute film on a bare-bones DVD aired on CBS in 1998. It's an uplifting feel-good movie that recalls the style of Hallmark and Lifetime made-for-TV films, but 'The Staircase' has an unexpected spiritual depth that puts it a cut above those other productions. Barbara Hershey plays an ailing Catholic mother superior whose only wish is to see the Sisters of Loretto chapel in Santa Fe completed before she dies. Diane Ladd is a sympathetic nun and William Peterson of TV's 'CSI' is the mysterious carpenter who volunteers to build a spiral staircase after the original builders forget to provide access to the chapel's choir loft. Based on the real-life Loretto chapel, now a museum attached to a hotel in Santa Fe, this film excels at suggesting the miraculous in everyday human qualities rather than hitting the viewer over the head with special effects or heavy-handed allegory. The relationship between Hershey and Peterson, despite Hershey's inconsistent Irish accent and Peterson's sometimes too-relaxed performance, grows unexpectedly poignant as the film progresses. The human relations in this film are so perfectly observed that even a potentially melodramatic subplot gets resolved in a satisfying way before it derails the film. These are signs of unusual quality in the production. While the movie starts out on a nondescript footing, giving hints of Western clichés that recall old 'nuns in the Wild West' films, it gradually accumulates power after Peterson finds his way into the story. Honestly, I didn't expect to be moved so deeply by this film, as the story in itself didn't suggest much in the way of originality. But you really have to see this film to believe it: It's one of the most mature, spiritually rich, and humanized portrayals of religion on film that you will ever see. It's also one of the few films where you're not entirely certain just how it will end, other than expecting the staircase to be completed. The plot is simple, but the depth of relationships are deep. I highly recommend it."]

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[To sum up this movie in one word, would be "awesome" The gore is awesome, but the acting could be better, but I'm sure none of us could do any better. If you're a fan of splatter movies, pick this one up. You need to have it in your collection.', 'I'm not too crazy about these types of movies, but I did enjoy Hostel for what it was...like a comic book. But this film, is surely different. It mixes film and video..giving it a unequal look, it gives you gore +violence ..in a kind of sadistic way. These days, almost everything goes....and the filmmakers know it. Good for a viewing or two.', 'Want to see a movie with the worst acting ever, shoddy production values, horrible writing, and terrible direction? If so, 'Live Feed' is the movie for you. This movie is a joke. The cast and crew should be ashamed of themselves. I really don't think I've ever seen such an amateur piece of work in my life. This shot-on-video turd is a mess: the characters(if you can call them "characters" as there is not one iota of characterization in the entire film)are annoying, the plot is pathetic, the writing is sad(one character twists her ankle somehow while taking a dump on the toilet)...ugh, there's just nothing good to say about this crapfest. The director is a joke. He really thinks that this film is a great piece of work. If you shoot over to IMDB, he verbally attacks anyone who has anything negative to say about this "film", yet he repeatedly states he "has no time for haters". He just a completely classless piece of trash. I guess it's fitting though because 'Live Feed' is a classless piece of trash too. Skip this junker like the plague.', "Why this film got bad reviews I don't know I guess they don't like Horror films like Hostel. This film is brutal, gory, crazy, and heinous which is what makes it so good. It also has a really good story. Highly recommended to gorehounds or if you are open minded and want to see a great thrilling film.", "Live Feed is one REALLY NASTY movie. You know what you're getting into when you see the cover and as far as torturous horror goes this movie definitely delivers the goods (or the 'bads' depending on your point of view). Intended solely for the 'Saw' and 'Hostel'

crowd it is VERY brutal! Pornographic Images of bound & gagged women cover the walls of the sleazy hotel in a menacing foreshadowing of what awaits the 'heroines'. The suspense leading up to the kills could have been dragged out longer to better effect but they seemed like they were in a hurry to get to the VERY nasty parts! The kills are quite bloody and some are actually creative (especially the one involving a poisonous snake and a glass tube) but there are no single standout moments that will likely linger in one's memory. Still, it is so well shot, edited and performed that it's hard to fault it for the subject matter alone. The butcher is a dreadful character who is as cold as they come and there are several other unsavory creeps slinking around the place that were very effective in their roles as well. The victims are the usual batch of idiots waiting to fall prey to the evil. A couple of them are obnoxious but not as bad as some horror movie victims. The only weak link in the movie's 'chain' is the dialog. At times characters say the stupidest things that nobody would say in their situations! Sometimes it is clearly intended as camp but other times it seems like wannabe 'cool' lines falling flat. This provides the window of opportunity which many haters' reviews are exploiting. However, if you've watched as many horror movies as I have you get used to bad dialog and don't allow it to taint your view of a movie in its entirety. The movie makers were obviously having fun with such grim subject matter without ruining the serious tone overall. Live Feed is mean, nasty and has a misogynistic streak for sure but if you're looking for a solid 'Hostel' fix you can do much worse than 'Live Feed'.", 'Brutal scenes, good gore. Not for the faint of heart. Dont bring to Christmas dinner.', 'I do not advise anyone to buy or watch this movie, it is a total waste of time and money, a 100% low class commercial movie with nothing interesting whatsoever, do not even think of buying it !!', "I PURCHASED THIS DVD AND I WAS SHOCKED TO SEE THE TERRIBLE VIOLENCE AND GORE. ESPECIALLY ON INNOCENT ANIMALS. I WOULDN'T RECOMMEND THIS DVD TO THE FAINT OF HEART. ESPECIALLY TO PERSONS UNDER 18. THIS WAS CERTAINLY A BAD CHOICE OF PURCHASE ON MY PART.", "I was fooled by the high star rating and reviews here on Amazon, and I thought this was going to be a throwback to old 70's and 80' explotaion classics, but it just ended up being a low budget version of Saw with bad effects and porn-grade acting.They just don't make tham like they used to. Maybe it's the digital cameras, maybe it's the fact that it's all been done before, or maybe directors just suck right now, I don't know and I can't put my finger on it, but I do know American Horror is in dire trouble.If you wan't to see some real Horror made in this decade I'd recommend watching foriegn films. The Asians (especially Japanese) are putting out some amazing stuff nowadays with thought out meanings and messages with extreme elements, and Criterion is also putting out some great stuff.I bought this movie for 5\$ used, I was pretty dissapointed and I'm not sure if I will hang onto it, but it does have some decent soft-core porn stuff so maybe I'll keep it around for when I get lonely.", 'Where to start.....softcore porn, lots of nudity and sex, lots of blood and gore and a good story to boot! This movie has the elements and ideas Hostel should have had!Some college kids get trapped in a porn house of horrors. The killings are broadcast thru a "Live Feed" to the theater and all the tv's in the rooms of this porn palace.I actually enjoyed this movie because it was crazy as hell. I thought Hostel was hyped up too much for blood and gore and violence but I thought it was pretty tame (I did love it though). This movie had some great ideas and crazy scenes (the one where the girl was being forced by gun point to eat a guys 3 piece unit if ya know what I mean), and the cannibal scene was good too.This is a low budget flick and that's the only thing that hurts it. But like I said, the ideas they were going for were pretty twisted and well worth a look. If you gave this movie a big budget, I think it would have become a cult classic. Take Hostel and Live Feed and put em in a blender and that would be a masterpiece.On the Unrated version of this flick, there is a short film that actually plays in the porn house in Live Feed. It's a silly little soft porn flick called "Womb Service". It's a film within the film, and it's corny and stuff but 1 of the chicks ain't too bad lookin!The reason for 4 stars is because of the low budget blood and gore but it still works well though. The acting ain't all that great either but this is still a great flick. I would definitely rent or even buy this one because it will get your attention in the first couple seconds (stripper girl that shows all, shaven and everything)!!!! And with low budget blood (TONS) and one weird Chinaman with f'd up teeth!!!', 'I went into this with relatively low expectations, but not low enough i guess. i was hoping for something in the vein of Hostel. thats basically what you get, but the bugdet is so low and the plot is

so sparse most people (even if your only goal in this is seeing interesting deaths) will feel like time spent watching it was a total waste. a couple kills are pretty interesting (as if shoving a tube down her throat wasn't bad enough, they had to put that snake down it) but so poorly executed they won't phase 99% of horror fans. the camera angle keeps the most gruesome things blocked out of eyesight, this is a movie marketing itself as a Hostel knock off, i mean i wanted some kind of effects. what you do see is obviously fake. the "organization" is never explained very well. they're some type of chinese mafia and they kill and eat people. why? i guess just because it's fun and they taste good. how do they cover up all the disappearances? doesn't matter. how do you explain how all these people came together and just all happened to be cannibals? doesn't matter. pretty much no plot here. this movie had some potential. could've been a really grisly, disturbing look into a psychopathic group of cannibals, but bad acting (villains are so over the top at times this feels like a cartoon), absolutely everything being poorly explained, and zero budget make it almost total waste. honestly silly at times, this movie can't be taken seriously. 2/5', 'Live Feed (Ryan Nicholson, 2006) Another entry into what is becoming known, as much as I hate the term, as the torture porn genre. If it weren't for the release dates of the two movies, I'd call it an unimaginative Turistas knockoff, but it actually looks as if Turistas was an inspired take on Live Feed. Either way, the two movies cover a lot of the same ground, and no matter what aspect you look at, Turistas comes out looking a whole lot better. You know the drill: five friends on a vacation get into serious trouble by being in the wrong place at the wrong time. There's Mike (Lee Tichon, from the upcoming Rock flick The Tooth Fairy), the boneheaded jock type, and his girlfriend Sarah (Ashley Schappert), who used to be the girlfriend of the somewhat more studious, if equally clueless, Darren (Rob Scattergood), who is now engaged to Emily (Romeo Must Die's Taayla Markell). Also along for the trip is Sarah's best friend Linda (Caroline Chojnacki). One night, the five of them stop in a karaoke bar for a few drunken games of pool, and Mike spills his drink on a triad boss (Stephen Chang, whom you've seen in a number of small roles over the years), and are only saved from imminent destruction by the intercession of a friendly chap named Miles (The Butterfly Effect's Kevan Ohtsji). Unfortunately, the five of them are booked into a hotel owned by the triad... This is absolute by-the-numbers torture porn. The entire movie runs an hour and a half, give or take. The first forty-five minutes of the movie is setup; we meet the young-and-beautifuls, meet the triad boss, meet Miles, see some "oh, my, aren't those Asians savage beasts?" footage. And then there's the second half of the movie, where the boorish Americans get what's coming to them, except for the inevitable survivors, and the savage Asians also get what's coming to them, and everyone dies bloodily ever after. The one place where Live Feed does attempt to stray from the path is the interjection of morality-play into the format (as is obvious by the "boorish Americans" and "savage Asians" stuff above), but then the appeal, if you can call it that, of torture porn flicks is that they are presented outside a moral sphere; this is not to say that one couldn't make a morality play out of a torture porn flick, but here it's handled with such ham-handedness and lack of subtlety that they might as well have dispensed with all the fun ways of killing people and simply hit them over and over again with mallets; after all, that's exactly what they're doing to the audience. * ']

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["really the title of my review says it all. This film depicts the delicate balance of environmental issues with a gentle hand that was lacking in the Jurassic Park series. Whereas those films settled on simply showing dinosaurs as mindless killing machines bent on destruction of the human race, Raptor Island reminds us that humans can also be mindless killing machines bent on destruction of not only their own race, but their whole world. This movie, no this FILM, goes to great lengths to really illustrate the battle between man and his environment and does so in a way that is more compelling than anything presented in Inconvenient Truth. In addition to touching on subjects of man vs. nature, the film is so bold as to also explore the battle of man vs himself. Indeed, this film goes so far as to take an in depth look at terrorism in the post 9/11 age. It does so in a way that is not sensationalist or jingoistic, but one that is brutally honest. Why Lorenzo Lamas hasn't won an

Oscar Lifetime achievement award for this movie is beyond me. Every scene he is in is riveting beyond belief. Chuck Norris does not hold a candle to Lorenzo Lamas. The special effects are top notch. I don't understand how this has been overlooked for the past 6 years, while Avatar has garnered all sorts of critical praise. Obviously the critics are in James Cameron's pockets. Plus, you will learn that the South Pacific Islands look strikingly similar to New Hampshire. I had absolutely no idea and I appreciate the learning experience.", "The movie itself is bad. However, I still enjoy it. The action is non-stop and the raptors constantly make an appearance. The effects are bad by Hollywood standards, but not TOO bad for a SyFy original. Those expecting the worst effects and worst SyFy movie ever, as it's been categorized, will be pleasantly surprised by it's adequacy. All things considered, overlooking the digital gunshots is the toughest challenge, while the raptors are OK. Unfortunately, when it comes to the DVD, it looks terrible. The interlaced image is THE WORST, blurriest, transfer I have ever seen from Anchor Bay. Close-ups look fine, but everything else is a complete mess. Any scenes with action are a total blur. Lionsgate DVDs sourced from tape masters look better than this transfer much of the time. This is especially disappointing because Anchor Bay's transfers are usually pretty stellar for genre films, and I doubt this title will ever be remastered. I suggest downloading or streaming the movie for free, as Anchor Bay doesn't deserve any money for such a lackluster transfer.", 'This was not meant to be a great movie. If you are a fourteen year old looking for a new dinosaur vs people movie, this will probably still disappoint. I love monster movies. I love dinosaurs! I love dopey drive-in fodder. Allowing for all that, this was still not a good movie. I have seen better SPFX on video games. I have read better dialog in comic books. Sadly, it was too bloody for younger viewers and too stupid for older ones. When it comes to monster movies, I really am a cheap date, shamelessly easy to entertain. This was just a sad waste of effort. No excuse for that one. They could have done everything better. JPF', 'While this movie is trying to tell a story, it doesn't really matter. What happens is that some people end up on an island full of man-eating cave-dwelling Dromaeosaur "Raptor" dinosaurs. There is also apparently a Tyrannosaur or something living there as well, but never mind that. "T-rex Island" doesn't have the same ring to it. What I want to know is what all these massive animals are eating when they aren't eating bad actors, but oh well. Starring my hero Lorenzo "Renegade-Was-14-Freaking-Years-Ago" Lamas, this by the numbers Jurassic Park ripoff really pushes the envelope for just how godawful "SyFy" Channel original movies can get. Yeah, I know what you're thinking. "But Jon, how can a movie about troglodyte Velociraptors chasing toy gun toting soldiers be bad?" Well, let's just say that considering that this was a battle I acted out daily with my toys as a small child, seeing it on screen made me glad to be an adult for once. The idea alone is just stupid. There's no real reason for any of it to be happening, the writers just threw all these elements together because: hey, dinosaurs! Being as it is a TV movie, the effects, props and acting are about as bad as you'd expect (which is to say, very). But the biggest problem is that the movie is just plain boring. I fell asleep watching this at least twice, and that's saying something as I love low-budget movies almost as much as I love dinosaurs! The bottom line is that Raptor Island is an entirely forgettable experience.', "Raptor Island: 1 out of 10: The Sci-fi channel has produced some stinkers (Boa vs. Python, Boa vs. Cobra, and Feather Boa vs. Mink) but Raptor Island easily eclipses all of them. There simply are not movies this bad outside of a Lionsgate home movie film festival. Where can one begin? The special effects have to be seen to be believed. The entire film is in CGI (except for Lorenzo Lamas who is decidedly not animated) and it couldn't be more poorly done. Remember those old prehistoric planet movies from the sixties where they would superimpose some iguana stock footage attacking some middle aged vaudeville guys dressed as caveman? Raptor Island lowers that bar considerably. The raptors seem to have been ported from an old Saturn CD-Rom game. They have five distinct frames of animation each and blink in and out of the picture. Gunshots are represented by graphics that would make House of the Dead weep and the raptors when shot ignore the bullets then fall down. The raptors are perhaps the stupidest creatures ever shown on film ignoring actors and each other as they gaze off into the distance with bloody mouths that look like a five year old got into mommy's make-up box. Add other equally bad CGI rendered sand, ships and planes and one really wishes the MST3000 crew would come back for an encore anniversary show. With very badly rendered monsters and a throwaway script one could at least hope for

something gratuitous to liven things up. (You know a decapitation scene or skinny dipping scene or a combination of the two.) Raptor Island provides nothing of the sort. This is family friendly entertainment. But only if you really really hate your family.", 'I thought this movie was entertaining, sure, there was a lot of places that needed improvement, but not all movies can be big budget with top notch people and equipment. Acting suffered some, but I still enjoyed it.', 'Fans of Jurassic Park and action movies know that there are certain tropes guaranteed to show up in any schlocky monster movie. All of these rules were set down by Predator, which set the tone for movies that involve hostile surroundings, alien monsters, and villainous guerrillas. There's the well-armed military team with a secret mission, the rogue bad guy who gets away, the hot chick who knows how to fight but can't be trusted, the guy who panics, the martyr who stays behind to sacrifice himself to save the rest, "monster vision" and the monster's key weakness. When done right, we get movies like Pitch Black and Dog Soldiers. When done wrong we get...Raptor Island. Raptor Island checks off all the boxes: the Navy SEALs are on a top secret mission to capture a gun runner who escapes, they also rescue a pretty spy who was formerly the bad guy's hostage, one of the SEALs panics and runs headlong into a raptor nest, one of the SEALs who gets his arm mauled decides to stay behind so the others can flee, we frequently see the foliage through the raptor's eyes (black-and-white, apparently), and their key weakness is they hunt only by sense of smell. We know this because the two leads dunk themselves in stinky mud off camera, which saves the actors from having to apply it themselves. And yes, this is exactly the same tactic Arnie used in Predator. How have the raptors survived this long? What do they eat? Who are you, Dr. Alan Grant? Who cares, it's time to light up some raptors with heavy weapons! HOORAH! The animation isn't actually all that bad. The raptors move well enough and through clever use of camera angles blend in with the environment most of the time. The problem is when the SEALs begin firing on the raptors. The raptors never actually react to getting hit for most of the film. Instead, they just do what they do -- staring, squawking, at one point continuing to graze on a dead body - while little red starbursts that are supposed to represent bullet hits appear all over their body. It's got all the believability of a 1980s video game. Perhaps it's because these are mutant raptors. Perhaps it's because the costs involved in creating detailed splash physics were beyond the capabilities of the CG design team. They were certainly busy modeling everything else: sinking ships, helicopters, a volcanic explosion, and a Carnotaurus. Raptor Island assumes you've seen Jurassic Park, which sets down all the rules for "raptors." Never mind that the appearance of Jurassic Park's raptors has since been discredited - raptors looked more like angry turkeys than the man-sized monsters in the series. Why exactly is there an island full of raptors? Well, ya see, this spy plane crashed with dinosaur eggs in some wooden box. It was also carrying radioactive material that leaked into the ground 40 years ago. The eggs were incubated in the island's volcano, which sped up the evolution process and bred dozens of raptors. And a Carnotaurus. Makes perfect sense, right? No. No it does not. For some reason the writers keep rubbing our noses in the insanity of it all. The pretty lead brings up radioactivity several times, until finally Lorenzo Lamas finally declares, "Nothing on this island makes sense!" And that's the smartest thing about this movie.', 'Sci Fi really outdid themselves with "Raptor Island," perhaps the most formulaic dinosaur of the week movie I have ever seen. The plot is full of holes and continuity errors are abundant in this farfetched and boneheaded "trapped on an island with a ferocious predator" genre staple. The plot centers on tough naval commando Hackett (Lorenzo Lamas) attempting to rescue beautiful CIA operative Hayley DuMond (who is by fortunate coincidence the CIA's top expert on dinosaurs!) from the hands of crazed terrorist Azir (Steven Bauer) while the entire cast is being chased by some of the worst CGI dinosaurs in history. Along those lines, one of the opening credits reads "Digital Visual Effects by Unreal Productions." Now that's truth in advertising! You can't say they didn't warn you right up front. Before you get the wrong idea, I don't hate this movie. In the right company, in fact, this can be an extremely entertaining film, albeit for all the wrong reasons. It turns out that forty years ago there was a DC-3 crash (more bogus CGI) on the island that brought a top secret US government super raptor to the island. The whole place is also a radioactive wonderland, prone to making everything into horrible mutated killing machines. (Of course.) The UN is tangentially involved and, as always, completely ineffective, providing extra intrigue to the plot (allegedly,) and ridiculous superpower conflict

overtones. While all this is going on Lamas is chasing targets through the forest using his cell phone, which keeps saying "Target Acquired" but giving him no guidance...what a useful smartphone app! When Lamas and DuMond find the wreck of the DC-3 they discover the truth behind the government program and some canisters (which look suspiciously like propane containers) containing highly radioactive material. So why mess with them? These highly trained agents don't mind exposure to weapons grade plutonium? Because the plot was too coherent, a volcano suddenly erupts, and DuMond finds the raptor's spawning cave (enjoy the puppy-sized raptors.) I was hoping that the super-annoying CIA operative would be eaten by creatures, so annoying is she, but it turns out sometimes things don't end up like you want them to. Shortly after the vulcanism subplot began, the operation also became imperiled by a typhoon, and I started to think that "Raptor Island" was too mundane for a film of this scope, and that a better and more accurate title would have been "Terrorists Versus Special Forces Versus The United Nations Versus Dinosaurs Versus The Typhoon Versus The Volcano." Of course that would be harder to fit on a marquee. You know the film must be amazingly bad when Lorenzo Lamas is unquestionably the best actor giving the most nuanced performance in the film (especially when compared to Bauer and DuMond,) but the filmmakers are not done with their humorous tale quite yet. After some (more) ridiculous dialogue ("So what do we do?"..."We trust our instincts.") it becomes clear that the volcano is now as big a threat as the dinosaurs and the terrorists; the immortal exchange "You mean this whole place is gonna' blow?"..."All of it!" occurs, making me laugh, because I thought that there was a scintilla more truth in advertising there and that they were talking about the rest of the movie. Maybe I was just projecting my interpretation onto the dialogue, though. Accompanied by some truly tortuous backstory conversation, Lamas and DuMond rub sulfurous mud (!) all over themselves, matching their own scents to the odor of the movie. This protects them from being smelled by the dinosaurs, you see. In the stirring conclusion they decide to detonate a string of charges around the nest, but it may make the whole unstable island explode. There's explosions, lurking terrorists, lava running everywhere, a bold helicopter rescue wherein the helicopter has to fly in a dreadfully vicious storm (despite it obviously being a calm day in the exterior shots.) This scene had a lot of parallels to the classic day versus night technique of the great Ed Wood. When the final drama involving whether or not to let Azir be eaten, the peculiar decisions about when and how to use signal flares (answer: unlike any actual human ever would,) and the ultimate and utterly predictable destruction of the island finally plays out on the screen, it's a good feeling, a feeling of pride, a feeling of accomplishment: you have made it through a film where few would dare to tread, and fewer still could make it to the end. In all truth, "Raptor Island" is vacuous but entertaining if you want to see a totally ridiculous monster-terrorist-espionage thriller with a hilariously outlandish premise and more ludicrous plotpoint coincidences than most any other film in its class. Dinosaurs have never been so funny.', 'This is a good movie that I saw. It has gore, creature violence, action, terror. And the most important thing is a kinda happy ending. So do more good reviews for this movie ok.', 'I must say that I didn't have high expectations for this movie. The first red flag was that Anchor Bay distributed this movie on DVD. God bless Anchor Bay, they release (and re-release) some of the oddest and off the cuff movies out there. Now many times odd and off the cuff can also be cheesy and corny. The second red flag is this movie was made for the Sci-Fi Channel, equating it to a direct to video movie without the bad language and nudity. Yet this movie ended up being pretty good, for what it was, cheesy and corny. With this taken into consideration, let's enter "Raptor Island". This movie made in 2004 stars Lorenzo Lamas (in every B movie in 1990s and television show Renegade) and Steven Bauer (Scarface). Well the plot is very simple, even though the movie could have been ten minutes shorter. Lorenzo Lamas is leading a Special Forces team to capture Steven Bauer and crew. The latter is a terrorist who is dealing with illegal weapons (sadly he doesn't have that much screen time). Well this chase lands the terrorists and the SF team on an island, where raptors live. To add to the mix is an undercover C.I.A. agent played by Hayley DuMond (cute) and a rouge tyrannosaurus-rex. Oh and just my personal observation, none of the characters seemed too shocked that there were prehistoric creatures living on this island. As noted prior this is a made for TV movie, so no nudity or really bad language. However that didn't bother me, this movie was pretty much non-stop action in the sense that

something was always going on. As for the dialogue, I must confess that some of it made me laugh very hard. For instance, there is a scene where Lorenzo says "Blood doesn't lie". That phrase might not make much sense in this review, but the way it is delivered in the film, HILARIOUS!!! The raptors themselves (as well as airplanes and boats) look like they were rejects from a Disney-Pixar movie and/or taken off a bad Playstation game. In the case of "Raptor Island" very bad special effects equals very good viewing. There are many dubious and questionable situations and character flaws. Consequently if you can believe that raptors can walk around in modern times and eat people then you should check all realism at the door. The DVD provides a crisp picture with good sound and a chapter selection. The only special feature is a preview for "The Man with the Screaming Brain" with Bruce Campbell, not a bad movie. Overall "Raptor Island" is a low budget flick that is so cheesy that it is great. This movie would be the perfect solution for a rainy afternoon. God Bless Anchor Bay and bad CGI raptors!', "A Sy Fy original movie, Raptor Island (2004) is a cartoonish, badly written production, set on an island in the South China Sea, that is inexplicably infested with vicious raptors. The main attraction for a film of this type is typically the special effects, which in this case are passable, but have already been done many times before. Combine that with a ridiculous story and atrocious dialog, and you have a movie to be appreciated mostly for its high cheese factor. Lorenzo Lamas is Hackett, the leader of a team of Navy Seals assigned to rescue American agent Jamie Cole (Haley DuMond), who is being held by arms dealer Azir (Steven Bauer) and his mercenaries. Landing on the island, the Seals free Cole, while Azir escapes into the woods. Stuck on the island until help arrives, the Seal team and the surviving mercs, fall prey to the bands of raptors roving through the woods. Adding to the thrills, there is a massive active volcano on the island, and in an underground cavern, an enormous nest of raptors. It's almost too much excitement for just one movie. Save your money, and wait for this one to show up on Sy Fy, before even considering making a purchase. The screenplay is terrible, even by Sy Fy's lower standards, the pathetic dialog makes the actors sound like idiots, and the reality factor is practically non-existent.", "The film is what you would expect from the Sci-Fi Channel. Short and cheesy. sure its got cool dinosaurs on a rampage but it also has horrid characters supposed to be terrorists that act like high school jocks. Lorenzo lamas is the only decent acting talent in the film and his friend the scientist actsa like a scarred teenager throughout the film. but the FX are good for the raptors and you can actually see the bullets hit them.', "This has to be the WORST movie I have ever seen... Im a Lamas fan.. but this is horrible.. bad acting, horrible fx, plastic Raptor's.. at that loser from Scarface.. Bauer.. what a goon. Avoid this trash like the plague.. I warn you now!"]

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["I enjoyed this movie. There were a couple of things that I didn't like about it, but there were a lot more things about it that I did like. I didn't like Willie Nelson playing Jessie Duke (again). He played Jessie as a drugged out dirty joke telling drunk, and Uncle Jessie was none of the above (we did see him drinking moonshine and losing his temper on the original show from time to time, but he was always a gentleman to the core.). I thought that Roscoe Coltrane was nowhere as enjoyable as in the t.v. series. In the series, Roscoe may have been a bumbling, ineffective sheriff, but he was never a paranoid schizophrenic like in this version. I did like Chris MacDonald as Boss Hog and I especially enjoyed April Scott as Daisy Duke. She is definately much prettier and sexier than Jessica Simpson. A real class act by comparrison, although Cathy Bach will always be my favorite as Daisy, I hope that April will come back and play Daisy in any future sequels. This movie is far better than the 2005 version which was a real stinker no matter how you look at it - a real piece of crap. Of course, the real star of the show, what makes any Dukes of Hazzard show watchable, is that 4000 pound hunk of steel and plastic known as a 1969 Dodge Charger - better known as the General Lee. I understand that when the original Dukes of Hazzard t.v. show was on, the car actually received more fan mail than the actors!! The General Lee Lives!", "This direct-to-video film presents a second reincarnation of Bo and Luke Duke. Two little-known actors respectively portray Bo and Luke Duke on probation for smuggling moonshine. These guys don't carry "star power" like Tom Wopat and John Schneider

did on the 1979-85 CBS comedy-adventure. April Bloom is Bo's and Luke's beautiful cousin, Daisy who works as a barmaid at the Boar's Nest, owned by Hazzard County Commissioner Jefferson Davis "Boss" Hogg (Christopher MacDonald). Country legend Willie Nelson reprises his role of Uncle Jesse Duke that he first played in the 2005 theatrical film who runs the Dukes' farm. I believe that Nelson was chosen to reprise his character because of his facial characteristics (white hair and white beard). Nelson's late longtime buddy Waylon Jennings wrote and performed the theme GOOD OL' BOYS on the series. I dedicate this item to the memories of Jennings, Sorrell Boone who played Boss on the series, Denver Pyle who played Uncle Jesse on the series and to the survivors of the series cast. 'I just saw this new dukes flick on tv and now i know why it didn't go to theaters, because it sucked. Granted it was better than the movie version with johnny knotsville and that other guy. it was actually kind of watchable but it still sucked. the actors were better but still missed the mark the actress playing daisy duke was excellent, quite cute. but the main characters jesse, bo, luke, boss hogg really guys come on whoever is in charge of the casting of this film should be shot! the characters aren't really believable expect for the actress playing daisy was good choice on their part. i don't care if Waylon Jennings was friends with Willie Nelson so that producers of the two very flawed film versions of the dukes said why not use Willie? He was Jennings friend and an american icon granted he pull it off ok, but they could've done a better search and found an unknown for jesse. same go for Boss Hogg: Christopher McDonald? he's better than Bert Reynolds. But the main thing i have a problem with is, the crappy lame script that is littered with crude sexual themes. the person that wrote this piece of junk really deserves a hard spanking on his or her behind, this ain't a porky film. you sick puppies this is wholesome family series that is iconic as american as apple pie that you've turned into a sleazy turd of film not honoring. but disgracing the series entirely you have missed the mark. it also makes bo and luke out to be hornytoads something which they never were, they were clean cut and smart. Harland Williams was a good choice, he needed to work on accent little more that's all. umm Cooter well he's no Ben Jones i thought they had hired Tom Green for a bit ewww, but the guy was ok. Damn the Producers For Disgracing the Series like this, If they want to print money go ruin another series not this one!', 'I gave this movie a 3. Not because it was bad or anything. Believe me, the movie was in perfect condition. I just didn't think it was that great of a movie.', "This movie really did not hold true to the story of the dukes of hazzard. It was just these two kids running around and doing things that are done in most college comedies, like driving through a locker room. It's just not the dukes. The Roscoe character is not the stubborn officer of the law that we know, and the whole Boss Hog thing, well, just not like the one in the series. I can not believe Willie Nelson re-signed for his role as Uncle Jesse again. I hope they do not try to continue this series. Rent it if you must, you may laugh a few times, but then return with care.", 'Surely, there must be a way for all of us fans of the real Dukes of Hazzard to get together and stop Hollywood from making these stupid movies that spit upon the traditions of the television series. Maybe you're wondering why I would even bother to watch this straight-to-DVD "prequel." Well, I'll tell you - I just had to see if it could possibly be even worse than the first movie (and, uh, April Scott was looking mighty fine on the DVD cover). Much to my surprise, I think this film might actually be a smidgen better than the first one. That's not to say that this one doesn't stink like all the manure on Uncle Jessie's farm, though, because it does. It did make me laugh a time or two, though, so I think I'm being rather generous in giving the film two stars. Apart from Willie Nelson, this film sports an all-new cast, with Jonathan Bennett and Randy Wayne taking on the roles of Bo and Luke, respectively. Both cousins, who haven't seen each other in several years, are sent to work on Uncle Jessie's farm in order to keep them out of trouble (Luke's a pyromaniac and Bo's an all-around menace to society). Daisy (April Scott) is also there, but she surely isn't the Daisy I was expecting. This Daisy is a good girl who dresses in frumpy clothes, does basically nothing with her hair, and can't get any man to notice her (except for hall monitor Enos). The movie's halfway over before she transforms herself and breaks out the Daisy Dukes I know I was looking for. Even then, she's no Catherine Bach, but she's certainly prettier - and a much better actress - than Jessica Simpson. Christopher McDonald plays this younger version of Boss Hogg. He's certainly a step up from Burt Reynolds, but why in the world they go out and get a tall, lanky guy to fill the definitive shoes of the short and stocky Sorrell Boone is still a mystery to me. James Best will always be the

one and only Rosco, but I guess Harland Williams does OK in the role, especially for a comedian turned actor. Finally, the filmmakers apparently didn't appreciate Ben Jones, the real Cooter, telling fans not to watch the first movie because they turn Cooter into a complete idiot in this movie. Basically, this film supposedly shows us the origin of the Duke Boys. Uncle Jessie and Boss Hogg are actually buddies at the start, but these fellow moonshiners part ways when Boss Hogg demands a bigger cut of Uncle Jessie's business. The Duke farm is soon on the line as Boss Hogg declares Hazzard a dry county and sics Roscoe on all of the moonshiners in the area (especially the Dukes). Bo and Luke volunteer to distribute the moonshine - but first, they need a fast car (enter the General Lee). Daisy wants to help out by getting a job at the Boar's Nest, but first she has to stop dressing like a schoolmarm and come up with a new, sexy look. From that point on, it's just a matter of getting through a bunch of stupid plot points and shenanigans on the way to the most predictable of endings. Let me also say a few words about the women in this movie. Hazzard County is supposedly in North Carolina, the state I've lived in all of my life, and I just have to say that (apart from April Scott) the women in this film, especially the peroxide blondes Bo and Luke keep chasing, can't hold a candle to the true Southern girls of North Carolina. Carolina girls are the best in the world, but you wouldn't know it from watching this film. I for one hope the Dukes of Hazzard movies will stop at two. Neither of them have been loyal to the spirit of the show, especially when it comes to Uncle Jessie, and there are plenty of other dumb scripts floating around out there in La-La Land full of the same dumb jokes and toilet humor you'll find here.', 'this movie STINKS! the actors playing the well loved cast don't have a clue as to how to be Bo, Luke, Rosco, or Boss. They needed to watch the real show to know how to play them. Willie Nelson was the only one that did a good job. He played Jesse well. The actor playing Daisy did alright too. She doesn't have Catherine Bach's legs though. ;) I can't believe this was bothered to be put out on DVD. GARBAGE LIKE THIS is put out, but great shows like Clint Eastwood's RAWHIDE is stopped right after putting out season 3!', 'Dukes of Hazzard the beginning is a prequel to the Dukes of Hazzard movie that came out a few years ago. This is a direct to DVD release. See how Bo and Luke become the Dukes of Hazzard, how Daisy transforms from a church-going prude to a sexy wild woman. Willie Nelson reprises his role as Uncle Jesse. Christopher McDonald plays Boss Hogg. The story centers around how Boss Hogg wants to shut down all the moonshiners, so he can use his ice cream factory as a front for producing his own moonshine. Bo and Luke outsmart him, save the day. Not bad, good for a few laughs.', 'this movie was OK, I like the real Dukes of Hazzard movie better this movie it had more action and cars', 'This will be short because I do not want to waste anymore of my time thinking about this film. What were they THINKING when they made this? The only points in this film in which there is a relation to the original The Dukes of Hazard are the characters' names and the car. And what was Willie Nelson thinking to even be involved with this travesty?', 'Please, please, please, leave the Dukes alone. After it took over a year and a half to finally accept the first Dukes remake for what it was worth, along comes this slop. Thanks to today's society and brainless filmmakers they have turned a darn good action-packed family T.V. series into an adult-oriented movie. Don't get me wrong, I love seeing all of the nudity, sex, profanity, and violence on the big screen but not if they ruin a classic series to do it. I grew up with the original Dukes of Hazzard and it gave me great joy to buy all seven seasons on DVD so that I could show my 6yr. old and 3yr. old what quality television really was. I never thought that I would be telling my kids to close their eyes during scenes from a Dukes of Hazzard movie. Rent this movie first. It does have a few funny scenes, but not \$20 worth. The poor General Lee is only allowed to do one jump and it is so poorly done that it looks like a Hot Wheel car flying through the air. I hear that Hollywood is also remaking The A Team, Knight Rider, and Dallas---GOD HELP US ALL!!!!!!', 'Got this for my husband. He is a Dukes fanatic. If you enjoyed the series you will probably enjoy this.', 'Not to get me wrong, I'm a big fan of The Dukes of Hazzard. I loved the series, I liked the cartoon, I even enjoyed the 2005 movie. But, The beginning is a disgrace to The Dukes, and The General Lee. But most of all, it's an insult to us fans.', 'Ugh. The 2005 movie wasn't great and this prequel is far weaker than that movie in every way possible. Most of the characterization is unbelievable. Many of the script elements are unbelievable (a pig on a roof?) One would expect to be able to count on the Dukes to, at the very least, deliver interesting car stunts. Alas, no, not here. I wasn't expecting anything very good from this, but I wasn't

expecting to be so bored either.", "This movie is about the Dukes before they ever got on Boss Hogg's bad side. However, you guessed it, it also shows how they get on Boss Hogg's bad side. Boss Hogg catches Luke Duke with LuLu and all sorts of trouble starts to happen! Hogg tries to take away the Duke farm and run them out of the moonshining business. The young Dukes are still teenagers when all of this occurs. Daisy Duke starts out as a rather dawdy church girl that gets turned down for a job at the Boar's Nest but drops mouths when she re-applies in her "Daisy Dukes" which is where that rap statement originated. Speaking of, Cowboy Troy has a music video included in this and he is well known for combining country music with rap/hip-hop(yes, you read that right!). Daisy is SULTRY in this movie and they do not spare the nudity or cussing in this version. This version is NOT for anybody under 18. Finally, the main question, is the General Lee 69 Charger included in this? YES!", "After debating over and over and over again on whether to pick up the first Dukes of Hazzard movie I elected to pass on it. I just couldn't see Johnny Knoxville, Jessica Simpson and Sean William Scott, sporting mustaches and beards? I won't even degrade the memory of the original television series by sitting down and watching this piece of crap.BUT, after buying and watching the Unrated of Dukes of Hazzard - The Beginning, I must say, that Warner Brothers realized their mistake and recast the lead roles of Bo and Luke Duke as well as Daisy. While it misses the original feelings and emotions of the television series it does gives fans who were disappointed by the 2005 movie. If you're able to grab this for around \$10-15, I would recommend picking this one up.Also, while it does explain how the Dukes came to be, it doesn't explain about the Boys' probation or how they got caught. Hopefully, there'll be another film that wraps up this dangling subplot.", "I watched the DVD of this last night, and I've been mulling over my feelings about it today, on and off. I feel a bit split down the middle about it. Ok, my initial reactions when viewing this was that it was a travesty, in Hazzard terms. The main thing that's wrong with it is the change in tone of the attitudes and depiction of *some* of the characters. Bo and Luke were always clean cut well meaning boys. They may not have been mensa candidates, but they had their smarts. The problem with this film and the previous film is that they are depicted almost like morons. I thought the casting of the two leads was ok though, better than the previous movie. The next problem is Uncle Jesse. Willie Nelson looks the part and is an OK substitute for Denver Pyle, but that's it. The fact that he isn't an actor really shows and he's patently unable to embellish the character with any of the warmth that Denver brought. Uncle Jesse never told any crude jokes in the original series either. It really lowers the tone, if you have to have crude jokes and swearing at least limit it to just Bo and Luke, leave Uncle Jesse out of it. Uncle Jesse was the heart and soul of the Dukes Of Hazzard, he was the Obi-Wan of the series.Right on to the other cast members, I thought they were OK, you're never going to find replacements for Sorrell Booke and James Best, but I thought Christopher Macdonald did quite a good job of Boss, better than Burt Reynolds anyhow. The actor that played Rosco was an interesting choice, OK I suppose, but no James Best. The girl that played Daisy, she was a bit on the thin side, but I still would.Apart from the crudeness and some of the jokes I thought the story line was OK. It still felt like the Dukes of Hazzard in this sense. SO despite these misgivings, I wouldn't mind seeing another film with this cast.I'm not a prude by any stretch, and I like films like Animal House and Porkys or American Pie. It's just watching that kind of humor transplanted into a beloved family franchise like this is a bitter pill to swallow.3 stars for being an improvement on the last film, but must try harder for the next.", 'This film is a great movie to just sit down with a few firends and chill out. A few laughs and action will keep anyone amused. If you want to watch something to challenge your mind look elsewhere.', 'Older boys play younger ones and not so sexy stuff appears despite context advertised as cousins helped older uncle to keep his farm from a reach of greedy local politician.'Spring break" is much better.', "O.k., it's not that great of a movie, but it's not totally awful either. It is fun seeing Daisy's transformation, this Boss Hogg is better than Burt Reynolds, and it does flow into the TV series fairly well. HOWEVER...Uncle Jesse (sorry Willie) doesn't need to stoop to the boys' level humor-wise. He was supposed to be the patriarch, not be right in there with sex jokes, etc. There is no substitute for Ben Jones as Cooter, and Lara Flynn Boyle's entire character was plain offensive ... Lulu Hogg was not sex-starved, she was just a tacky good ol' girl. Wasn't Flash cute?;)", "It drives me nuts when a film is marketed as a prequel but doesn't match up at all to the original. The 2005 movie did this as

Uncle Jesse was NOTHING like the Uncle Jesse in the tv series. This version is even worse. Don't waste any more of your time looking into this film. Move on to better things like buying the actual series. This is a true disgrace and a slap in the face to all us Dukes of Hazzard fans.", "Back when I was obsessed with The Dukes of Hazzard, I saw this movie. I HATED IT! It was supposed to be a prequel to the movie, and they fixed it up in this one, and in the original (which is supposed to be the next one, it's crappy and THEN they fix it up. Another thing I didn't like was the sexual tension between Luke Duke and Lulu Hogg. If you love the original Dukes of Hazzard series, trust me, DO NOT WATCH THE DUKES OF HAZZARD: THE BEGINNING!!!", "'The Dukes of Hazzard: The Beginning" is yet another unimaginative rehash of a television series that's better off left alone. This film is a prequel which explains how the Duke clan got their start as fast-driving moonshiners. The casting is interesting, with Willie Nelson cast as a stoned Uncle Jesse, the family patriarch and moonshiner-in-chief. In all seriousness Willie should stick to singing. Perhaps his infamous IRS bill makes him take work he otherwise would refuse. I hope that's the reason he's here, anyway. Bo and Luke Duke (Jonathan Bennett and Randy Wayne) are largely satisfactory here, if a bit denser and more slapstick than necessary (the scenes in drag are rather painful), while Harland Williams as Sheriff Rosco P. Coltrane was a rather bizarre choice: he's a naturally funny guy, but his ad libs border on the otherworldly ("Did that manatee just swallow that cabbage whole?" was one that made it into the extras, for instance). Christopher McDonald does a decent job as Boss Hogg, while rest of the cast is mediocre at best. The plot runs along as you would expect it would, with lots of uninspiring car chases in the General Lee, lots of bad double entendre, and subplots about an illegal ice cream facility and a pig ("Dainty") on a corrugated metal roof (which alternated between a live pig, a rubber pig, and a very hokey animatronic stunt pig, which talks in the extras). The extras are more interesting than the film, and include the birth of the General Lee, the tales of Dainty the pig, the story of Daisy Duke (which is way less interesting than you would expect), and a music video which features a country-rap hybrid about the Duke boys. Really. Generally I don't like TV shows recycled into films, and this is no exception. It's not the worst thing I've ever seen, but it's plenty boring, and certainly not worth an hour and a half of your time.', "Russ' first rule of movie watching - don't expect a lot and you'll get more out of it. It applies here, too. This isn't your mamma and daddy's Dukes of Hazzard, taking the cursing and bare breasts into consideration, not that I'm condemning bare breasts, or anything like that. Unlike the Dukes' 2005 movie release, this prequel ventures closer to the original with the slapstick goofiness of the characters, yet don't expect the same old same old. All of the main characters have been reworked, rewritten, and revamped, so get over that part before watching this. And I must say, April Scott is a red-hot Daisy Duke. Holy Shhhhhhh...Moly. Either I'm developing bronchitis, or she makes me breath funny. I'll have to get that checked out. This movie is what it is, so don't venture into the experience expecting academy award material, but that's the beauty of it. Quit being so uptight and enjoy a touch of goofiness. We know Willie Nelson isn't an actor...so let's move on. Life is difficult enough...let us partake of moderately budgeted stupidity in peace. Lower your expectations, have a few beers, and enjoy.", "It's not nearly as good as the old, classic series was but it's funny and the women are very attractive so it's not too bad. :)", "I loved the original series, and the two subsequent movies, IMO, just make a mockery of the series. But it was still entertaining anyways.', 'The film is a supposed prequel to the popular Dukes of Hazzard franchise. The film gives us glimpses of Bo (Jonathan Bennett) and Luke (Randy Wayne) before they go live with their uncle Jesse (Willie Nelson). It also shows us the finding of the General Lee in a lake, the initial rift with Boss Hogg, and the transformation of Daisy Duke. The accents were for the most part terrible. The unrated version featured numerous topless blonds that made the transformation of Daisy Duke into a vixen, anti-climatic. Harland Williams as Roscoe was over the top. The film was very corny and not well done. Parental Guide: No f-bombs, some implied sex. Ample nudity (Casey Durkin, Carrie Minter plus many others)', "The 2005 movie was not good at all. I felt it was inconsistent with the original Dukes who were more like Robin hood than just rowdy moonshiners, and this movie doesn't do much to that. The acting is horrible, and I can't believe Willie Nelson signed on for this one. I thought at times this might have a glimmer of the original series, such as the boys actually messing around with Rosco than Rosco being a Hard edged sherref, but then it would loose it again in bad script and acting. Rent if you must, but just not a great movie."]

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[ONE STEP BEYOND was the pioneer TV show in the supernatural genre. This half-hour ABC TV series (first broadcast on Jan 20th, 1959) was based on purportedly true stories. Occasionally an episode featured the person who actually experienced a paranormal event (The Peter Hurkas Story, for example). Pure fantasy, fiction and irony would later be employed to great success by Rod Serling's TWILIGHT ZONE. Because ONE STEP BEYOND dealt with more genuine (and therefore less "mind-boggling") subject matter, it was quickly surpassed in popularity by the Serling show. This series met a premature end in June of 1961, but not before 97 episodes had aired. MILL CREEK's box set of VERY BEST OF ONE STEP BEYOND presents 50 episodes encompassing all three years of the program's network run. Twenty-four season two episodes, 14 season three and 12 from the first abbreviated year make up the collection. Episode ratings were obtained from a TV show archive website. The numbers seem inflated, for based on five of these programs that have polling data at a much larger film resource site, the average rating is only 5.7 on a 1 to 10 scale. The TV show site's averaged-out score for all 50 programs in this package is: 9.1. The following alphabetized list includes poll results for each show, episode number, original date of broadcast and principal actors involved.

(7.3) (#15) The Aerialist (2/28/59) - Roy Baker/Mike Connors (9.4) (#63) Anniversary Of A Murder (9/27/60) - Harry Townes/Amzie Strickland (9.9) (#25) Brainwave (10/6/59) - Whit Bissell/Raymond Bailey (9.7) (#19) The Captain's Guests (5/26/59) - Felix Locher/Robert Webber (10.) (#49) The Clown (3/22/60) - John Close/Yvette Mimieux/Mickey Shaughnessy (9.2) (-#4) The Dark Room (2/10/59) - Cloris Leachman/Ann Codee (6.5) (#78) Dead Man's Tale (1/17/61) - Lonny Chapman/Jean Engstrom (7.9) (-#9) The Dead Part Of The House (3/17/59) - Phillip Abbott/Mimi Gibson (9.4) (#33) Dead Ringer (12/1/59) - Norma Crane/Grant Williams (7.5) (#54) Delia (5/3/60) - Barbara Lord/Murray Matheson (9.6) (#23) Delusion (9/15/59) - George Mitchell/Norman Lloyd/Suzanne Pleshette (9.1) (#11) The Devil's Laughter (3/31/59) - Alfred Ryder/Alma Lawton (9.5) (#26) Doomsday (10/13/59) - Fintan Meyler/Patrick O'Moore (7.2) (-#7) The Dream (3/3/59) - Jack Lynn/Charles Horvath (8.5) (#39) Earthquake (1/12/60) - David Opatoshu/Elvira Curci (6.4) (#20) Echo (6/2/59) - Ross Martin/Leslie Barrett/Edmund Glover (9.5) (#76) The Executioner (1/3/61) - Crahan Denton/Tom Middleton (9.6) (#48) The Explorer (3/15/60) - Rudolph Anders/Edith Evanson/Bert Convy (8.5) (#31) Forked Lightning (11/17/59) - Frank Maxwell/Candy Moore (9.3) (#21) Front Runner (6/9/59) - Walter Burke/Ben Cooper (9.8) (#56) Gypsy (5/17/60) - Johnny Seven/John Kellogg/Robert Blake (9.7) (#37) The Hand (12/29/59) - Robert Loggia/Miriam Colon (9.8) (#50) I Saw You Tomorrow (4/5/60) - Francis Bethencourt/Narda Onyx (10.) (#28) The Inheritance (10/27/59) - Sean McClory/Jan Miner (10.) (#84) Justice (3/7/61) - Pauline Jameson/Ewen Roberts (10.) (#77) The Last Round (1/10/61) - Charles Bronson/Feliz Deeback (7.6) (#74) Legacy Of Love (12/20/60) - Charles Aidman/Norma Crane (7.0) (#44) The Lovers (2/16/60) - Rudolph Anders/Irene Tedrow/Sig Ruman (9.9) (#36) Make Me Not A Witch (12/22/59) - Patricia McCormack/Leo Penn (9.3) (#30) Message From Clara (11/10/59) - Barbara Baxley/Robert Ellenstein (8.2) (#67) Moment Of Hate (10/25/60) - Joanne Linville/Linda Lawson/John Kellogg (9.2) (-#2) Night Of April 14th (1/27/59) - Patrick Macnee/Barbara Lord (8.0) (#82) Night Of Decision (2/21/61) - Richard Tyler/Robert Douglas/Ken Drake (8.5) (#29) The Open Window (11/3/59) - Michael Higgins/Louise Fletcher (9.7) (#24) Ordeal On Locust Street (9/22/59) - Suzanne Lloyd/Gary Campbell (10.) (#81) Person Unknown (2/7/61) - Robert Carricart/Rudolfo Hoyos Jr./Jay Novello (9.9) (#52) The Peter Hurkos Story (Part 1) (4/19/60) - Albert Salmi/Norbert Schiller/John Banner (9.9) (#53) The Peter Hurkos Story (Part 2) (4/26/60) - Albert Salmi/Andrew Prine/Peter Hurkos (7.7) (#12) The Return Of Mitchell Campion (4/7/59) - Patrick O'Neal/Lilyan Chauvin (9.8) (#14) The Secret (4/21/59) - Robert Douglas/Maria Palmer (10.) (#61) The Storm (6/21/60) - Lee Bergere/Rebecca Welles (9.3) (#62) Tidal Wave (8/30/60) - Jean Allison/William Schallert (9.9) (#68) To Know The End (11/1/60) - Alexander Davion/Noel Drayton (9.8) (#72) Tonight At 12:17 (12/6/60) - Peggy Ann Garner/David De Haven (8.1) (#69) The Trap (11/15/60) - Mike Kellin/Jeanne Bates/Ruth Storey (9.9) (#45) Vanishing Point (2/23/60) - June Vincent/Edward Binns (9.7) (#10) The Vision

(3/24/59) - Jean Del Val/Bruce Gordon/Pernell Roberts(10.) (#55) The Visitor (5/10/60) - Warren Beatty/Joan Fontaine/Charles Webster(10.) (#73) Where Are They? (12/13/60) - Richard Devin/Phillip Pine/Joan Tompkins(10.) (#42) Who Are You? (2/2/60) - Anna Lee/Philip Bourneuf', 'Bought this as Wal-Mart \$5 bin several years ago and glad I did, I had never heard of this show before. Oh sure, they are public domain copies, but the restored sets are slowly being released starting with season 1 last year. Some of the stories are based on true stories, there are alot of entertaining episodes, I still haven't watched all fifty episodes, and just recently I was able to get the mill creek "150 episodes of Classic Sci-Fi tv that has an additional 15 unrepeated episodes from this mill creek 50 one step beyond episodes.I believe after I view all of the 65 episodes I own put out by mill creek, that one day when the restored authorized are all out on dvd, that I'll likely purchase those. I'm slowly collecting older tv shows, like I just ordered "Thriller", just yesterday, released restored just this year, the one with Boris Karloff introducing each episode. Amazing that there were so many interesting sci fi and paranormal activity shows in the 50's and 60's, and this show is definitely one worth having or reviewing.', 'I bought my copy of The Very Best of One Step Beyond from the Walmart discount bin about three years ago. At \$5.00 for 50 episodes, how could one go wrong? I also liked the fact that Mill Creek produced the package. Having owned several Mill Creek sets over the years, I am happy to report that NONE have ever given me the slightest bit of technical problems: Just alot of entertainment for not much money.I've watched exactly half the episodes to date(I prefer to take in my programs at a leasurely pace). Two episode stand out: "The Dead Part of the House" is a genuine chill-inducing haunted house story. I actually had nightmares upon turning in after seeing it. "Earthquake" recounts the efforts of a San Francisco man to warn his fellow citizens of impending disaster, after he experiences repeated visions of an earthquake on the eve of the big 1906 shakedown. Much has been said about how much better One Step Beyond could have been, if only it had had Twilight Zone's budget. To them, I can only say, watch this episode! The visions that our town cryer witnesses, of rooms collapsing around him are as real as any big budget production, and must have taken a great deal of time and effort to set up.It came as no surprise that the same can't be said for this DVD release. On the back cover, it states that the episodes are "digitally remastered". This is a joke. They appear to be taken directly from old 16mm film reels. All the dirt, splices, hissing/ scratchy sound, and abrupt chops at the beginning and end of the episodes, are transfered faithfully to DVD. If anything positive can be said here, it is that, at approximately 25 minutes each in length, nothing has been trimmed for syndication.And yet, strange as it may sound, I actually PREFER these flawed prints to the truly remastered ones in the official season release. It gives them a wonderful "Late night on the 'Z-Channel' look", and takes me back to the days when I looked forward to "Creature Feature" on Saturday nights, or Night Gallery, or Alfred Hitchcock, or whatever other creepy stuff emanated from our B/W Motorola TV in the den. Oh, to be able to go back....Well, thanks to Mill Creek, I almost can.', "I just received my copy of the Best of One Step Beyond, a series I was lucky to come across a few years ago on the now cancelled Variety TV channel. I absolutely love this show! I watched a few episodes yesterday and found the flaws in audio and visual charming. It's like watching it back in 1960 on your old black and white television. Well it's a rainy Friday night, I have my pillows propped up, Chinese take out and put in disc one. I will be enjoying a retro night!", "This shows grows on you as you watch different episodes. When I first started watching I wasn't too impressed with the story quality. But as you get into the writing style the stories grab your interest.The video quality is not that great, but as others have said it almost makes it more interesting.The sound quality is adequate.What bothers me is not the viewing quality of the show.....it is the fact that I only have 50 of the 97 episodes.I am missing almost half of the series.I want the whole series and preferably in remastered quality.I hope who ever has control of this show will release all the episodes.I would recommend getting this show, as I am glad I have half of the series.The acting, writing and production styles of this era are more interesting to watch than current productions.Amazon is perhaps the best place to get your dvd collections IMHO.", 'One Step Beyond is based on documented paranormal cases, re-enacted and brought to screen, unlike Twilight Zone and all the others which may be polished and flashy but are fictional. Simply a fantastic buy. Get it now, while it lasts at these prices.', "I liked this series a lot. The stories are based on true events, but I strongly suspect great liberties have been taken with the

details to make for more entertaining viewing. This series ran about the same time as the Twilight Zone, which perhaps skews my expectations. Let's face it, Rod Serling was a brilliant writer and story teller. His persona alone added significant presence to the Twilight Zone. It is almost impossible not to watch One Step Beyond, compare it to the Twilight Zone, and find it not quite reaching the same stature. Still, inevitable comparisons notwithstanding, One Step Beyond is a force to be reckoned with in its own right. There's something about that old black and white television era that just beckons to us. This series doesn't rely on special effects or technical wizardry to entertain. It is good script writing and solid, believable acting that makes this one a classic that has endured half a century and will undoubtedly outlive my children and grand children. This one's a keeper.", 'Incredible compilation with great audio/video quality, at a really fantastic price. I wish they would do a volume 2 to include the remaining shows. OSB was a super show...The first of many imitators to follow.', "Excellent series from the past, worth buying and watching, but beware, something might just be sitting beside you, you've just taken that first step, care to take another?", 'I have always loved John Newland and always looked forward to this series. Am very glad I bought it. Best part about it was that it was delivered within one day and is practically new.', "Item was as ordered and I was impressed with the quality. Great experience all around. I don't know what else to say", 'This was similar to programs like the Twilight Zone. The big difference was that the stories were true. John Newland did a good job of directing and the commentary of each program. They all are interesting. He gives the viewer the opportunity to make his/her own conclusions. Highly recommended.', 'I have really enjoyed watching the fifty episodes included in "The Very Best of One Step Beyond." I will undoubtedly purchase more of these as my finances allow. A lot of viewing for not much money. It is such a delight to watch so many stars early in their careers, doing fine acting in these stories: Mike Connors (Mannix), Yvette Mimeoaux, Cloris Leachman, Suzanne Pleshette (Newhart, the Birds), Ross Martin (The Wild, Wild West) Bert Convy, Robert Blake (Baretta), Robert Loggia, Charles Bronson, Patty McCormick (The Bad Seed), Patrick Macnee (The Avengers), Warren Beatty, Pernell Roberts (Bonanza, Trapper John, MD), Louise Fletcher, Patrick O'Neil and Albert Salmi. These are just a few and you will recognize all of the faces if you don't recognize the names, if you are of a certain age. I was always a fan of this show and Twilight Zone. It didn't have the budget that TZ had, but it did have one thing it didn't. Stories in "Beyond" are based on true events and not fictional stories. They are every bit as mysterious and entertaining. Younger people may gripe at the black and white and seemingly crude productions, but that was the way life was then. That WAS the state of the art and it cannot be made modern now. This is the beauty of them. We have a historical record of a very special time in American culture and ingenuity that needs to be appreciated for what it is. They are all great, but "The Dark Room" with Cloris Leachman and "The Clown," with Yvette Mimeoaux are standouts.', 'Brings back old memories of the good old days. Sitting on the sofa with my family and watching scary movies. This was a great series and I highly recommend this DVD.', "I was a kid when this show ran it's 3 year run, and I was transfixed...never wanted to miss it. Some reviews complained of grainy quality or scratchy sound, but that brings the authenticity back to it (in my opinion). Unlike the more popular "Twilight Zone" that ran about the same time, "One Step Beyond" is all true stories and NOT science fiction. Give me the scratchy sound, snow, and grainy film which allow me to walk back down the memory lane of a 12 year old in 1961."]

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[This show is just brilliant. I love Family Guy, but I just think the writing in this is even one step better. Smart and really funny... and the former is probably why it does not do better in the ratings.', "I love American Dad!!! just bought this season 3 dvd and so far it is hilarious. I own both the first two seasons and they are equally funny. Stan is a riot, Roger is unforgettable and who doesn't love Klaus, the German goldfish!!!! So far I've watched the first two episodes on disc 1 and I was rolling! Hope this show never goes off the air. Steve and the Asstones forever!!!!", 'The farther along American Dad gets, the funnier it becomes. By season three, the show's central characters have

been established and their personality quirks have been tweaked to best appeal to the audience. The show leaps into the bizarre and hilarious with abandon, yielding some of the best comedy on modern television. For those just coming to the show, all you need to know is that it follows the life of Stan Smith, a father of two who works for the CIA. Imagine Archie Bunker, but with access to high levels of government clearance and insane technologies. This season features Stan meeting his idol, George W. Bush (in one of the funniest depictions of Bush in modern media), luring his family into stasis tubes to get out of going on vacation with them, and ruining his best friend's life in a twisted but well-meaning attempt to prove that God exists. While Stan remains the center of the show, the rest of the cast has their moments as well. Klaus becomes even more pathetic as he whiles away life from the inside of a fish bowl, Steve and his friends usually supply a solid B-plot, and Roger's obsession with disguises becomes even more emphasized here. Even Haley's hippie boyfriend Jeff gets his moment to shine as Stan finds that he and Jeff have similar father issues. The show is punctuated by sharp comedy and ridiculous situations, and there isn't an episode in the series so far that isn't good for some solid laughs. On the slight down side, Fox has become increasingly lazy with these DVDs, so you're paying for half a season here, as has become their practice. It's not a huge hurdle now, but when the show starts to wane the price point will make it far too easy to drop. One episode, "The 42-Year Old Virgin," also has a major continuity glitch, as it assumes that Stan has never killed anyone, despite him having racked up a body count throughout the first few seasons. However, even that criticism is a minor one - I'm now nitpicking about continuity in a show that features Stan running through the Hereafter with a "Heaven gun" and fighting archangels during the Christmas special. The show is wacky, over the top, but still has heart and charm thanks to a sympathetic but dim-witted protagonist. It's well worth the money, and easily the best animated show on TV.', 'The best animated show, and one of the funniest shows currently on tv. FOX should be ashamed for cancelling it, and TBS should receive some type of coveted award for picking it up.', 'I watched this DVD while in bed. That night, I didn't wet the bed. Coincidence? You be the judge.', 'If you're an American Dad fan then you'll want to own this collection of episodes. One of my favorite animated shows I view the episodes over and over. Great stuff if you like this show.', 'This show is extremely twisted, often times gross, never what you expect and funnier than you may have given it credit for. You need to check it out.', 'Its just not a good as the previous ep. DVD boxed set is like any other TV series on DVD.', 'With the cast back and Stan to protect us there is no room for mistake. Espcially for stan A weapons expert needs his space and in this season he has plenty of space to grow and give us lot of funny jokes. I expected this season to bang with new flavor and zaz, but was lacking. I will admit that "The Goo" is my favorite episode and with great reason. The main reason the smith family goes on the vacaition is to get away from it all, but all Stan wants to do is get away from his family. Like Francine says "Nothing binds a family together like a dark and horrible secret." Watch the episode it is good. With this family done the thrid season leaves this writer hoping and wanting for more, more jokes and better comedy.', 'American Dad gets wittier with every season it seems. Season 1 was good but didn't produce memorable episodes. Season 2 had two of my favorite episodes ("Lincoln Lover" and "Roger N Me") and season 3 offers another all-time favorite of mine "Vacation Goo." This season also includes highlight shows like "Meter Made," "Dope and Faith," and "Surro-gate." There are not many weak episodes here although "Bush Comes To Dinner" was a little much. Stan's one-liners are what make this show. They are often wittier and funnier than any lines on Family Guy and even South Park. Oh, and Roger is a great character! Lately, I've been enjoying the new American Dad episodes more than Family Guy which shows that, while FG seems to be digressing, AD is setting itself apart with smarter, more consistent writing and less filler. Disc 1: "Bush Comes To Dinner"--G.W. has dinner at the Smiths and Roger gives him booze which causes him to fall off the wagon. Meanwhile, Roger tries to track down Osama Bin Laden to get the reward money to buy Dollywood. Stupid episode, but I like how G.W. stood up for Hayley by listing all the things he did in his youth. "American Dream Factory"--After having his desk moved to the men's room, Stan decides to start his own business selling holiday teddy bears and hires illegal aliens. Also, Steve, Roger, and Steve's friends start a band--Roger looks like one of the Spinal Tap guys. Roger then takes over the band with renditions of public domain songs because he cannot write his own material

("Ladies and gentlemen, I'm gonna tell you about a little place I know, a little place called London Bridge...IT'S FALLING DOWN!!!!!!") "A.T. The Abusive Terrestrial"--This is the second episode in a row that mentions Mr. Pibb (Hmmmm). Stan and Francine go on a tour to save Mr. Pibb from being discontinued while Roger is tired of being ignored by Steve, so he finds another kid to play with who's abusive. "Black Mystery Month"--While doing a school research project, Steve finds a conspiracy in the peanut butter industry. "An Apocalypse To Remember"--Stan doesn't like being regarded as a "boob" by his family, so he makes them think they are the sole survivors of a nuclear holocaust so they will be dependent upon him--until they meet a frontiersman. Meanwhile, Roger proposes to a desperate woman so he can get a blender as a wedding gift. Crazy episode, and very funny. "Four Little Words"--Stan sets up his boss with Francine's friend and she ends up dead and Stan's main concern is that Francine, who was against the idea, will say, "I told you so." Highlight: midget assassin. Meanwhile, a fake nose gets Roger mistaken for Kevin Bacon. "When A Stan Loves A Woman"--Stan feels inadequate when he finds out Francine has been around the block several times, so Francine divorces him so he can find out sex without love is no big deal which results in Stan remarrying. "I Can't Stan You"--When Stan finds out his neighbors constantly criticize him, he has the CIA seize their houses. Meanwhile, Roger and Steve fake accidents for compensation. Disc 2: "The Magnificent Steven"--After seeing Steve's sissy gym class at school, Stan--"in the spirit of George Bush, Ronald Reagan and Mr. Jolly," trains Steve and his friends to be ranchers with cattle infected with mad cow's disease. Meanwhile, Roger tries to make Hayley and Francine compete for his favor. "Joint Custody"--Stan wants to get rid of Hayley's slacker boyfriend Jeff, but develops sympathy when he meets Jeff's father. Hayley explaining Jeff's problems to her father: "His mom ran away before he was born." Stan: "How...how could she do that?" Another highlight: Stan in the convenience store half baked: "There's a leopard on the Cheetos bag...No, wait...that's a cheetah. Cheetah...Cheetos...There's so much beauty in the world." The "Am I Jeff or money?" line was stupid, though. "The Vacation Goo"--My favorite episode of this season and one of my all-time favorite American Dads. The Smiths always have the best vacations--then they discover it's because of CIA artificial memory chambers. Meanwhile, Roger's quest to be the world's greatest actress lands him in a stripper lounge. Hilarious! "Meter Made"--For some reason, Francine thinks Stan is a nobody even though he works for the friggin' CIA! I guess she doesn't get any perks from his job. Stan then finds out the power, respect, and influence he can wield as a meter maid. Also, Hayley poses nude in an art class attended by Roger. "Dope and Faith"--Stan finds a friend who has everything in common with him except a belief in the guy upstairs. Stan goes to extreme measures to convert him. Meanwhile, Roger tries to trick Steve into thinking he was accepted into wizardry school that turns out to be a meth lab. Another of the better episodes. "Big Trouble in Little Langley"--Stan can't get along with Francine's Asian adoptive parents, so he finds her biological parents who seem perfect by his standards until he finds out the circumstances behind their giving up their daughter. Whatever happened to Hayley's bleeding "cold sore"? "Haylias"--Hayley has a recurrent dream (an effect of Stan's CIA "Project Daycare" to train her as a sleeper agent) and decides it's a sign to break out of the mold and move to France. Stan uses the secret code to put her under his control so he can get her on the path to mommy/housewife land. Also, Roger and Steve decide to be private eyes. Angel died in Hurricane Katrina--THAT'S FUNNY! "The 42-Year Old Virgin"--Stan's co-workers find out Stan never actually killed anyone but was just the recipient of many convenient mishaps of his victims. What's worse, the news wins him the hero-worship of Hayley. Roger and Stan's co-workers try to help Stan get his "cherry popped." He then gets his chance when Steve and his friends run off with a pedophile. Disc 3: "Surro-gate"--Greg and Terry want to have a child using a surrogate mother. Francine likes the idea and so does Stan "just replace 'support' with 'condemn' and 'beautiful endeavor' with 'horrible abomination.'" Francine is thus a little weary about telling Stan she is the surrogate (tiger with the chainsaw--that is funny). When Stan finds out, he pretends to be supportive until he gets his opportunity to steal the baby as well as any other children of same sex partners he runs into ("Does Al know?"--great line). Meanwhile, Roger and Steve live in terror Klaus the fish will get his revenge on a prank they pulled. "Franny 911"--Roger is so vile, he loses the support of his biggest enabler Francine. Highlight: Klaus and Hayley daring each other including

Klaus taking a photo under Francine's dress. This disc includes over 60 extended and deleted scenes.', "Seth MacFarlane is a total genius. You can't go wrong with American Dad. Season 3 was such a wild ride.", "Item was describe as new, sealed in the package, but when I got the item there was two of the same disc inside the package with an security alarm card. 20th Century Fox does not package any of their DVD's with alarm cards on the inside. When I was asked if the item could be returned, and replaced, I got told to do so through the people who made it at the studio. Be wary of this seller's listing of items as 'New';", 'America can rest peacefully with overprotective CIA agent Stan Smith on watch in the hilarious animated series "American Dad!". In this collection of humorous episodes, Stan is overwhelmed by all the attention from his family by pretending that they are the last people on Earth. Housewife Francine divorces Stan so he can experience again bachelor life and save their marriage. Daughter Hayley gathers evidence of President Bush's drunken antics to publicly humiliate him. Son Steve uncovers a 150-year-old conspiracy but a secret society will stop at nothing to prevent exposing. Roger the alien becomes a professional bounty hunter and joins Stan on the manhunt for Hayley's boyfriend. "American Dad!" is the hit animated FOX sitcom from the twisted minds behind "Family Guy". These 18 episodes from the second and third seasons feature some cutting-edge humor, memorable characters and guest voice stars like Peter Graves, Elliot Gould, Lisa Edelstein, Patton Oswald, Patrick Stewart and Academy Award winner Forrest Whitaker. The 3-disc set includes such standout episodes like "Four Little Words", "Joint Custody" and "Dope and Faith". If you already bought the previous box sets, then feel free to pickup "American Dad!: Volume Three" is a well recommended purchase for any fan of the hilarious FOX sitcom. All 18 episodes of the second and third seasons are presented in standard full screen format. The picture quality is great with bright colors and good sharpness. Its 5.1 Dolby Digital sound is clear and well balanced. The 3-disc set features audio commentary by production crew and voice cast and all 18 episodes, unrated audio tracks on selected episodes, "Comic-Con Table Read" featurette and over 60 deleted and extended scenes. Overall, "American Dad!: Volume Three" scores a B+.', 'Love american dad and this season in my opinion is when the show really found an identity and took off']

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["The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance*This one was a pretty good, mostly engaging story. It had some great acting by Jimmy Stewart, John Wayne, and Lee Marvin. Photography is great (even if it is black and white), and the DVD's video/sound quality do it good justice. Unfortunately, it has no special features to speak of. It is in widescreen (enhanced for 16:9 TVs), English subtitles, and your choice of Dolby Digital, 5.0 surround, or mono. Shane*Although it can be seen as dull or dumb, it is really a good classic with very excellent photography, a simple story, and phenomenal characters. The DVD has good video quality in general; it's not very sharp, but the colors are brilliant. The sound is not bad. It has only a commentary as a special feature. It's only in fullscreen. It has English subtitles, and your choice of Dolby Digital, 2.0 surround, or French mono. Both films are classy and good. Some modern audiences may find them outdated, but most western fans should enjoy them (and it's not a bad price either).", 'Two of my favorite westerns of all time. Entertaining throughout, and star acting. Lee marvin, one of the greatest actors in my opinion of all time was brilliant in, "The man Who Shot Liberty Valance". He plays a villian like none other. Alan Ladd's character in, "Shane", was so mild mannered and helpful to those in need. He was also brave, tough, and would not back down from a fight if you tried to bully him or those he was helping. The story lines were great. These movies are classics and will never be replaced by today's modern westerns. The great western movies and western movie actor's are gone forever.', 'these two movies are great entertainment, especially for the price. The iconic classic Shane is rich with the gritty pioneering life of the old west. And, of course, in both movies, the good guys are triumphant. A, 'must have', for all western fans.', "You can't find many westerns with this quality of actors and message. One relates the legends of the west the other the difficulties of changing times and men.", 'Two classic westerns for a great price. Both have excelent pictures and audio. You John

Wayne fans will enjoy this classic and everyone should see Shane at least once in their life.', 'What can I say, 2 Classic Westerns! When I was alot younger these movies were intense, and they still are! Excellent!', "Two great --and that's not an exaggeration-- actors and a fine script, with excellent photography, Liberty Valance is more evidence that the Western, often maligned, provided some of the better Hollywood movies of that generation. . (Of course there were some bad westerns, but look at today's output, with the formulaic car chase and buddy-with-the-snappy=jokes crud.) As for Shane, well, that's long been considered a classic, and one of the two or three best westerns ever. Shane alone would rate five stars; Liberty four, but there's no half-step here. An excellent afternoon of film viewing.", 'Two of the best ever westerns. Love them both. Had to buy this set to add to my DVD collection. Both of these films are great old westerns. Wayne and Stewart are terrific in "The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance" as is Lee Marvin. "Shane" is just simply a classic film. Great performances from the entire cast. Even though Jack Palance was afraid of his horse he still shines in this film. A great movie!', "Two great movies and well worth the price. They are not blueray but the quality isn't bad. I think they were well worth the price.KenWebmaster[...]", 'There may not be two better Westerns ever made. Both movies explore the settling of the West and the battle between the ranchers (bad guys) and the settlers (good guys).Shane\'s beautiful photography is spellbinding. Alan Ladd and Van Heflin turn in great performances and Jean Arthur is stunning. The supporting cast is unbelievable.Liberty Valance, shot in B/W, also has stunning photography. John Wayne, James Stewart and Lee Marvin are in top form. Many, many great moments in this movie ("No, YOU pick it up Valance", "Print the legend").This is great double feature (just like the old days) at a very affordable price!', 'Two westerns based on literary classics, Dorothy Johnson\'s short story "The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance" and Jack Schaeffer\'s novel "Shane." Both stories date from the 1940s and are attempts to raise the western a notch or two above the shoot-em-up conventions of pulp fiction. The originals, I will argue, are better than the films, and given the strength of the films, that\'s giving 5 stars to Johnson and Schaeffer.Johnson\'s story is an ironic portrayal of Old West heroism. An all around top cowboy, who compares well with Owen Wister\'s Virginian, saves the life of a lawyer newly arrived from the East, who wants to practice law in a land where law is chiefly administered at the point of a gun. In attempting to bring the outlaw Liberty Valance to justice, he is drawn into a shoot-out that the experienced gunfighter is sure to win. Surprisingly, the reverse happens, and years later the young lawyer rises to prominence as a politician, while the cowboy is a has-been, having outlived his time. He also loses his girl to the lawyer.In Schaeffer\'s novel, homesteaders are in conflict for the right to their land with a cattleman trying to drive them off. A gunfighter comes to their rescue, and Schaeffer portrays the unlikely coming together of a hard-working nuclear family and a mysterious stranger whose skill with a gun saves them and makes way for the same civilization that turns the tables in Johnson\'s story. Old West makes way for the New West, all with the help of someone good with a gun.Though strong and probably forever deemed "classic," both films have their drawbacks. While John Wayne and James Stewart are their recognizable selves in "Liberty Valance," and Lee Marvin delivers yet another of his wonderful portrayals of villains doomed to die spectacularly, Wayne and Stewart at least are far too old for their parts. Each should be at least 20 years younger to faithfully play the young men who appear in Johnson\'s version. The woman torn between them, played by Vera Miles, who is otherwise fine, should also be correspondingly younger. One other quibble - the film was shot in large part at the studio, either on the backlot or on a sound stage. It\'s easy to miss the grand landscapes that usually accompany a John Ford film.The movie "Shane," meanwhile, has other problems. Alan Ladd plays an endearingly warm and friendly, not to say honorable, gunfighter. Jack Schaeffer\'s original conception of the character is significantly different. The Shane of the book is more potentially dangerous in his appearance - dressed in dark colors and a black hat. He\'s supposed to be able to put a chill through you. His impact on all three members of the family is far more complex and nuanced as a result - especially the attraction that builds between Shane and the wife, Marian. This is all treated in a more PG-rated fashion in George Stevens\' film version. Another quibble - the story itself is dwarfed by the grandiose view of Wyoming\'s Tetons, where Stevens chose to shoot the exteriors. Novelist Schaeffer set his family\'s homestead on the prairie east of the Big Horns - where undistracted by the view, the drama played out among them takes on more stature. Finally, Brandon

DeWilde's young Joey is less than perfect for the role - maybe too young, maybe misdirected, but lacking the presence and the depth that he has in the novel. But, any true western fan is going to overlook these shortcomings. Especially enjoyable is the crisp, black and white, widescreen print of "Liberty Valance," a film absolutely made for the big screen. And at 2 for one, this double bill is a great bargain. I'm not sure why these two particular westerns were paired in one double-disc set. They do both contain classic western stars, and include classic confrontations between heroes and black-hatted bad men. However, to me, "The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance" doesn't seem to be quite in the same class as "Shane" when it comes to acting and overall execution. John Wayne and James Stewart were both well into their careers when they starred in this 1962 movie about the folks of Shinbone and their dread of what psychopath Liberty Valance (played by Lee Marvin) would visit on them each time he rode into town with his crew. Both Wayne and Stewart seem to have settled into imitating their imitators for these performances. They both seem to be playing what would become Rich Little's caricatures of them, right down to Wayne's sashaying greeting of, "Howdy, Pilgrim." In spite of this, "Liberty Valance" has a redeeming conclusion and a host of implications that will leave you pondering for years to come. It poses the eternal question of who is better chosen to lead us - the man of action or the man of principle? The romance of the film centers on a woman's choice between these two necessary pillars of society. The movie makes us aware of our inevitable longing - always for the other. When we have action, we long for stability; when we have stability, we can never quite get the heroic vision of action out of our hearts. By contrast, "Shane" is perhaps the perfect western. My only disappointment with this disc was to find that "Shane" was actually made in color! Growing up, I'd just seen it on my black-and-white TV. I actually think it would have been better if it had been made in black-and-white. As it is, the colors of the background Grand Tetons where this film was set and shot detract from the mythic proportions of the players. Shane seems a little less impressive a figure riding into the lives of these plains settlers when we are distracted by the vivid palette of mountains behind him. Nevertheless, Shane ultimately stands up to both the mountains and the bad men. While the "Valance" disc doesn't contain any bonus features, "Shane" has a very worthwhile set of extras, including a commentary by George Stevens Jr. (who was on the set in 1953 with his father, the Producer), and Ivan Moffat, the film's Associate Producer. Moffat, the last surviving person who made an important contribution to the film, comes across as a crusty codger now willing to tell all. He gives some grumbly juicy behind-the-scenes insights into the making of "Shane." For example, he reveals, a little ungallantly, that Jean Arthur was past fifty and looking like a gray-haired grandmother when she arrived on the set. However with the help of hair dye and make-up, she was readily enough transformed into the 30-something young mother that her character called for. Moffat also seems to have overcome some initial dislike of Alan Ladd in the lead. He mentions that while most of the actors in the film were conscientiously busy dirtying themselves up to look like authentic farmers, Alan Ladd could be found getting the complete star-treatment - lounging outside his trailer having manicures and his "false hair" fluffed. Nevertheless, Moffat concedes that, after all the other actors who'd been approached to fill the role, Ladd proved to be fortuitously the best possible choice. You might not find any compelling reason to get this 2-disc set unless you want to economically complete a collection of notable western films. Many viewers might find it enough to have "Shane," the ultimate romantic embodiment of the heroic loner who arrives to save the day - and then rides off as solitary and essentially mysterious as he came. I, "you get your money's worth with this double feature, I especially like that there are two discs in the case (each movie is on its own DVD. Any western movie fan would love this in their collection.", 'Shane was the actual gift, but you can never go wrong with the Duke..two classy men..Love them both - the men and the movies.', 'This is a review for the double DVD set released by Paramount featuring THE MAN WHO SHOT LIBERTY VALANCE (1962) and SHANE (1953). THE MAN WHO SHOT LIBERTY VALANCE is in wide screen b&w, directed by John Ford and stars John Wayne, James Stewart, Vera Miles and Lee Marvin along with a magnificent cast of character actors, some of them regulars in many of John Ford's previous directoral efforts. Critic/director Peter Bogdanovich has described THE MAN WHO SHOT LIBERTY VALANCE as the last classic film of Hollywood's Golden Era and although I am not sure when the golden era ended I wouldn't be able to muster much of an argument with him or anyone else who voiced appreciation for this

incredible, dramatic, humorous and ultimately emotion filled movie. Often this has been called a great western but I think it is so much more than a genre picture. THE MAN WHO SHOT LIBERTY VALANCE is about how what we call civilization came to this country, different areas in different eras, and just as importantly, how history is recorded and passed on down the generations. Ford shows us what the actual truth is and then explains to us that "When legend becomes fact, print the legend." Just as he did in FORT APACHE Ford is telling us, among other things, that sometimes the unvarnished truth has to step aside for myths that will pass as facts in order to help encourage the advancement of civilization. Aside from all of the above, THE MAN WHO SHOT LIBERTY VALANCE is a cracking good story about a freshly minted lawyer who comes to the western town of Shinbone in a territory that is yearning for statehood. But the wealthy cattle ranchers are against US law coming to "both sides of the picket wire" and employ a gunman named Liberty Valance, played by Lee Marvin, to intimidate the new "sodbusters" and small businessmen who are trying to build lives for themselves and their families. One thing leads to another and the young lawyer, Rance Stoddard played by Jimmy Stewart, with help from Tom Doniphon, played by John Wayne, eventually realizes that if he wants law & order in Shinbone and the surrounding area, he's going to have to use a gun to get it. That quick summary in no way relates how entertaining and exciting this classic film is. And ultimately how heart wrenching it becomes. A movie that you'll never forget, when they refer to film classics, this is one of the prototypes. SHANE (1953) was directed by George Stevens and stars Alan Ladd, Van Heflin, Jean Arthur (in her last screen appearance), Brandon De Wilde, Jack Palance and Ben Johnson, again, with a fine cast of character actors. Shane is in really authentic looking Technicolor and was a full screen release. SHANE is played by Alan Ladd who drifts into a once open range which is now being homesteaded by "sodbusters," small farmers who are trying to make a go of it despite the harassment and occasional violence visited upon them by the big rancher in the area, the Ryker brothers, who want to keep the range open for their cattle to graze. Eventually, the Rykers hire a notorious gunman, played by Jack Palance, to help clear out the stubborn farmers once and for all. The idea is first to threaten and then, if necessary, to start killing the small farmers. But the farmers rally behind Joe Starrett, played by Van Heflin, and his hired man, Shane, to fight for the right to farm the open range. I think the thing I appreciate most about SHANE is the way both sides' positions are explained in a fairly even-handed way, although the Rykers are willing to do most anything to get what they want. SHANE was a trend setting film in its time and is still quite a good film to watch every now and then. It has humor, excitement and a little romance and is just a well done film, the kind everyone says can't be made anymore. Overall I give this double feature package of THE MAN WHO SHOT LIBERTY VALANCE and SHANE an enthusiastic five star rating, two fine films in one box for a relatively reasonable price. Both films have the original trailers included as extras and SHANE has a very informative commentary track as well. Both films have English subtitles and Shane has a French soundtrack included. I give this double feature set as high a recommendation as possible. 'One of my most favorite gun fights is the climax of Shane. The guns sound real and I have always loved how the movie builds up to that intense situation. Also, Jack Palance moved like a hungry predator in the movie. What a cool bad-guy. Lee Marvin steals the show with his performance as Liberty Valance. The movie is old fashion fun, but the story about how media turns fiction into truth still wrings true today. These are classic Westerns that deserve to be seen by younger generations so that they can appreciate good story telling over special effects.'

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"I love watching 'Period' movies, especially British ones, and these are two of the best! DVD described accurately, packaged nicely, and shipped promptly. Thank you.", "I bought this to replace 2 VHS tapes I already had (trying to downsize). Remains of the Day is a poignant story of an attempt to recapture a lost love, a little sad for my taste but I'm drawn back to it time and time again. Sense & Sensibility is a Jane Austin classic: fun, romance, heartbreak and her always happy ending.", 'Great price, great quality. This Sense and Sensibility in my opinion is better than the book.

Is beautiful! The other movie is good too,' 'Sense And Sensibility Emma Thompson scores a double bull's-eye with this marvellous adaptation of Jane Austen's novel. Not only does Thompson turn in a strong (and gently humorous) performance as one of the Dashwood sisters--the one with "sense"--she also wrote the witty and wise screenplay. Austen's tale of 19th-century manners and morals provides a large cast with a feast of possibilities, notably Kate Winslet, in her pre-Titanic incarnation, as Thompson's deeply romantic sister. Winslet attracts the wooing of shy Alan Rickman (a nice change of pace from his bad-guy roles) and dashing Greg Wise, while Thompson must endure an incredibly roundabout courtship with Hugh Grant, here in fine and funny form. All of this is doled out with the usual eye-filling English countryside and handsome costumes, yet the film always seems to be about the careful interior lives of its characters. The director, an inspired choice, is Taiwan-born Ang Lee, who brings the same exquisite taste and discreet touch he displayed in his previous Asian films (such as *Eat Drink Man Woman*) and his subsequent work (*The Ice Storm*). Thompson's script won an Oscar, and 1995 was a fine year for Jane Austen all around: *Persuasion* was made into an excellent picture, and *Emma* became the spritzy high school comedy *Clueless*.

--Robert Horton, Amazon.com

Remains of the Day This excellent film, based on the acclaimed, Booker-prize winning novel by Kazuo Ishiguro, shines with subtle elegance. Framed in the present, the film deals with the lives inside an English country home just prior to World War II. Reunited with the Merchant-Ivory team are Emma Thompson as Miss Kenton, the head housekeeper, and Anthony Hopkins as Stevens, the impeccable butler. The bittersweet story centres on Stevens and his dedication to his master, Lord Darlington (a suitably officious and slyly pompous James Fox). Stevens summarises: "I don't believe a man can consider himself fully content until he has done all he can to be of service to his employer." Enveloping Stevens's world are the pending war with Germany, Darlington's horribly misguided interests in said war, and, most effectively, his relationship with Miss Kenton. Stevens is the very essence of repression, but as played by Hopkins he is neither piteous nor self-righteous. Like his master, Stevens becomes misguided in his loyalties, although his is an emotional deprivation, possibly condemning him to lifelong regret. There's so much going on in this film, and yet the action is skilfully depicted through understanding and knowing glances, through emotions expressed only through eye contact. Like other Merchant-Ivory-Ruth Praver Jhabvala collaborations, it's sumptuous to look at, capturing the period effectively and affectingly. Excellent in supporting roles are Christopher Reeve, Ben Chaplin and Hugh Grant.

--N.F. Mendoza, Amazon.com

'These are two of my favorite movies and to have them together is sublime. Both of these movies are in my top 100 because they are so deliberately made. Emma Thompson wrote this perfect screen play and then played in both. Both based on favorite novels of Austin and Forester.', 'i am a huge fan of british period drama , and emma thompson.so this 2 movie set is like heaven for me ,plus i love jane austen novels.', 'double feature ... both are classics . both are excellent movies with stellar casts. they make one glad we have advanced in our attitudes about women and inheritance.', 'My wife loves these movies. I highly recommend them to any fan of Emma Thompson. Very enjoyable features, great movies.', 'i am so glad i found this 2 dvd set , very well worth the \$\$\$, saved room and a great buy for your collection like ours! Love them both . On a rainy day sit back and go back in time with this dvd set GEM . Period peices are my best friend.', 'The Remains of The Day is an excellent film with terrific acting, that focuses on unrequited love between the staff of a distinguished English household. It brings new meaning to 'stiff upper lip' and soldering on. So watch it first. Then follow with Sense and Sensibility which is an absolutely wonderful adaptation of that Austen novel. We watch Sense and Sensibility several times a year. It's just a wonderful romantic film to watch on Valentine's Day or an Anniversary. The two movies together were a real bargain.', 'I really like the idea of more than one film on the DVD. Of the two, Sense and Sensibility gets an A+ rating while Remains of the Day is only rated A.', 'I could not stop watching this movie. Remains of the day was a little slow but made me think. I still look by on this movie and contemplate the main character and his motives. Great movies.', 'If you aren't a fan of Emma Thompson yet, you will be after viewing two of her best roles in these films. In SENSE AND SENSIBILITY she plays the sensible sister Elinor in juxtaposition to the impulsive, impetuous younger sister Marianne (Kate Winslet) from Austen's novel of the same name. The sisters, in concert, are sorting out their love lives, which is all that a woman can aspire to in the early 19th

century in England. Fortunately, they have some beguiling candidates played by Hugh Grant, Alan Rickman and Greg Wise. Thompson wrote the screenplay to this movie and it won multiple awards for best movie, costumes, acting, and music. It is simply charming. In *THE REMAINS OF THE DAY* Thompson pairs up with Anthony Hopkins serving in an English manor prior to World War II. Hopkins, as the head butler, puts duty to his employer first before his heart's leanings which favors Emma Thompson's character who is a young domestic in the film. This film is based on the novel by Kazuo Ishiguro's novel of the same name which won the Booker Prize. Directed by Merchant/Ivory it has all the lush beauty and sensitivity we associate with their work. The film is as good as the novel, which is rare. Thompson's characters in both films display the diversity of her acting skills. Both are among my top favorite movies. "I usually love Anthony Hopkins, but I didn't connect with him in *The Remains of the Day*. Although his character doesn't show emotion in the role as head butler, I need at least a glimpse of what was going on inside him in order to care about the story.", "Lovely adaptation of these stories. Emma Thompson is very good and brings life to her characters. I highly recommend this DVD.", "These are two classic movies not to be missed. Both movies are strong on their own and is a great value.", "Both movies are top notch and Hugh Grant is in both - Hopkins is awesome as is Emma Thompson. True classics.", "The two DVDs were of great quality and I enjoyed the stories, acting and cinematography. If you like English movies, add this to your collection. All Star Cast!", "2 classics in 1. Love both. Love Anthony Hopkins in *Howards End*. So stoic. And *Sense and Sensibility* is always a great movie on a Sunday afternoon.", "These are 2 great movies! Emma Thompson is wonderful as always and gives an amazing performance in both of these movies.", "I found this DVD at a discount in a chain store and promptly purchased it. The DVD is a double feature containing two of my favorite period dramas - Ishiguro's *The Remains of the Day* and Austen's *Sense and Sensibility*. DVD Info - *The Remains of the Day* Running Time: 134 mins (PG) Languages: English 5.1 (Dolby Digital), English, French, Spanish, Portuguese (Dolby Surround) Subtitles: English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Chinese, Korean, Thai Mastered in High Def, aspect ratio 2.35:1, anamorphic widescreen *Sense and Sensibility* Running Time: 136 mins (PG) Languages: English, Spanish (Dolby Surround), English 5.1 (Dolby Digital), Portuguese Subtitles: English, Spanish, Portuguese, Chinese, Korean, Thai Mastered in High Def, aspect ratio 1.85:1, anamorphic widescreen The picture quality is good, though not as crisp as I would have liked. However, if you're looking for a value buy of two great movies, then this DVD set will do nicely. Kazuo Ishiguro's *The Remains of the Day* was a masterpiece, and yet this movie adaptation is not only faithful to the novel, but in my opinion outshines the book. One reason is the excellent casting. Sir Anthony Hopkins plays the by-the-book butler whose icy demeanor actually belies a fondness and even love for his efficient and charming housekeeper, played excellently by Emma Thompson. His insistence on decorum and adherence to the politics of the household cause him to refrain from ever proclaiming his true feelings for his housekeeper, and so also goes his chance of personal happiness. Fast forward years later, and the aging Hopkins now has a new master, an American [played by Christopher Reeve]...he has the opportunity of engaging a new housekeeper, and thinks of his old housekeeper...but things are not as easy as he believes...and whether he gets to rectify his past mistakes makes up the rest of the story. A well-told tale of love lost, and also a good movie that provides a glimpse of politics in England during a time when Germany was rising in power. Jane Austen's *Sense & Sensibility* (1995) never fails to enthrall me. It has everything one would expect of a classic movie - a good plot [thanks in large part to Emma Thompson's excellent screenplay], stellar casting, gorgeous sets, costumes and lush scenery of the entrancing English countryside. The story of *Sense & Sensibility* is at heart a warm and insightful portrait of two sisters and their relationship with each other, as well as their romantic interests and a powerful social commentary of society in regency England. Those who are familiar with Jane Austen's works will appreciate how perceptive an observer she was of society at large and remarkable in her capability to capture powerful human emotions on paper. The plot of *Sense & Sensibility* the movie revolves around the Dashwood sisters, Elinor & Marianne, who upon the death of their beloved father are forced to move [together with their mother and younger sister] to a cottage in the English countryside and live on a paltry 500 pounds a year [due to English law at the time where property passes down through the male line]. Elinor [played excellently by the talented

Emma Thompson] is the older, and more wise [sensible] sister, who tries not to let her emotions rule her, in direct contrast to her younger, feisty sister Marianne [Kate Winslet] who is passionate, outspoken and open in displaying her emotions. Elinor falls for Edward Ferrars [an awkward yet deferential & handsome Hugh Grant] who due to a youthful indiscretion is unable to follow through on his attachment to Elinor. Marianne, on the other hand falls hard for dashing rogue Willoughby [Greg Wise], ignoring propriety and openly displaying her affections. The rest of the story deals with how the Dashwood sisters resolve their plight, and the story is made even more compelling by the other characters who certainly add to the depth of the storytelling - Colonel Brandon, a retired officer, who though much older, harbors a deep affection for Marianne [Alan Rickman], the callous sis-in-law Fanny Dashwood [Harriet Waller], the scheming Lucy Steele [Imogen Stubbs] and numerous other characters, who though secondary to the plot, are certainly memorable. Taiwanese director Ang Lee [of Eat Drink, Man Woman & Wedding Banquet fame] certainly proves his mettle here and manages to flesh out amazing performances from his cast, and delivers a gem of a movie, and a true classic."]

B001AYXDC2

"If you don't have time to watch Judge Judy on TV this is for you. Four cases from the syndicated TV show with a short introduction of each case by Judge Judy and participants comments after the segment. See Judge Judy's sharp tongue in action.", "This is a compilation of some of the best episodes in the first decade of Judge Judy. She's really due for a new DVD!", "I love Judge Judy and I can't believe the ridiculous things people sue each other for. I had to search for this video and Amazon had it. If you love Judge Judy and her wit this is perfect. You get to see 10-12 cases that are sometimes very silly. Judy deals with litigants fairly. If you're a fan of the show and just enjoy watching some of her most unusual cases this is a must.", "I have always enjoyed watching Judge Judy, and this is no exception here. One of my favorite episodes is on this DVD, where a girl is taken to a party, not permitted to leave, and then ambushed at a gas station. The betrayal of her supposed best friend, it's just disgusting. Once again, Judy dispenses the justice, though one can be forgiven if they think she has an acid tongue. Of course, most of those who get her venom rather tend to deserve it. Oh well. I had a great time watching it. I can't wait for the third DVD.", "Following the release of Judge Judy's first DVD, the hugely successful Judge Judy: Justice Served, this is the latest best-of DVD from everyone's favorite Judge. "Judge Judy: Second to None" is 1 DVD and a total of 1 hour and 46 minutes in length which also includes bonuses as well. (By the way, Judge Judy's new season begins on 9/8.) I love Judge Judy because she's always funny and completely wise. I've watched her show for years and what I appreciate the most about her is her consistency. She treats everyone the same and doesn't put up with any garbage. I was just watching Judge Judy the other day and some lady was suing her ex-boyfriend and she tried to bring up an affair and Judge Judy said, "you want to talk about that, go somewhere else, but not here." And I think that statement really embodies what her show is about. Another reason why I enjoy Judge Judy is because she is very fair and compassionate. She doesn't come to the bench spitting ricochets. Nope. It's only after her litigants either try to lie or show their complete foolishness does she get angry. The best words to describe Judge Judy and her show are: common sense. That's her show in a nutshell because she follows the laws of the land, but she also has basic common sense, which apparently some of her litigants neglect. Judge Judy also created the entire sub-genre of arbitration TV because her show is handled much more like a binding arbitrator in that she does not bang gavels and there is less reflection on money and more reflection on people and circumstances. It's no coincidence that nearly every single other court show on American TV is patterned after and adjudicated in the same method as Judge Judy's series because she set the standard.", "Judge Judy: Second to None Judge Judy is the best judge on t.v. because she tells it like it is. I recommend it for every court show fan. Linda McCollum", "I absolutely love this DVD!! Judge Judy is her usual awesome self!! All of the cases are great. I highly recommend this product.", "The movie was shipped quickly and in great condition. I am very happy. Thank you", "I enjoy Judge Judy here in

the UK. It's on CBS a lot. I never miss this when it's on. I have to say having watched many episodes of this programme there was only one episode that I felt her judgement was impaired, and that was the case of the housewife who had several children to look after and Judge Judy asked her why she did not have a job or could not get a job. Looking after children of school age is a job itself which I'm sure she knows but somehow overlooked. I do feel this case I have mentioned should be revisited.", 'I love Judge Judy!!!! She is the best of the best when it comes to reality court programs. There is no one else like her on television. Way to Go, Judge Judy!!!!', "I have been watching Judge Judy now for 12 years. The truth of the matter is she only gets better. With all her years on this show, I'm still amazed how some of the same things keep coming up in her courtroom. Especially the cases where women allow a man for whom she is only dating to borrow money. The best part is that I am a man. I hope she stays with us for 12 or more years to come. I also keep hoping we will see her show come to full DVD release as a season. Keep up the great work.. A true hero JUDGE JUDY...", 'Sometimes I feel sorry for some of the clods. But mostly, I wish I could import her skills at seeing through utter nonsense to some of my day to day activities. That would be, oh, how shall I say??? A full-time job?']

B001LM64UG

["Melrose Place was the perfect prime-time soap in the mid-90's and I am little surprised season five isn't going to be fully released like the other seasons. Apparently, season 4 didn't sell well and so the studio is only putting half of season five's episodes on this DVD, what the hell? I am so disappointed but hey this show was amazing, all the backstabbing, all the sex, and the fake deaths, what more could you want? Buy this today!", "Season 5 (at least the first half, presented in this DVD release, continues the drama, theatrical personalities and action of the series. This season introduces a few new characters to the fold, such as Kyle and Taylor and one of the character's birth mothers played by Donna Mills while offering an exit for some characters including Richard and Jane. In many ways, the first half of season 5 is really all about Jane; the season starts off with her and Sydney trying to deal with Richard and this set ends with Jane leaving Melrose Place after a lot of drama and twists, including stalking Allison, breaking up with Jake and attempting to disown Sydney and her family. Season 5 also deals with Peter's past, Amanda being under the gun at work and Kimberly getting a bad diagnosis that has her preparing for her death. Plot: Season 5 was good, but it still felt a bit off to me in terms of characterization. Jane seems completely over the top and psychotic, while Sydney is tamer and (though she has her moments). Allison is one character that seems really lost this season and as if the writers had no idea what to do with her other than get her involved with yet another resident at the apartment. Billy also seems lost in the fold this season, getting involve with a new character who really is boring and unappealing as a character. In all, season 5 felt like a somewhat unsteady season with the producers not being sure where the characters, or their plot lines, were going. A lot of the character's actions seemed random, confusing and motivated only by the producer's desire to keep up with the show's reputation of being dramatic, racy and surprising. Still, it was a lot of fun watching the craziness that occurred and I thought the one thing the season did do really well was attempt to shake up the character's relationships: we got to see Allison and Billy really support one another as friends and get beyond their romantic issues, Jane basically turn on Allison and Jake out of spite and jealousy, Sydney put aside her usual scheming to be a real sister Jane, Jake and Billy were on the outs, Peter began standing up for Matt and Kimberly and not just for Amanda and Kimberly and Michael reconcile. Seeing these relationships change and dynamics change is what made this season really stand out. DVD: I really had no issue with the transfer of the video or audio to DVD. What I did have issue with, and what caused me to take away a star when considering this season, was Paramount's decision to suddenly break up each season into volumes. They've done this with other shows, including 'Dynasty', and it seems ridiculous and nothing more than a marketing ploy to squeeze out more money from sales. This far into the series, I feel cheated as a consumer in having to not only spend more money for an entire season but now I have to wait even longer for just half a season to be

released. It'd be one thing if they cut the price in half to compensate for only offering up half a season but that's not the case. So we're left with an incomplete product and no extras of any sort on top of that. In all, 3.5 for the content itself but not at all a fan of the release format (half a season, lack of extras). Get it for the sake of having the episodes on DVD but face the fact that you'll have to purchase Melrose Place: Season Five, Vol. 2 to complete the entire season. And yes, that means you're paying almost 2x the price for just one season than before Paramount decided to split the seasons into volumes.", "They will probably step up the releases of Melrose Place and finish the series when the new updated series runs in the fall.", "Great DVD Sound/Quality, reliving 90's!! I love the opening credits! Back to 4619 Melrose Place!!!!!! Sadly, no more Jo!!!! Last Season of Jake/Alison.", "I purchased Melrose Place Season 5 - Volume 1, on the day it was released, hoping the second half of the Fifth season gets released. I wish Paramount makes plans to release Melrose Place Season 5 - Volume 2 for a Summer release. Melrose Place The 5th Season - Volume 2 Disc 1 Men are From Melrose Frames 'R' Us Screams from a Marriage 101 Damnations From Here to Maternity Disc 2 Last Exit to Ohio - Kimberly dies The Dead Wives Club - Marcia Cross's Final Episode Deja Vu All Over Again - First Appearance of Alyssa Milano as Jennifer Mancini, and David Charvet becomes a regular cast member All Beths are off Ultimatums and the Single Guy Disc 3 Going Places Secrets and Lies and More Lies Who's Afraid of Amanda Woodward? - Final Episode for Grant Show, Courtney Thorne-Smith and Laura Leighton as Sydney gets hit by Samantha's car and dies Please release Melrose Place Season 5 - Volume 2 for the Summer of 2009!", "The 1990's Melrose Place was great they should've given it 8 seasons It left some questions unanswered but all in all if you don't add this to your MP collection you'll be depriving yourself of great entertaining Television. What ever happened to Kyle played by the handsome Rob Estes, even Taylor on the hit series.", "At last, season 5 lands, albeit volume 1. Thankfully, CBS DVD are having a change of heart with Melrose and are getting it back on DVD after abandoning it last year in the U.S., and in 2007 in Europe... due to poor sales, I believe. (although, as of Feb 09, Melrose season 3 has been again delayed in Europe... it didn't arrive Feb 9th, instead now due late May, but I for one gave up on waiting for these releases and am thankful for the region 1 releases I can get) THE DVDS: On this set, you get part one of season 5 on a 4 disc set- episodes 1-20 of 34. (As I recall, episode 18 (Great Expectations) is a two parter, which aired as a 2 hour episode during the February sweeps season of 97, subsequently this was split into 2 separate episodes in other countries. on the case, it's named as just one episode of 19 on the set... but I believe we are getting 20 episodes). regardless, we are getting slightly more than half the season, 17 would have been half.. volume 2 will probably be a 3 disc set of the 14 episodes left (I hope this will come in April or May, Dynasty had volume 1 in August, volume 2 in October last year of season 3, so I hope we're given a similarly short gap between volumes). The set includes: Disc 1: Living With Disaster (Sept. 9, 1996) Over Dick's Dead Body (Sept. 16, 1996) Moving Violations (Sept. 23, 1996) Hunks Hunks Burnin' Love (Sept. 30, 1996) Un-Janed Melody (Oct. 28, 1996) Disc 2: Jane's Addiction (Nov. 4, 1996) Young Doctors in Heat (Nov. 11, 1996) Mission: Interpersonal (Nov. 11, 1996) Farewell Mike's Concubine (Nov. 18, 1996) Nice Work if You Can Get It (Nov. 25, 1996) Disc 3: Sole Sister (Dec. 2, 1996) Quest for Mother (Dec. 9, 1996) Crazy Love (Dec. 16, 1996) The Accidental Doctor (Jan. 6, 1997) Escape From L.A. (Jan. 13, 1997) Disc 4: Eyes of the Storm (Jan. 20, 1997) Better Homes and Condos (Jan. 27, 1997) Great Sex-Expectations : parts 1 and 2 (Feb. 3, 1997) Catch Her in the Lie (Feb. 10, 1997) (By the way, episode summaries are returned to the packaging this time, when you open the case, episode titles and summaries are evident) THE SEASON: As for the show itself, season 5 was great for me... a lot of changes occurred during the season, particularly cast changes but the show still didn't lose its momentum, its ability to shock, its strong plots and stories and characters that we cared about... at least not until the finale of the season ... season 6 never took off, the show couldn't recover from the mass exodus by the end of season 5. So, this was it really, the last enjoyable season, in years 6 and 7, fans didn't really connect with the new characters or care about them.. But this is a very satisfying season, because the characters we all knew and loved bowed out with strong stories. There was Kimmy's cancer battle and battle to hold onto Michael's affections once Megan and him became serious, Sydney finally got to be her own person this year... and not just Michael's lapdog.... in season 4, she became nothing but a comical extra to other people's plots.. this

year she found love, first with Carter and then with Craig... and wasn't the finale build-up great... Syd taking on Amanda and putting her and D&D; out of business! Alison and Jake seemed to settle down and were ready to start a family, but Alison got cold feet in the end and ruined it all....Jane, well Jane just lost it for the first part of this season! It was nice to see her get back that nasty streak we saw in her early in season 4 before Richard wore her down... I hated Jane the victim, so I was rooting for her crazy stalking of Jake and Alison! Plus, it was nice to have a nut in action since Kimmy was mellowed out this year! Other pluses this year..Amanda got her spine back, season 4 and the Perez brothers saga made her such a victim too. She lost her edge... But this year, she was back to her bitchy self trying to assume control of D&D.; Taylor was a nice addition to the cast. Her devotion to Peter by the end of the season was shocking, hitting herself with a door to make him think he was abusing her! Genius, just what Kimmy would have done! Of course, we did get lots of duds/ copies in the cast this year in anticipation of the exodus: Kyle was a copy of Jake (the macho hothead stereotype), Sam was the new Alison (starting off as a nice girl), Jennifer was meant to be the new Syd (fat chance!) Taylor was the new Kimmy etc. Somehow, the copying of characters didn't really effect the show this year... it was only when the characters we loved had gone in season 6 that it was clear the producers had made big mistakes in allowing so many central characters leave although most had run their course truthfully. The Split Season Problem: It isn't ideal to have seasons split but I see Amazon are today offering it for \$26.99, and that is half what I paid for seasons 3 and 4 on Amazon on their release date so maybe volumes 1 and 2 of this season will work out similar to what we paid for complete seasons in the past (before sales, reductions). Ultimately, fans have to accept that we are a niche market- it's the old supply and demand scenario--not enough people are interested in buying this series to make it profitable, so we have to be prepared to pay some premium to make it viable to release the show any more... and split seasons is this premium. In short, it is a pain, it isn't truly necessary BUT I for one am simply glad that season five (the last truly enjoyable season) is making its way to DVD at ALL. We have a choice: accept what we are getting and be grateful for small mercies and just accept that Paramount could easily do without the hassle and effort of releasing a series that has to date not been very profitable. Paramount can and will make more money, easily and quickly with other titles like CSI etc which have mass and current appeal, Melrose on the other hand won't make them much. I don't like siding with Paramount ... I know it would be fairer for us as consumers to get complete seasons ... but the past year has taught me to be happy with what we get. So, enjoy!", "I missed season 5 when it aired so I couldn't wait to get this on DVD. I absolutely love it. If you were a fan of this show you will want the DVDs.", "This season was a lot better than I remember. When it aired originally I was starting my freshman year in college and didn't have time to be in front of the television every Monday night so I saw less than half of the season. I do remember being not so impressed with this season because of the sudden thrust of new characters. Longtime series regular Daphne Zuniga (Jo Reynolds) said goodbye in the season four finale. The fourth season bid farewell to short-term cast member Kristin Davis (Brooke Armstrong). Although Kristin Davis' presence was never really missed after she left Melrose (the character just didn't fit), Zuniga's absence left a huge void in the character dynamics of many of the series regulars. Missing was the sometimes-messy friendship between Jo and Alison (Courtney Thorne-Smith). Alison's friendship with Jane never seemed quite as legitimate without Jo around. Also, the character of Jake (Grant Show) suffered in Jo's absence. While he certainly had more chemistry with Alison than he did with Jane, Jake never really quite fit with Alison either. Early in the season, long time regular guest star Patrick Muldoon (Melrose Place's longest running guest star, pretty much an unbilled series regular in the fourth season) got his pink slip when his good-guy-turned-creep Richard Hart was justifiably gunned down. In episode 15 of the season, series regular Josie Bissett (Jane) departed the series after suffering a miscarriage. It's interesting to wonder what would have become of Jane had Bissett not left the series, considering what the writers threw at her this season. As contracts came to an end, season five saw the departures of four more series regulars. Marcia Cross (Kimberly) left in episode 27. Grant Show (Jake), Courtney Thorne-Smith, and Laura Leighton (Sydney) departed in the fifth season finale, six episodes after Cross' departure. To compensate for the rash of departures, Melrose introduced a swath of new characters. Brooke Langton (who first appeared at the very end of the fourth season) joined the

cast as Samantha Riley, a new love interest for Billy Campbell (Andrew Shue) and Craig Field (David Charvet), also new to the cast. Charvet's character would also serve as one of the foils to Amanda's marriage to Peter. Lisa Rinna and Rob Estes joined the cast as Taylor and Kyle McBride, a married couple from Boston who would provide a constant source of drama for Amanda and Peter. Taylor has a deep connection to Peter's past and manipulates Kyle, Amanda, Peter and almost everyone else she comes into contact with. Kyle had a promising connection to Sydney but that is cut short. Kelly Rutherford came aboard as Megan Lewis, a prostitute who falls in love with Michael (Thomas Calabro) and has a very surprising friendship with Kimberly (Marcia Cross); Though Rutherford was heavily featured in the first half of the season, she is not billed in the opening credits until the 16th episode of the season, immediately following Josie Bissett's departure. The storylines and writing in season five are just as sharp and edgy as the previous two seasons, suffering only slightly from cast/character rotation. Fitting (and even shocking) send-offs are given to departing cast members. Doug Savant (Matt Fielding) does appear and is billed in the opening credits for the sixth season premiere, though he departs in that very episode, so essentially season five was Savant's last. One of my biggest complaints is the final scene between Alison and Billy (it felt rushed) and the lack of final scene between Alison and Amanda (Heather Locklear). As longtime foes who sometimes tried to be friends, Alison and Amanda deserved a final scene together.", 'This is dedicated to all of the diehard MP fans and anyone else who appreciates drama, theatrics and humor. This is a 4-disc set which will include the first 15 eps of Season 5. The reason why Season 5 is coming out in volumes is twofold. The fourth season didn't sell as well as expected and last summer CBS Video canceled the release of the full season boxed set. Because of an intense grassroots effort from fans the studio has decided to roll out the season in volumes, starting with this set, hitting stores in Feb. '09. If this sells well they will continue to release it (MP was on for 7 full seasons). The second reason why this is being released in volumes is because this season (like every MP season) was incredibly long. More than 30 full eps (some of which were 2 hours long). There was no other series in American primetime television that produced more eps in such a short period of time. Watching Season 5 is like watching p0rno minus the really bad acting (well, mostly) and incredibly fugly chicks! It's cheap and vulgar and obscene and I love it!!! On one ep Amanda could be having a drunken roll in the sack with Craig on another she could be running into Kyle's cockpit! And, when sex-crazy Michael wasn't getting it at home (everyone's favorite kook Kimberly was suffering from a severe case of frigidity) he simply found a hooker (courtesy of his wife!) who satisfied all of his needs. Wasn't it so funny when Amanda made that pathetic celibacy vow? It only lasted about as long as it took her to slip out of her micro-mini! Just about everyone is getting their mojo strung. Except, of course for poor old Hilda Morris! Although, I seriously think that if Syd had fixed Hilda up with one of the resident-hotties (Jake, Billy or Matt, although he doesn't swing that way) Hilda would have dropped her ludicrous lawsuit quicker than you can say "G-Spot." Speaking of g-spots, didn't Taylor look like she was always getting it on with herself. It looked like she was always in this extreme heat of passion, like she was having an intense o-r-g@s-m all the time! And when Peter came buzzing around her Taylor simply couldn't wait to jump his bones! Surprisingly, always-hungry-for-sloppy-seconds, Alison, only plays leap-frog with Jake during this Season! Although, Jake is enough man to satisfy any woman! He's like a big, juicy, meaty, steak; you just can't wait to wrap your lips around it...! ...Like a Virginia Slim, it always fills your mouth with flavor! ...I tend to think that Samantha Riley used her sex as a weapon to control Billy. She was more shameless than Taylor and Megan. How else can all of those idiotic things that Billy did for her (he took her in after only knowing her for like what a month? took in her jail-bird daddy and supported them both!) be explained, otherwise? ...Even Arthur Field got into the act. Although Amanda made another one of her asinine threats to him, "I'll sue your pants off you." Field quickly replied, "you don't have to sue me to get my pants off." Yuuuuck!! That ugly, old thing looks like Mr. Burns! But I'm sure Amanda would have jumped on his soul-train if she needed help advancing at D&D;! These are the Season 5 Usual Suspects, Guests, Recurring Stars & Various Nobodys:** Thomas Calabro / Dr. Michael h-o-r-n-y-as-a-toad-Mancini (he was the only character who was on the entire Series, without leaving; on entire Season)** Heather The Star Locklear / Amanda "Queen of the Jungle" Woodward (on entire Season, after all she's the Star, although by now, she is getting very

overdone)** Andrew Shue / Billy boring-boring-boring Campbell (regrettably, he was on the entire Season)** Josie Bissett / Jane Mancini (on up until the middle of Season 5 when she left the Series; she came back just over a year later in Season 6)** Courtney Thorne-Smith / Allison Parker (Allison's name has been spelled with both 1 "L" and 2, for this review, I'm spelling it with 2.) (on the entire Season too, thankfully it was her last)** Grant Show / Jake the-sexiest-man-in-the-world Hanson (Jake was my kind of man, young and dumb and eager to please; on the entire Season; but this would be his last, sadly!)** Doug Savant / Matt the-token-g-a-y Fielding (almost as boring as Billy, on the entire Season)** Jack Wagner / Dr. Peter Burns (aka Dr. Feelgood or Dr. Jungle-Fever) (entire Season)** Laura Leighton / Sydney Andrews (entire Season, this would also be Syd's last!)** Marcia Cross / Dr. Kimberly (the most desperate housewife there is!) Shaw (left during the middle of Season 5, sadly because she was my favorite kook!)** Rob Estes / Kyle (the Jake-wannabe) McBride (entire Season)** Kelly Rutherford / Megan the-happy-hooker Mancini (originally Lewis) (started after the Season began in a small part that flourished into recurring status, similar to what happened to Lexi (aka "Mood Hair") in Season 6)** Brooke Langton / Samantha Reilly (I hated this one more than even Allison, on entire Season, unfortunately)** Lisa Rinna / Victoria "Vicki" Taylor McBride (I love Taylor & her big lips, on entire Season)** David Charvet / Craig Field (after Jake, Craig was the hottest man in the building, started after the Season began, but was on the rest of the Season)** Alyssa Milano / Jennifer Mancini (only had a small recurring role, towards the end of the Season, although she'd be back in Season 6)** Patrick Muldoon / Richard Hart (left towards the beginning of the Season after like the 2nd ep, BTW, did get you a load of Richard's hirsute? Very sexy!)** Dey Young / Dr. Irene Shulman otherwise known as "that Shulman Creature" by Taylor (only had a small recurring role, but she always managed to make a big splash (pardon the pun) when she was on)** Katie Wright / Chelsea Fielding (only had a small & boring recurring role)** Greg Evigan / Dr. Dan Hathaway (in the only, and I mean Only time in the entire history of "Melrose," Matt was involved in an interesting storyline, thanks to Dan, only on part of the Season in a recurring role)** The late Scott Plank (he passed away in 2002) / Nick Reardon (not on entire Season, just had a recurring role)** Edie McClurg / Hilda Morris (only on 3 eps, but this big-mama always managed to snatch the spotlight from Syd)These are the Season 5 eps:Living With Disaster (Sept. 9, 1996)Richard starts playing with Jane's mind. Amanda travels out of town to gather information on her new husband, who's still in the slammer. Meanwhile, a mysterious woman in Boston (Taylor) reads of Peter's incarceration in the society papers and takes the red-eye to LA!Over Dick's Dead Body (Sept. 16, 1996)Fist of all, don't you love the title of this ep? So "Melrose Place!!" Jane and Syd are still being tormented by Richard (YAWN!) Meanwhile, Taylor sets up shop at The Building and even rents Jo's old apartment.Moving Violations (Sept. 23, 1996)Syd and Jane get away from Richard's hairball scheme to entrap them. Jane's dumbbell roommate, Samantha comes to pick them up. Taylor brings Kyle by to see their new apartment. By the way, did you notice how incredibly nasty and sarcastic Amanda was to her? I mean, she was even mean-spirited by her own standards. Amanda's claws really came out when Taylor sashayed by. What was up with that?Hunka Hunka Burnin' Love (Sept. 30, 1996)Peter fires Sydney for selling his house while he was in jail and she threatens him with a sexual harassment suit. I love what Peter says to her: Lady, I was in jail for murder, a sex-charge would be a walk in the park! Speaking of fires, Jane accidentally ignites a fire at Allison's new pad, just as sexy Jake is removing his shirt!Un-Janed Melody (Oct. 28, 1996)Pretty-boi Billy thinks he's too good for Jane when she tries to jump his bones, in an apparent scheme to win Jake back and make Allison envious. ...Taylor overhears Kimberly (who, after being investigated by the Medical Review Board gives up her medical license, is now Peter & Michael's receptionist) state that Peter is out of town on his honeymoon and just so happens to show up with Kyle! Amanda is less than thrilled to see them, especially Taylor. Field shows up at D&D; and makes some waves with his eager-to-please son. And, in her "Melrose" debut, we meet everyone's favorite happy hooker. BTW, did you get a load of Megan as she was doing her little jogging routine on the beach? Things were moving in all different directions, like a bowl of jiggle jello; it reminded me of Tanya Harding in a spandex.Jane's Addiction (Nov. 4, 1996)Jane's still up to her (getting old) tricks as far as Allison and Jake are concerned. The malice (or should I say dementia) continues when she slashes Jake's tires. Meanwhile, Dan helps Matt

with his dependency issues. Young Doctors in Heat (Nov. 11, 1996) Amanda is especially critical with Peter and they both fight like cats and dogs. (BTW, have you ever noticed that Amanda enjoys the chase even more than actually being caught? It's like once she's caught and has her man she's no longer happy and tries to ruin it.) Later in the ep, a very inebriated Peter "sleeps it off" on Kyle & Taylor's sofa while Taylor licks her lips as she stares him up and down. Michael is seeing a mystery woman who he's trying to learn about. Megan theatrically opens up her robe (to reveal her undressed body) and says to Michael: everything you need to know about me is right here. Also in this ep, Allison confronts Jane, regarding her loony antics. Mission: Interpersonal (Nov. 11, 1996) Note: both this ep & the one prior aired on the same date, however this is not a 2-hour show, it's 2 different eps. Taylor tells Peter who she really is and tries to ingratiate herself in his life. After an over-the-top breakdown Jane finally realizes that she was misdirecting her rage towards kind-hearted Jake (it was really Richard who she wanted to hurt.) Farewell Mike's Concubine (Nov. 18, 1996) Michael gets more serious about Megan, however Kimberly wants the relationship to end. And as we've learned in the past, what Kimberly wants Kimberly usually gets! Samantha (the little ice-princess) is put off when Craig tries to hop in the sack with her (what was she waiting for an engraved announcement on Wedgeford Crystal?) Nice Work if You Can Get It (Nov. 25, 1996) Craig pulls off a hostage take-over of D&D.; Field makes allies with Amanda saying: unusual times call for unusual bedfellows. Meanwhile, Kyle beds Syd. And this is why I really didn't like Kyle. OK, yes his wife was huge hore, but he was really no better! And besides, what's good for the goose is good for the gander! Later, Jane goes home to visit her parents, because as she put it: I just don't know who I am anymore. I always liked Jane & Syd's mom, Katherine Andrews (Gail Strickland.) (Wasn't she somewhat of a drama-queen?) Anywho, Jane finds out that she was actually adopted and runs back to LA in search of her biological parent. Also on this ep Dan has a little scuffle with Jake who wants to know why Matt quit without giving him notice. (Matt was too scared to speak to Jake so he told Allison.) When Jake finally confronts Matt at Shooters, Dan says, "he doesn't have to give you notice." Jake replies, "what are you his lawyer." Dan, "No, I'm his lover." Sole Sister (Dec. 2, 1996) Kyle pushes Sydney away (you should know by now Syd's never been afraid of a wedding ring.) Craig is still hot for Samantha and even rents her a working studio. Dan is confronted by a former lover who makes a scene while Matt looks on in shock. Quest for Mother (Dec. 9, 1996) Kimberly no longer wants anything to do with Michael after finding out that her condition is terminal (she has a brain tumor!) Peter and Taylor light a candle in Beth's remembrance. And, Amanda is getting more and more peeved by Big-Peter's behavior. (I bet Taylor wouldn't mind getting her hands on Big-Peter!) Meanwhile, Jane finally meets Sherry (Donna Mills) her long-lost birth parent. Crazy Love (Dec. 16, 1996) Jane gets closer to Sherry, however the relationship is strained. Samantha acts like a big baby over her stupid paintings and even gets Billy involved. Billy gets the "board" at D&D; to get Craig to take down her painting. OK, this is another hairball subplot. Hello, did the writers forget that Craig was the owner of the company? Billy said something like: Oh, I just sent an email to the "art review committee" telling them that it did not meet standards. Gimme a break, guy! You're so full of yourself! The Accidental Doctor (Jan. 6, 1997) Both Kyle and Michael play matchmaker as far as Amanda and Peter are concerned. Dan becomes physically abusive with Matt. I dunno about you, but I think it's pretty hot watching 2 g-a-y men fight. They should make a sport of it. G-a-y boxing? Escape From L.A. (Jan. 13, 1997) In another dramatic ep, Jane leaves LA for the safety of her parents' home, back in Chicago. (This will be Josie's last ep for more than a year!) I love how Katherine goes running after Sherry to "thank her." Meanwhile, Dan's able to convince his little leap-frog partner, Matt, to be his new permanent bunk-mate. However, after the move is nearly completed Dan attacks him. This time the usually docile Matt grows a backbone and fights back, giving Dan a much-deserved clock in the face! Eyes of the Storm (Jan. 20, 1997) Michael feels beholden to Kimberly (God knows why?) Amanda blackmails loose-lips Craig with the info that he spilled about his father. Dan and Matt exchange words in the courtyard, but being the perpetual good-guy that he always is, Matt refuses to allow Dan to "leave in that condition." Dan spends the night at Matt's (but not in the same bed.) Better Homes and Condos (Jan. 27, 1997) Kimberly is able to save Michael (after he and Megan went chasing after her in another one of her attention-seeking tricks) in enough time. Syd takes Jane's old apartment and Samantha (who isn't even paying rent!)

puts up a foolish fight. (Did I tell you I can't stand this girl?) Sydney also gets more serious with Carter (Chad Lowe) in San Francisco. Also during this ep, Kyle's old bosom-buddy Nick comes for an extended-visit! Everyone seems to enjoy the presence of Nick. Everyone except for Taylor McBride! BTW, I love it when Nick says to Tayler (in a couple of eps later:) look, you little hore, I want you to be a wife to Kyle. Great S-e-x-pectations (Feb. 3, 1997) Note: this is a 2-part ep. Megan starts getting jealous of all the time that Michael is spending with Kimberly. (I suppose breaking up their marriage wasn't enough for her?) Taylor finds out that the new hospital chief-of-staff got the position because he was getting into his own weird positions with Dr. Shulman. (Talk about working hard for your money! My goodness, I bet even Shulman's snatch has teeth!) And, Taylor gladly relays the info to Peter who uses the gossip to his advantage. Never one to pass up an opportunity, Peter walks into the lady's lockerroom (@ Wilshire Memorial) while Shulman is changing and says to her: I know he's a married man and you're having s-e-x with him. And surprise, surprise! Peter soon becomes the new big chief at the hospital! In the second part of the ep, Kimberly begs Michael to sleep next to her for "old times sake." Craig is thinking with his other head when Amanda manages to get him to sign over half his portion of D&D; to her! Speaking of Amanda, she dramatically chases after Allison when she decides to go and visit Meredith (after a fight with Jake and realizing that she was pregnant.) And upon her return, Allison stays with Amanda instead of going back to Jake's. Did I miss something? Doesn't these 2 hate each other? Catch Her in the Lie (Feb. 10, 1997) Michael sleeps with Kimberly and Megan is very upset. (It wasn't fully established, but this is a rare ep when I believe "sleep" just means sleep, not s-e-x.) Also, Kyle gives Carter a job. After bungling a bunch of tasks, Taylor sarcastically tells him that she's gonna have him wash dishes. And Carter says (and honestly means it, this isn't said sarcastically,;) Oh wow, I am so lucky. Taylor then turns to Syd and says: Oh you got a real winner there. LOL!! So funny!! Meanwhile, Craig pays Nick to dig up proof that these 2 animals (Peter & Taylor, who else?) are enjoying their own s-e-x sessions! Men Are From Melrose (Feb. 17, 1997) This is one of my favorite eps, because it's all about the lewd behavior of Peter and Taylor! Nick is following them and witnesses everything! He even catches them on a golf course; talk about a hole in one! Carter and Syd breakup because he overhears her talking about him. Frames 'R' Us (Feb. 24, 1997) Nick is dropping hints to Taylor that he has proof. Later in the ep, Peter and Taylor pull off an elaborate s-c-a-m to s-t-e-a-l the pictures back! It was so funny when Taylor actually ripped her halter-top to make it look like Nick attacked her! After Kyle throws him out (BTW, how exactly is that possible since it isn't his building?) Nick records a secret conversation between Peter and Taylor. It was so dramatic when he called Craig and played the tape for him saying "listen to the coming attractions." The following morning, Craig and Amanda show up at Peter's condo because as Craig said to Amanda, "I have to show you something." And they see Peter and Taylor going at it like rabbits in heat! It was almost d-e-v-i-o-u-s watching Peter, because he looked up, made eye contact with Amanda, and then went back to his business without even flinching! OMG, so Melrose! I love it, I love it, I love it!!! You think that's good? Later on, Amanda shows up at "Kyle's Restaurant" unannounced and Taylor sarcastically says to her: Amanda, what can I do for you? Amanda then s-u-c-k-e-r-punches her in the face, with a big, closed, fist!!!! It cannot get better than this!! This is just as good as Crystal Carrington and Alexis Colby!!!!!!!! Oh before I forget, as the ep ends, Amanda, in a drunken stupor, decides to have s-ex- with Craig. Dare I say, the girl could do much worse? Roll on big-mama! Screams From a Marriage (March 3, 1997) This' another favorite of mine!! Amanda wants nothing further to do with Peter (or Craig, for that matter.) Meanwhile, things are just as salacious for the McBride's when jar-head Kyle starts putting 2 & 2 together. He goes to visit Nick who reluctantly plays the tape of Taylor & Peter's little chit-chat session. Kyle then goes berserk, smashes the tape player, and punches Nick in the face. (Keep in mind, during Season 7 Kyle goes waaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaay off the deep end (not unlike Kimberly) so this may just be a prelude of what's in store, 2 years later!) ... Anyway, later on in the ep, Kyle packs up Taylor's things and throws her out. OK, this is my favorite scene in the Entire History of "Melrose" ~ After being thrown out, Taylor takes her cute little designer suitcase and starts walking through the courtyard to leave. En route to the building exit (you know right where the mailboxes are, through the archway, but before those 2 double-doors,) who should show up, but Amanda! YES, YES,

YES!!!! Amanda says to her: Taking a trip, somewhere? So sorry to see you go. Taylor: Your husband's condo, actually!! OK, this is even better than the punch in the face!!! I love it!!! Amanda retorts: Well good for you, all you had to do was break up 2 marriages. But who's counting. (BTW, Amanda's "comeback" was nowhere near as good as Taylor's remark.)

101 Damnations (March 10, 1997) After returning to the streets, Michael takes Megan back. ...Amanda and Kyle also learn of Peter & Taylor's familial background. Kyle also confronts Taylor, grabbing her arm in a somewhat abusive way. Peter comes running out saying: take your hands off her. Kyle: I just wanted to hear it straight from the horses, I mean horse's mouth!! Later on, Matt has problems to deal with when his troublesome niece, Chelsea, is left in his care. BORING! (Why couldn't they have kept with the Dan storyline for Matt? Oh wait, I know why, the honchos at Fox were way too h-o-m-o-phobic for any really good stories for Matt.)

From Here to Maternity (March 17, 1997) Syd tries to negotiate with Hilda's lawyer who only has dollar signs in his eyes. In perhaps her only smart-remark ever, Samantha says to Sydney: just for the record, I hope Hilda cleans your clock. Who's Hilda? She's this cute redhead who comes to Syd's boutique. I love how Sydney says to her, "just so you know we don't have a very large selection of sizes" (emphasis on the word "large.") And Hilda then takes a nasty spill. Poor Hildegard!

Last Exit to Ohio (March 31, 1997) Everyone's favorite mother-in-law, Marion Shaw (Janet Carroll) resurfaces to take Kimberly home. Get a load of the dinner between Kimberly, Marion, Michael and Megan. Does anyone else find that incredibly inappropriate? Anyway, this is a very sad ep, Kimberly is gone. Kimberly is no more. In honor of Kimberly's death I have a little song: Dong! The Witch is dead. Which old Witch? The Wicked Witch! Ding Dong! The Wicked Witch is dead. Wake up - sleepy head, rub your eyes, get out of bed. Wake up, the Wicked Witch is dead. She's gone where the goblins go, below - Below - below. Yo-ho, let's open up and sing and ring the bells out. Ding Dong! the merry-oh, sing it high, sing it low. Let them know The Wicked Witch is dead! (P.S. feel free replace the word "witch" with that word that starts with a capital "B" I'm sure you know which one!)

The Dead Wives Club (April 7, 1997) Oh, before I forget, lemme tell you that Syd loses all of her assets to Hilda (this actually happened in the prior ep, but I was so enamored with Kimberly's situation that I plumb forgot about it.) I loved how Hilda was dramatically dressed in that ludicrous-looking neck-brace. The poor-thing was even in a wheel chair, too. Hilda makes herself fall down a flight of concrete stairs (making it look like Syd pushed her, remember Hilda was an old stunt girl.) Their presiding judge (where'd he come from, remember, this little stunt took place outside?) just so happens to witness this & everyone's holed back into court. (I sure bet if Syd set up a private liaison with perhaps Billy or Jake or even timid Matt, Hildegard would have dropped her bogus suit!) OK, on this ep, Syd finally decides to go to "work for Harry" (Markus Flanagan,) Hilda's unscrupulous lawyer; and she throws herself down Amanda's steps at a cocktail party she was hosting in honor of Kyle.

Deja Vu All Over Again (April 14, 1997) Sydney is hurt worse than she thought she'd be. Harry advises her to keep her distance from Amanda and Craig, who tells Amanda that he will try to seduce Syd into dropping the suit. Later on, Kyle and Amanda discuss opening up a jazz club. Meanwhile, Michael's little sis Jennifer shows up unannounced. Michael gets her an interview at D&D; because as he puts it "Amanda owes me one" (what exactly could Amanda "owe" Michael for??) Anyway, during the interview, Jennifer's behavior was beyond rude. Truth be told, I have never witnessed such a rude display of bad manners in my entire life. However, as the Season progresses, we all see the real Jennifer; she's a very sweet girl, that's a little rough around the edges; but very likable.

All Bets Are Off (April 14, 1997) Jennifer bumps into Kyle at his restaurant and gives him a slap then runs off. It's later revealed that she was the girl who he had the affair with back in Boston! Michael-the-jack!ss throws his sister out, after that incident. Meanwhile, Allison (the other jack!ss) is hitting the bottle again. Her drinking gets so out-of-control that Amanda fires her (what is this like the 10th time she's been fired?) Also, Craig and Sydney get closer and this long-time viewer is elated to see that Syd is finally (getting) satisfied!

Ultimatums and the Single Guy (April 28, 1997) The McBride's & Burns' discuss divorce at the restaurant. Taylor's taking to wearing some new ultra-conservative attire to peak her new live-in-lover's interest. I love when Amanda says to Taylor that her clothes are "ugly." It reminds me of the Season 6 ep, when on her wedding day (actually wedding evening) Taylor shows up unannounced and says to Amanda: Oh, by the way, your dress is hideous! Also in this ep, Syd starts working as a "consultant" at D&D.;

I love how Craig fights for his lady's honor and gets Harry to bug off! Going Places (May 5, 1997) With Michael's help, Taylor schemes to drug Peter and convince him that he has "rage epilepsy." It was so sick when Taylor egged Michael on to punch her so Peter would think she was really hurt! And then after she hits herself, did you see how she crawled up to Peter and starts kissing him. What a total deranged kook! Secrets and Lies and More Lies (May 12, 1997) Sydney undermines Amanda every chance she gets at D&D.; Meanwhile, the Jazz club opens. And after seeing that Jennifer's working for Kyle, Amanda pushes him away. At the grand opening, Amanda throws herself onto Craig to make Syd jealous. This was done after Syd sarcastically said to Amanda: it's so sad watching the old lioness lose her teeth. (Another great line!) Who's Afraid of Amanda Woodward? (May 12, 1997) Note: this is a 2-part ep. In the first part, Syd and Craig decide to leave D&D; and take all of Amanda's clients and employees with them! (I love Sydney but what makes her think that she's any match for Amanda in the business dept.?) When her assets are undermined, Amanda tries to back out of the jazz club deal. Meanwhile, Michael gets Taylor to make a spectacle out of herself so that Peter will cause a scene and Megan will report the "abuse" to Shulman. Later on, never-happy Allison stages a little show for Jake; she gets drunk with a friend so she can chase Jake away because the woman is never happy because she doesn't want to be happy! Good Riddance, Allison! You will not be missed! ...In the second part of the ep, Amanda suffers a breakdown over her agency. Jake gets his son and Colleen to move with him to Ojai. (It's sad that he's gone, but I am happy that at least Jake finally found happiness and was finally reunited with his son after all those years.) Peter realizes that Michael was behind his fall and attacks him at the office. Sydney finally finds love. She finally finds a man who will accept her for who she is. This is one of my favorite times for her, because in the 5 years that she was on the show she never really found unconditional love until she met Craig. It was very bittersweet when she was plowed down in her wedding dress, right after getting married! Season 5 is the defining season of the trashiest, sleaziest, sexiest series that popularized (and polarized) casual affairs with multiple sex-partners! "Melrose" totally reminds me of Ms. Charly McClain's signature song: Who's cheatin' who an' who's bein' true? Who don't even care anymore...! That's so Melrose...!, "I haven't seen these episodes in years but why do they insist on splitting the seasons up but they still charge the same price for a volume as a season. I say somebody is greedy!!", "This season was great. The only part my daughter was unhappy about was when Syd got ran down in her Wedding Dress at her Wedding. Does anyone know when Vol. 2 of this season will be out? my daughter can't wait.", "Seasons 2 & 3 were the best. Season 4 started to slow down. Season 5 was very dull, but I paid enough for it so I watched it, but I couldn't wait for it to be over. It was still entertaining, but if I would have started watching the show in season 5 I would not have continued. The actors were all fine, but the writing didn't have much life. You see this in most shows...the last few seasons start to become boring. Dallas in my opinion is the perfect example of this. It was the greatest show, but the last season was horrible and dryer than my hair. I do remember liking the last season of Melrose Place when it was on the air, but I was young and easily entertained, but going on season five I will not be buying seasons six and seven unless I find them at goodwill for cheap.", 'I waited for season 5 to be released on DVD for a long time and I gotta tell you, it was all worth the wait. If you are a fan of this amazing TV show, I would definitely say: Buy this set. You will enjoy all the episodes.', 'Have to agree with "Smrtalec33", I too have rewatched this show since its release & just rewatched this 5th Season again, had not seen it since its airing in 1996/1997, & even 12 years later I found that it was as dull now as it was then, although I think splitting a season up is dumb at best, I can see Paramount's reason here, below are the good & bad things about this season The Good>>>The Jane/Sidney/Richard subplot is wrapped up Peter is cleared of killing Bobby Matt gets help for his addiction Kimberly lives Sexy Megan gets introduced Brooke Langton was just sooo fine Donna Mills as Jane's birth mother was a nice touch Now for the bad>>>>Lisa Rinna & Rob Estes, Don't get me wrong I really liked Rob Estes on "Silk Stalkings", & he was at the time married to Josie Bissett (Jane), but here his talents get wasted, him & Rinna had absolutely NO CHEMISTRY!!! None, zero, zilch!!! Hunter Tylo who was fired for getting pregnant (& later sued) would have been Taylor (Rinna's character) & would have had much better chemistry with Estes no doubt David Charvet was o.k. as Amanda's rival, but not that intimidating as he should have been Megan (Kelly

Rutherford) got a good introduction as Michael's new love interest, but it seemed the writers just didn't know how to make her more interesting. Alison & Jake are given a romance that fails miserably, I mean did making these two romantic make sense, they had nothing in common, talk about wasting two good characters. Apparently the writers didn't really know what to do with Peter & Billy. They just seem to be going through the motions. Sydney is given a new romance with a Bill Gates type character, but again the writers could not make it interesting. Then there is Kimberly is also just going through the motions. Finally Matt gets involved with an abusive guy (Greg Evigan in a thankless role) that goes nowhere. It is clear that creator Darren Starr was gone, he had left in Season 4, but had pretty much laid out the groundwork for Season 4, but it is clear that his successor Frank South had no clue what to do with these characters in this Season, but this one is still watchable, reasons to get the second half >>> Alysia Milano as Mancini's conniving sister. Sydney's attempt to expose a fraudulent woman who falls in the Boutique. Sydney & Craig (Charvet) taking down Amanda toward the end. Jake finally accepting his job as a parent to the son he gave up in the first season. Although a poor season, it is nowhere near as bad as Season 6 & 7!!!, "It shouldn't matter if the seasons are split up at all as long as this series continues to be released. I just strongly hope it continues to be released pleaseeee continue to release.", "Come on guys, please release the rest of the series now, I have been collecting this now for years since the the 1st season was released. It's been over 6 months since season 5 volume 1 was released, how much longer do we need to wait? I might die waiting for the rest to be released at this rate. Melrose Place is the best soap/sitcom come series ever released.", "I couldn't shout it any louder. I know a few others have said the same thing, but what are we going to do. Stop collecting the best TV show ever made, now that we're half way in. The show is brilliant and for me this is where it starts getting juicy. MP took itself too seriously at the start and by now it's starting to realize it's place in the tv world, as that dirty, trashy, sleazy friend we've always wanted to shack up with. Well boys, now is the time.", "Where is Melrose Place: The Fifth Season, Vol. 2?? Where is it? This isn't fair to not release it, especially for the fans who have purchased all of the seasons so far!! We want to find out what happens at the end of season 5!!", "I purchased this set when this came out and thought maybe I could write a review for it, as we can see the wait has paid off and some may be disappointed and others might be happy. This landmark TV series of the great old 90's is classic!! Season 5 Volume 1 shows the arrival of Taylor, Kyle and Megan as new residents checking into Melrose Place. Although this is a very campy tv series it's really just a guilty pleasure and it's always good to watch on a rainy day or if your just needing a MP fix. I highly recommend Season 5 Volume 1 of Melrose Place!! As a fan who has collected all previous seasons of MP I am truly happy that season 5 volume 1 has finally been released and now we have to wait for volume 2, hope that's not too long."]

B005QUQRDS

[The workouts are split into 2 - one is more stretch oriented and the other more flow oriented. They are both good, but I dropped the star rating because I would have preferred to have these all flow as one session rather than having to pause to go back to the DVD menu and select the 2nd session', 'I've been practising Yoga for six or so years now so didn't really buy this DVD because I was after a beginners practice, I actually bought it because I was after a Yoga DVD featuring a male instructor which is almost impossible to find (as much as I love Shiva Rea's DVDs). Having said that I really enjoyed this DVD. The instructor sets a great pace and explains the physical and mental aspects of the practice very clearly which brings a new depth to each pose. Being an Intermediate practitioner I can see myself coming back to this DVD every now and then when I want a slower practice. This DVD is definitely aimed for Beginners though and unlike most of the other "Beginner" DVDs on Amazon, this one would actually be perfect for real first timers or those who have only taken a few classes. Actually think I'll buy this for my mother as all of the other Beginner DVDs I've got are way too advanced for most first timers. If you're like me however, and you find "mirroring" confusing (i.e. instructor says raise your right hand and he's shown raising his left) be warned as this entire DVD is

in this style. Personally I don't know why instructors feel the need to do mirroring as I don't think I've ever seen it work in class and almost always confuses people who are trying to mimic the instructor only to realise they're doing it backwards. I actually found myself choosing to avoid watching the screen as to not throw myself off during the arm and leg raises in the FLOW practice. This DVD is also rather short compared to some of the other Yoga DVDs (like Shiva Rea's which fit 2-3 hours of footage). If you're after a male instructor and/or a complete beginner though I do recommend picking this up. Here's hoping Tamal releases a future DVD that is longer and un-mirrored.', "I have only done this a few times but I loved it the first time I tried it. He's very soothing and it's the right combination of relaxing and challenging.", "Haven't yet tried this one, so I really can't rate it as yet. Will try it soon though, then we will see.", "Liking this video. It's nice and serene and easy to follow. For a workout it's relaxing to do and enjoy.", "My main issue with this DVD is that the difficulty level of the two workouts is really quite extreme and some people might not be prepared for that. The Hatha session is wonderful, soothing, and relaxing. It will definitely relax you at the end of a long day and help work on flexibility. I encourage everyone, beginners and advanced yogis alike, to use the strap as the instructor demonstrates. I didn't because I never use straps or blocks in my yoga practice but one day for the hell of it I did and it really adds a lot to this session. You feel and stretch your muscles in new ways. The flow session is quite a power packed little workout that those new to yoga, overweight, or new to fitness in general will find very challenging. It is miles away from the ease of the Hatha session. There are some great strength building sequences, very good core and balance focus, and you will get a decent full body workout in 30 minutes. I would hesitate to call this a beginner workout though. You will need a beginning understanding of basic yoga poses and knowledge of proper form. If you approach the flow session by going easy on yourself, taking breaks when you need to, and focusing on doing the best you can at that moment I think you may like this video and will be encouraged by your progress the more you do it. Use the Hatha session as your reward for putting in a good effort. The instructor is encouraging and manages to strike a good balance between being motivating and babbling on and on to the point of distraction. His focus and guidance on breath, the essence of Yoga, is excellent. For those brand spankin new to Yoga I recommend the beginner Yoga Zone dvds. They are, IMO, the best at explaining proper form, giving a good background on Yoga, and guiding you as you learn about this great form of exercise that nourishes your soul at the same time. For beginners with a basic knowledge of poses and alignment but wanting a little bit more challenge (not quite as difficult as the flow practice on this DVD) I recommend Baron Baptiste Power Yoga Level 1. Don't be scared by the title. You will work up a sweat and get a good workout that is very accessible and easy to follow.", 'This DVD is a decent stretch to either teach a beginning student or keep an older student fresh. Clear directions', "Excellent for beginners! I've only ever tried one yoga DVD before, and I've never been to an actual class. I did this one last night and was delighted. This is exactly what I've been looking for. It's not hard to follow, and I can see that I'll be able to do this for a long time as I get better at it. The instructor is outstanding! Five stars!", 'After 30 years away from yoga, and having sustained a herniated disc along with degenerative disease and sciatica, I was in rough shape. Trying to avoid surgery, I did yoga classes for 2 months, 3x a week with varied teachers. Not sure I could have jumped into a tape of any kind without this background. I bought another tape along with this one, the Zyrta (?) one. I like her, but she spends a lot of arm waving time getting you from one pose to another. And I find her too fast. For my problems, the longer one holds and concentrates on the breath in the pose the better, and this is what Dodge does. Acquiring something to use for a strap is not a big deal. I have a stretchy rope that I acquired from my physical therapist, and it does the job well. You can use your imagination on it, but SOMETHING of that nature will help you a lot to listen to your body. I am most pleased with this particular tape. He does the best visualization and cool down I have heard, and I have heard a lot. Not so chatty, not having to listen to "relax this and relax that" ad infinitum. He guides you but he leaves you space to be with yourself, which is essential.', "I bought this after my daughter let me borrow her set. It showed a box when you went to order it. It was supposed to come with a dvd and a belt required with it. It did not. It is unopened and I'm not sure what to do with it. I would gladly have paid more to get the right thing but the way it was presented, I thought I did. I am not happy with this purchase at

all!!!", "Wanted a beginner dvd for yoga with someone who wasn't annoying. Tamal is very relaxed his voice is quiet and not grating like some instructors. Have been using this for a week and glad I bought it. Hope he comes out with a next level for after I get better with this one.", "The DVD contains 2 30-minute workouts. One is more relaxed, the other is a bit more physical. They are easy to follow. I like the instructor's narration.", "This dvd is absolutely amazing, cant ever say enough how much i love it. In the beginning when i got I wasn't sure if i liked the fact that it had two separate 30 minutes yoga lessons. This was my very first yoga dvd and also the first time I started practicing yoga. He makes it very easy to concentrate on the pose, he gives very accurate and concise instructions to have the perfect pose without having to look at the screen all the time. When i took my first yoga class the instructor was amazed how well I was doing the poses, she asked me about this dvd. Now i have purchased some intermediate yoga dvds and they're nearly not as great as this one. I'm always finding myself coming back to this. Bottom line, Money well spent!!!!"]

B008R65XPQ

["Ordered for my daughter who loves animals especially wolves. We watched them both together and my 13 year-old son actually joined us and enjoyed the movie, too. The first one is better (of course), but I don't regret sitting through the second.", "I enjoyed this wonderful little story, although the events were from a dog's point of view. The Iditerod is the race that was run from Nenana to Nome in order to bring medicine to Nome to combat a Diptheria Outbreak. Balto did finish the race, so that much was true. In this tale Balto is an underdog who is ostrasized because he is half wolf. With a Russian Goose as his mentor and friend and two polar bears who cannot swim, Balto sets off to prove that he is capable of being a sled dog when the team gets lost and leads the team home. In Wolf Quest, he and his young daughter follow a raven to a more spiritual journey to help a pack of wolves facing starvation to seek a way to reach the Caribou that have gone over pack ice to reach a far shore and both soon learn where they actually belong. I love the double pack as it cuts down on space and yet allows both movies to be enjoyed as they are.", 'good movie, family friendly. good for all ages. good to read the book and compare the similarities and differences between the two.', 'We live in a place where dog sledding happens. Grandson loves dogs and sleds. Movie fit both bills for us', 'Love the movie! The packaging was just right and I actually got the order in two days before it was due :D', "haven't watched the second movie yet, but the kids enjoyed the original. This goes well with the story "Akiak" also.", "I got this for a friend who's grandson just could not live without it. He loves both of these movies and I'm sure will watch them over and over and over.", 'wonderful to watch with my family and friends. my nieces love it to death. its one of the best cartoons of I ever seen by disney', "My daughter is obsessed w the story of Balto so much, that we even took her to see the real statue of him in Central Park. She loves the movie and was delighted to receive this set. We weren't aware there was a second part and she enjoyed that one as well. And it was well priced.", 'There is comedy, drama, adventure, and some scenes of sadness in this dvd. The first dvd is based on a true story of a real wolf dog named Balto. I enjoyed watching both Balto, and Balto II.', "Got this for my young ones to watch. They loved it!! Both movies were good quality. The kids won't stop watching them!"]

B00D49YBTA

["The British are masters of this police procedural genre so I had high hopes and planned to buy other DVDs in this series. But I was disappointed. I didn't like any of the characters, and the plot was midling at best. I'd wait for it to show up on the streaming video services.", 'Inspector Banks uses empathy and emotion over brawn and blows. (Hey, that was pretty darn good alteration, if you ask me.) Sorry for the jump in genres, but he's more like Captain Picard (with an extra dose of Counselor Troi) than Kirk. For me, it was a bit over the top (e.g., "I'm going to make Pat feel bad for doing that!") but it fits in the story. (BTW, the line is paraphrased from the movie and I chosea

gender neutral nameto not give anything away.)And the story, actually 1.5 stories, is compelling. There are several twists and a turn or two. Your interest will be held for the 90 minutes, whether you like to figure out what's going to happen or go along for the ride. It's also refreshing to see a "copper" portrayed who gets into the occasional fight and isn't that good at it. The acting is also quite good. There is a fair amount of chemistry between Tompkinson (DCI Banks) and Lowe (feisty and headstrong DS Cabbot). With the exception of Sian Breckin the supporting cast did a nice job rounding out this enjoyable, and ultimately successful pilot episode. The BBC sent me a copy of this movie to review and I'll be looking for where I can get the remaining episodes.', 'DCI Banks - Aftermath I think that this is a very well acted, mature series. I love English mysteries because they are not always predictable.', "I have not come across the writings of Peter Robinson nor previously seen any of the adaptations made for British TV. However good (or poor) the books may be, these adaptations meet the Brits high standard of production displayed in their better mystery-detective series. These are sober, serious approaches to law enforcement and the consequences of crime for the public, the criminal, and the police officers involved. As one will never confuse Morse with Frost, one will not confuse DCI Banks with any other of the elite fictional-amateur or professional-televised crime-fighters. His character, as it appears in this stand-alone, two episode story (90 minutes), is distinctive. As with some of the others, the central foci of the professional and the private person, are often at war with each other; he is anything but a robotic instrument of justice. That makes him interesting. The lead is admirably played by a performer who makes his character appear as a seasoned professional who is still very much human. There are some other quite adept actors/actresses, providing support, but I will have to go to Season 1 (which Amazon writes is in pre-sale now) to know just who has made the grade to be permanent. I don't know about the forthcoming series, but feel confident that regular viewers of the more serious British Imports will find this one worthy of an audience over here in the U.S.", "This video was well acted and very, very suspenseful. The scenery is lovely, the whole plot unfolds carefully and each actor makes us believe in the persona. I'd like to see more of this series.", 'very good introduction to the DCI Banks series. ordered series one because of this.', 'If you love contemporary cop shows and you haven't checked out the "DCI Banks" series, I'd strongly recommend that you take a look into it! This intense and no-nonsense offering from Britain plays by the rules of typical TV crimes procedurals, to be sure, but it does so with a refreshingly hard edge. "DCI Banks" ran for two six episode seasons in 2011 and 2012, but it kicked off in 2010 with the effective two-parter "Aftermath" (here combined and released at the feature length of ninety minutes). Some people, therefore, might consider this Season One of the Banks saga but really it's just a movie that introduces the primary characters who will extend into the following TV series. But whatever you want to call it, "Aftermath" is a gritty and entertaining film adapted from the popular novel by Peter Robinson. It may not necessarily be my favorite Banks case, but it does a great job introducing the characters and setting the mood that serves the series so well. First and foremost, an impassioned Stephen Tompkinson headlines the piece. He plays a fairly typical archetype: a disillusioned cop right on the edge of reason. But Tompkinson imbues Banks with just the right mix of integrity and volatility. You never know quite which way he's going to go. "Aftermath" gets off to a quick and bloody start. When a woman hears a scream from across the street, she reports a domestic violence charge to the police for that address. When two patrol officers respond, they find the wife beaten on the ground and a macabre murder tableau in the basement. Just as they are taking in the sight of a tortured body, however, they are viciously attacked by the husband. It turns out that the police have been investigating the disappearance of five local women and they've just stumbled across the culprit. It's never that simple, though, is it? The primary mystery is given away right from the start. But there are still plenty of loose ends. One of the girls is still missing, the cops suspect an accomplice, and how much did the wife know about what transpired in the basement. As the story unfolds, several of the major players seem to be hiding secrets. Banks is on the case, it's a personal mission for him. He is haunted by the fact that he didn't come to a speedier resolution. But he is also hampered with the British equivalent of Internal Affairs (Andrea Lowe) investigating the charge of excessive force. In the end, some of the major revelations aren't incredibly surprising but it's definitely a journey worth taking. Tompkinson exudes compassion and is obsessed with justice at any cost. Lowe is

more pragmatic, seeking to move her career to the next level with single-minded determination. Adversaries will learn to respect one another (Spoiler Alert: she's a regular on the TV series) and each brings something to the table that benefits the other. Sounds like a classic pairing, doesn't it? In addition to the leads, the supporting cast is also very solid. The reliable Charlotte Riley (why isn't she a bigger star?) takes on the meatiest role as the abused wife of the deranged madman. And Barry Sloane, who has since hit U.S. primetime on ABC's *Revenge* as Aiden, has a memorable turn as the father of the girl who remains missing. "Aftermath" is intense, well acted, and mightily enjoyable. It's a great introduction to what I might consider a five star series. KGHarris, 8/13.', "As the first episode in the DCI Banks series, this introduces you to the characters around a fairly grisly plot. Young women have gone missing in a Yorkshire town. A neighbor hears a scream, reports domestic violence and a bad scene unfolds. The character of DCI Banks (Stephen Tompkinson) is fairly likable and goes from compassionate to brooding in 60 seconds. Probably a dark personal backstory you think. You feel the character of DCI Banks will grow on you, but it's a slow build. That's okay - there are more episodes to get to know him better. This series is based upon the mystery novels of Peter Robinson. Films based upon novels always seem deeper and richer in detail. Although this episode contains more gore and than I usually like, will watch more in the series. For anglophiles + mystery lovers, you may want to sample this somewhat dark series.", 'i loved the dci banks series on pbs purchased this and the other two on amazon am waiting for them to arrive for quite a while cant wait ill watch them over and over', "and this series can really grow on you. Aftermath was the pilot of this episode and it's a chilling introduction to Alan Banks. Stephen Tompkinson plays a decent man besieged on all sides struggling to solve a horrifying series of murders. From the family of one of the victims, to the criminals and his own colleagues, all are trying to manipulate him.I give this only four stars simply because it's not the best of British crime fiction, especially when compared to series like *Foyle's War*, or *Sherlock* but compared to American crime drama, this is very superior show.", "I've read ALL of the DCI Banks books, they are very dark and complex stories with dozen's of local characters and plenty of Red Herrings just like PD James, although the TV series had to cut a lot of the plot to make it fit into a 90 minute show they kept the heart of the story very well.Are the books better ? of course (the audiobooks are great too, really good narrators) but this is a fine job of adaptation, great acting, scenery and local flavor.", 'This is the first in this series and we found it to be extremely compelling. Would recommend highly if you love detective crime dramas. 2 more volumes soon to be released.', 'Unlike my fellow Amazon Top 100 reviewer, K Harris (whose reviews I admire) , I was unfamiliar with the character of Chief Inspector DC Banks before seeing this film. Research after watching this DVD (I'm not a fan of "spoilers" and trusted the BBC label to give me a good detective story) I learned that this was a two-part "pilot" for a series that ran two seasons. (It was edited into one 90 minute "film" - I did notice a brief "pause" in the middle). So, if you are new to the character, I can only recommend that - like any good mystery - you go in knowing as little as possible before watching it. There is a murder (in fact a few) and they are bloody (no spoiler here) and the story is told using flashback at points (in a creative way). The only thing that made me drop a star in my rating is that the action takes time out for a "romantic interlude" which detracts from the flow. (At least for me.)The film is based on a novel (which I guess gets expanded in the subsequent "series", which I plan to look into watching; the main character did interest me.).The DVD has no special features - just scene index and subtitle option (in case the accents are too thick for you.).This is one of those crime series that the British do so well. Actually it was created by the commercial ITV Network but aired on cable on the BBC America channel and now released on the BBC Home Entertainment imprint.If you want to know more about the plot I'll refer you to K's review. He covered it very well (though be prepared for "spoilers").I hope you found this review both informative and helpful.Steve Ramm"Anything Phonographic", 'Wetted my desire to see the series. DCI Banks is very emotional for a police officer... The Yorkshire countryside can look like scenes from *Midsomer Murders*.', 'The plotting, the acting, the characters, the interaction of characters (writing), and pacing of this series is top notch. For anyone wanting to know what "police dramas" are like on the "other side of the Pond", DCI Banks is an excellent start.']

B00GAJFILQ

["Based upon this French Mafioso's true story, this was a realistic movie and well-worth my time to watch it. I recommend it to anyone who is interested in this genre of films. It is truly amazing that any human could live after being shot 22 times!", "Full of action and anticipation - including blood and gore - yet pregnant with satire about the ambiguity of 'good guys' and 'bad guys'", "I've only seen Jean-Pierre Darroussin in a couple other films but this one really show cases his talent. Jean plays a retired mobster, a real bad guy. In the course of events, I end up rooting for him to succeed (I don't want to give away too much). The mark of a great movie and a good actor is to make you sympathize for someone who you would otherwise find totally unlikeable. This film succeeds because Jean-Pierre Darroussin is so damn good! Its an intriguing movie with some good action and a few other characters are interesting also. Definitely worth your time.", 'Jean Reno is the best, great story, glad I purchased it, will watch it again. I thought he made a great retired mobster, when his "so called friend" steps over the proverbial line, he does what he does best..."kicks butt". Some of the best movies have sub-titles, sometimes a lot is lost when they dub in English. Worth a watch. In my opinion.....', 'Good movie. Much more realistic than the usual Hollywood BS. Good chance to refresh your French as well. I would like to see Amazon have more foreign language films.', 'Jean-Pierre Darroussin will make any movie better and a good one great, as he does in this highly atmospheric and suspenseful adventure about an ex-gangster and his still wayward former cohorts.Set in the beautiful French Riviera in and around Marseilles, the movie makes the location almost part of the cast and leaves you with a real sense of being there (or, as the case may be, a real sense of wanting to go back).This is not a plodding art film. This is a full throttle action thriller written with wit and intelligence.Great fun!', 'I found this movie not only with good action but good plot as well. I would recommend this movie to those who like action', 'The likable very professional Jean Reno does it again. Cool, calm, collected, calculating. If you like these mob revenge noir films this is a must see. He is as awesome in this as he was in The Professional. The cinematography alone is beautiful.', 'boring !!!!! story line just not that good . could have been more action sorry i bought it going to resell quickly', 'this movie is worth every penny. I have seen this actor do action film. he is one of my favorite action person', 'This movie is one action-packed thriller. Around every corner you find something new, some new bit of dialogue. Something for everyone.', "Some very nice moments in this movie. Is it a great movie all the way through? No. But it's good enough to get you to those nice moments that you don't see that often in most films.", "As the title implies, there's more than enough firepower engaged literally in this Marseille mob flick, but Jean Reno brings some figurative weaponry also to bear as the retired chieftain focused on his family's well-being. His performance, complemented by a solid depiction of a lady police captain with family concerns of her own, carries us through a somewhat overused plotline, and the presence of some Muslim characters, also with families, adds interesting cultural richness at least for a US viewer. Well worth the rental charge. Pretty memorable overall.", "First of all I think that Jean-Pierre Darroussin is one of France's greatest actors. Having said that, the movie was full of action from start to finish. I highly recommend this film.", "I admit, I am prejudiced. I love Jean Reno in practically everything he does. As far as movies goes, this is a typical shot-em-up with a French twist. It's not great, but I enjoyed it because he's so I don't know what. He just has that certain something that makes a hero.", "If you want a successful Jean Reno film...he needs to be in the film most of the time! This thing is kind of disjointed. I felt letdown, disappointed. There is some action, bit it is also true that some of the scenes here are far-fetched. The writing is off, so is the direction. Lack of talent ruined this effort. Not Mr. Reno's fault at all.", 'Sounds a bit hard to believe that a person still be alive after being shoot 22 times but there is enough of action to keep you glued to your seat. Great performance by Jean Reno. The transfer on Blu Ray is good and it is worth the money.', 'Good action filled movie, worth watching I like a lot of the foreign films out there and this is one I discovered in my browsing through the movie selections.', "This was really a very good shoot 'um up movie.... A little far-fetched that a person could survive being shot 22 times, but non-the-less the story was truly very good. For me though the total draw is Jean Reno who has a sex-appeal

second to none. The fact that it was a foreign language film didn't bother me in the least as being a bit deaf, I watch with sub-titles anyway. It was a good story and while it could be brutal, to my mind the guys who ambushed Jean Reno deserved everything he did to them back in spades! Excellent movie.", "If your a Fan of Jean Reno than this is a must own Movie, its been out for a few years now but not in the US, I'm glad its finally getting a US release now. Good storyline and good action scenes.", 'I have enjoyed every performance by Jean Reno. He is what a James Bond actor should look like, not Mr. World, and yet a figure who inspires trust in his character(s) and he is rougher looking than Daniel Craig. The movie jumps into action and moves at a good pace throughout. There is a surprise at the end that I enjoyed. Watch the film if you like action films.', 'Very, very well done. A story of contrition and doing the next right thing!!A harrowing look at the aftermath of a life lived as a real criminal', 'Mafia Don? Surly you joke! Have you ever seen a mafia don go unshaven?? Not worth my hard earned money!!', "Lots of plot gaps and inconsistencies, but not a bad movie overall. Had some interesting parts, pretty good characters, and a few plot 'twists' that were unfortunately telegraphed way too early to be a surprise when they popped up.Worth renting if it's cheap, but I can't say I would buy it.", "this actor is one that is new to me. I saw him in anther film where he and a very young teen fell in love, he was an assassin. he actually pulled this off and you didn't feel like he was some sort of a pervert. they were cute together. no contact between the two. just love. in this film, which i have not even finished yet, he is so crippled up from being shot and yet you feel like he is the toughest and coolest cat. watch it."]

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["Dina's books get better and better. I love the fact that the people in this story are more mature and the way they live and be are realistic and gives people hope. I am looking forward to the next book which carries on with the story.", 'Reading this book put me in mind of all the failed relationships I had and how they impacted me. Good, bad, and otherwise. Decisions and choices we make out of hurt, pain, frustration...this book is what I love in a good read...if makes you feel, remember, and then realize what our blessing really are...big or small. This is a must read for anyone.', "I love this book. It is a heartfelt book that takes you on a journey through Amia's self discovery. Dina tells such a wonderful story. She makes you laugh and cry and feel good about being a woman. I absolutely recommend this book to anyone who wants and needs to read a story that makes you feel good. Dina is an amazing writer and I love her stories of self discovery!", 'I liked the character, she was easy to like with all her flaws and self-doubts. The character has a different introspective on life than most people and it engaging reading about her adventure. I lost some sleep reading the book instead of trying to go to sleep because it was difficult to put away. I am looking forward to the sequel which Dina is working on right now.....squeeeeeeee, I hate waiting.', 'amazing how you see life when you set back and watch...seeing what your doing as a person and learning what others see...I loved reading this book Dina. I have been going through some issues lately myself .some of this book hit some very touchy subjects...giving a blog as to how Amia sees her daily life what a awesome idea..thinking I need this concept...thank u for sharing your story and becoming my friend...keep up the good , work ,I look forward to more.:', 'This is the first time I have read Dina Redmond.Her writing style is enjoyably unusual.I feel like I made a friend who shared her secrets with me and gave me incredible advice(through her blogs)! Loved all the characters and the happy ending!Highly recommend!', 'OMG this one is captivating i was sucked in from the very first page if you havent read a book by Dina Redmon you are missing out this one is wonderful and you will fall in love with Jo Amia Chace and Connor they are the kind of characters that will stay with you long after you close the book. I was lucky enough to receive a copy of this book from the author for an honest review and i will forever be grateful i look forward to reading alot more from Dina Redmon.', 'Dina has yet again written a captivating story. Another book that I only put down because I had to work, eat, and sleep. Totally awesome!', "Amia has given up on love....Having had her heart broken she decides to reject the concept of love and just go out and have a good time for herself. Follow along on her journey of self discovery as she learns to love again! I just loved reading all off her

blog entries and my kindle is highlighted with many words of wisdom. Thank you Dina for your unique style of writing...I fell in love with you after page one and can't wait to read more from you!!", 'This book was inspiring to read. Amia and Chaces story from beginning to end was beautifully written. How they meet, what leads up to them taking chances. The obstacles Amia, went through before, during and after. Giving love a chance and finally finding true love....This book was awesome, loved the ending! A must read.....P.S. Dina, Isabella was such a devilish character... Loved it ;)', 'Again from the first page on I felt engaged and caught up in the story. She used her blog in this book to make her points and it made it more real to me. If you have wondered when reading blogs, what the writer had gone through that day to blog whatever point they were making, this is your book. When you finish you will not be disappointed, except for wanting more.', 'This book was absolutely awesome. It has it all. Fantastically fun and relatable characters that are funny, sweet, and unique. It has love and dealing with bad relationships. It has funny work drama and chaos. It has family and love and making your own family. It has a charming bartender that is so sweet and adorable. The main character, Amia, is funny, trashy in a cute way, intelligent, spunky, determined and loveable. I could not put this book down. I laughed and cried and wanted Amia to realize that Chace was the right one for her. I loved this book!', "WOW!!!! This is an amazing book full of friendship love broken relationship more love. I connected with the characters and fell in love with them and was sad when it ended. Truly you need to just buy it it's honestly worth ever penny seriously stop reading this and buy it =)", 'I totally loved this book! This book is Incredible. The story live is compelling!Amia does take a journey of self discovery that you will love. :)Chace is just awesome!, but you will fall in love with Connor!, I know i did lolIf you want a book that will hold your attention till the very end then you need this book! Dina Redmon is an amazing writer .I gave book 5-stars!', "** I received a copy of this ebook in exchange for an honest review. *This is the first book that I have read by Author Dina Redmon, but it won't be the last. I enjoyed the story of Amia, Chace, Jo and Connor and the everyday trials that life brings. They are the kind of characters that will stay with you long after you close the book, which means that they are the kinds that you can relate to, understand, empathize with and enjoy as friends. The author does a great job building up the characters, their lives, emotions and even their everyday casual banter. I felt like I was a part of their lives and at times could envision picking up the phone to call them and say "What are you thinking?"; The characters are one of the most important parts of an amazing book and the author captured that with no problems.The part that didn't live up to my expectations at this point was the plot. The story line was great, but there were some things that either left the reader hanging or left the reader wondering why that part was even there. This is what made the book a 4 star read for me, instead of a 5. There were parts of the story that as I was reading I wondered what the point of including it was, and then there were parts of the story where I wish there were more details or build up to it. I enjoyed the banter between Chace and Amia at the bar and her home, and enjoyed their dates, however, all of the sudden we meet Conner and the next thing I know he is being adopted, but there was no build up to meet him, or any mention, he was just theirs. I was also left wondering what happened to Amia's job, one day she works non-stop and then work isn't mentioned in the book again, so it was just the little things that made me want to know more or to have a little more understanding of the sudden changes. Don't get me wrong, it was a great read and I will be reading more of her books in the future, it was just the little things that made my OCD stand up and take notice.I do recommend adding this book to your TBR list, the quicker, the better, and know that once you start reading you will be sucked in and won't want to stop. I read this book in a few short days and it was a quick, fun, easy read that is enjoyable, interesting and fun! I am looking forward to the next book and can't wait to see what happens next!***Review has been done in conjunction with Nerd Girl Official.***"]

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[For almost 15 years, the most popular dish I've served to friends and taken to potlucks has been one cut from a magazine and attributed to Cafe Flora. Knowing this dish appealed to both

vegetarians and non, I would periodically check to see if there was an entire Cafe Flora cookbook "out there". Then, just before a spate of seasonal visitors were scheduled to descend, I googled up what is now my most used and reliable partner in terms of taste, nutrition and dependable results. I ended up amazoning another one to a vegetarian family member who, like me, is always trying to bridge the tastebuds of meateaters and veggers. And, the recipes are FUN to make.', 'I love to dine at Cafe Flora in Seattle so I was excited to see they had a cookbook. I was not disappointed with this cookbook. It is excellent. Wonderful recipes. I bought two and gave one as a gift and they loved it. A great gift for any vegetarian or actually just about anyone.', 'Chiming in to agree that this is terrific modern, gourmet food. Well flavored but not fussy. Everything I've made so far has come out perfectly. I've learned new flavor combinations that work well together, and I feel like I can put that information to use when I cook other things. There are plenty of vegan choices, and these recipes are all marked in the table of contents. There are no dessert recipes. Sections are starters, soups, salads, dinners/suppers, pizza, sandwiches, brunch, beverages, side dishes, sauces/spreads. They list sources for some ingredients (like arame, miso or fenugreek) and often give you an easier to locate alternative. For recipes that require a number of steps, they've been extremely organized about breaking it down into manageable sections. There are number of fairly involved recipes mixed in with easier things like pizzas (their herb pizza dough is spot on), but the results of the more time consuming recipes are well worth it. Besides, I have enough of those "veg. meals in minutes" type books for quickie meals. Cafe Flora is something else altogether - elegant and original vegetarian recipes that have broadened my cooking horizons.', 'The mushroom lentil walnut recipe and mushroom pecan pate are two main staples that I use as bases for others. It is an excellent, "well-rounded" book and every recipe I have tried, has produced really good results. Just those two recipes are worth the price of the book, to me. I have used them as bases for homemade veggie burgers with bulgur, etc. and they come out "meaty" and moist, and all without using any meat substitutes - just the simplest ingredients.', 'I have been to Cafe Flora and fell in love when I went. I am not a vegetarian but even still, their food is amazing! Every thing that I had was so good. From the tea to the gluten-free pizza. I am so excited to have the cookbook and be able to attempt making some of the delicious recipes for the things that I tried.', "What I like about this cook book is that recipes are truly delicious. The end product is always amazingly flavorful. If I were basing this review only on how delicious the meals were, I'd give this book 5 stars. The problem for me is how complicated some of the recipes are. Take, for instance, the Spicy Tofu Ruben. It is delicious. I could have it several times a week. But the directions for the recipe span 3 pages. The first time I started this recipe, it took about 4 hours to complete. There is pressing the tofu, marinating the tofu, baking the tofu. There is roasting of squash and onions. And there is smoking of mushrooms, with instructions on making your own smoker. There is toasting the bread in the oven and then baking the sandwich. It was incredibly time consuming. I wanted a quick, delicious sandwich, and lost an entire afternoon. Also, the book sometimes has ingredients that are actually recipes in a different place in the book. This is frustrating, because you now have to go to another page, get another set of ingredients out and begin a whole new recipe to complete the meal you're in the middle of. After the first time I made the Tofu Ruben, I did not open the book again for months. But, since the food is so delicious, and my hubby kept asking if we could have that delicious sandwich again, so I decided to have another go and see if I could make things easier, which broke down to two important steps: Reading the recipes all the way through, and cheating the ingredients. For example, the smoked mushrooms? I tossed some liquid smoke onto some mushrooms as I was sauteing them. Voila! The pressed, marinated, baked tofu? I bought the little tofu squares that were already baked and marinated, put the marinade on them and put it in the oven at the same time that I was roasting the vegetables. This is basically twice baking the tofu, but I actually found that this worked better than starting from the plain block of soy curd. The second time I made this recipe, it took about an hour, prep time included. I read the multiple small recipes to complete the sandwich all the way through, so I did not have to get the garlic out three separate times to chop it. I cut the prep and cook time down to 1 hour, which was much better. Definitely get this book - you will learn so much about flavor profiles and you will make some great food! Just don't allow yourself to get overwhelmed, like I did. Read the recipes through, and modify them if needed to suit your time table and the ingredients you

have on hand. You will still make great food.", 'So far I have made three recipes from this cookbook and they all turned out great. Most of the recipes seem very simple, no unusual ingredients which helps since I am living in Alaska. I see this becoming a staple of my everyday cooking.', 'I wonder: what am I doing writing a review for a cookbook? I rarely write Amazon reviews and the few reviews I have written are related to a completely different genre of book. Plus, I've only recently taken a renewed interest in being in the kitchen - I don't suppose that makes me an "expert" by any stretch of the imagination. But I wanted to share my opinion of this book with other readers. It's fantastic and the recipes are delicious. Never before have I enjoyed a cookbook so much. Reading through the table of contents was enough to get my palate fired up. At the time of this writing, I've created over a dozen of the recipes in this book, and each one is a sure winner, not one is a reject. I might have tried more recipes by now, but the temptation to go back to a dish I've already tried is just too great. (We've done the Coconut Tofu with Sweet Chili Dipping sauce four times, now.) How about a really wonderful Portobello Wellington with Madeira Sauce? Now THAT was a Thanksgiving dinner! Yam and Mushroom Enchiladas with Smoky Tomato Sauce? Spinach, Mushroom, and Gorgonzola in Puff Pastry with Red Pepper Coulis? Despite what I - a carnivore - have always thought, vegetarian cooking can be great. That's a claim I've never been able to make regarding any other vegetarian or vegan cookbook. The book is extremely well laid out with timing suggestions, "prepare ahead" ideas, and handy tips for getting through the process without any unexpected surprises. Each recipe is preceded by a good description that makes you want to try it immediately. If a recipe has multiple components, each is presented as a logical and timed subsection of the overall plate. I only wish I knew about this restaurant when I visited Seattle last year. Next time... next time. Five Stars for the book that got me back into the kitchen after a long hiatus. Feel free to contact me with any questions, but I'll be busy cooking up the next Flora meal. ~R~', 'but I love the Cafe! This book is so helpful. Living in the northwest I find it very easy to obtain all of the ingredients in this book. They give so much more than just the recipe but tips on what you can do the day and even days before. They tell you when to start dishes, what can go wrong and how to fix it. The recipes are delicious, approachable and easy to follow.', "The recipes in the book are really something of a revelation to me. I live in Seattle and have dined at Cafe Flora dozens of times. Still I didn't really expect what I found in the cookbook. In addition to signature recipes the book presents a very well thought out structured approach to vegetarian gourmet cooking. So not only do you have recipes, but you are given a pretty good idea of what sorts of things you should make in batches on weekends and save. That for me was really the key to being able to make something other than bland vegetarian fare. I've not generally been fond of the Moosewood or Laurel's Kitchen sort of recipes. They generally seem unelegant, a bit off, and mostly dull. The recipes in this book are in fact quite elegant, well honed, and exciting. Combinations like balsamic-fig reduction and gorgonzola will have you planning week of dining around the book.", "The Cafe Flora Cookbook is different than other vegetarian cookbooks, in my opinion, in that these are the recipes you want to go to when you are entertaining. To put this in perspective - the Moosewood Cookbooks, for example, are for delicious home cooking that are great for casual get togethers, weeknight dinners, and family meals. The Cafe Flora Cookbook is what you want to refer to when you are having a dinner party that includes vegetarians and meat eaters. The dishes are all absolutely delicious and look wonderful. These are restaurant-quality dishes (they are from the Cafe Flora restaurant), obviously. Some of the recipes are pretty time consuming, but it's worth it to know you will end up with something that everyone will love and you can prepare many things ahead of time. There are also many vegan and wheat-free recipes, which are always good to have when trying to satisfy a crowd. The cookbook starts with a great appetizer section, and then moves on to salads/soups, and then entrees. They also have a section on other things like sauces and pantry items. The dressings and sauces are excellent. When you are planning for a holiday like Thanksgiving or Christmas, take some recipes from this book! Again, every single thing I have made from this cookbook has been outstanding. It's my favorite cookbook for guest-worthy vegetarian food, and I must have at least 50 other vegetarian cookbooks. I would be lost without this one. I was lucky enough to receive this as a gift. After making some of the recipes, I bought copies for all of my friends (vegetarian and not!). Highly highly recommended.", 'I bought this cookbook about a year ago. It took me a little while to

warm up to it. The recipes are...involved. But, they are amazing. The directions are very clear and very concise. I have been a vegetarian only about 5 years. The one thing I noticed when switching was a lack of depth of flavor. The Portobello Wellingtons recipe was one of the first recipes I tried, not for the faint of heart. This is one complex recipe but the authors break it down into clear steps with tips on what can be done a day, or more ahead. The result? Awesome. Non-vegetarians I served it to thought it was great. This book is not for the quick meal but for when you really want to cook amazing food.']

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['Quite a vast variety of fun recipes. I am already trying one. Plus great tips on wine making and valuable advice.', 'I picked this up at a local homebrew supply store and knew it had to come home with me. We are fairly new to brewing/fermenting, and were looking for information on gloggs, meads, and other traditional but less popular relatives of your standard grape-based wines. This is exactly what we wanted, and I look forward to being able to try recipes for which the bulk of the ingredients can be gathered wild or grown in your own yard.As some of the previous reviewers have pointed out, this is not intended to be a comprehensive, in-depth education on making wine. You will definitely want a little experience under your belt, another (more detailed) book on hand, or both.I felt the book had an excellently clean, easy-to-follow format and friendly but intelligent writing style. I very much enjoyed it and highly recommend it!', 'The title suggest "wild recipes" and I thought that recipes would be presented which you can make mainly with wild or backyard ingredients, maybe even using wild yeasts. Instead it is a pretty usual wine making book. Nearly all recipes ask for fruit juice concentrate, even for very unusual concentrates. I have no idea where to get these concentrates, certainly not in the next supermarket.For this reason, I think that the title is very misleading as it suggests real "back to the basic" recipes.', "I had never really stopped to think about the types of things that can be fermented. I knew the basic fermented beverages (beer, wine, mead, and hard cider) but that was about it. What really drew me to this book was the word 'WILD' in the cover...we are hoping to find as many LOCAL sources of ingredients as possible and thought this would be a good place to start looking for tips!I was certainly impressed with the number of fermenting options available in this book! I truly never thought that you could ferment potatoes, marigolds or cornmeal! There are a ton of things that grow right in my garden that I can use...snow peas, tomatoes, garlic, rhubarb and many others. There are recipes for fermenting fruits, vegetables, flowers, and an assortment of savory ingredients like ginger or garlic. Each recipe will make one gallon of finished product and includes detailed ingredient lists and directions. The short introduction to each recipe gives you useful tips or interesting tidbits about the recipe.Making Wild Wines & Meads is more than just a cookbook. Since not everyone has experience making fermented beverages, there is a great introduction that teaches everything from choosing equipment to deciding which strain of yeast to use for your recipe. There is also a very handy glossary at the end if you forget some of the unique terminology that comes with making fermented beverages.The one drawback that I see in the setup of this book is that the directions within each recipe are not particularly detailed...you will need to be familiar with the basics of fermenting, racking, siphoning and bottling which are all described in the first few chapter. Don't think you can just pick a recipe and start cooking without reading the first several chapters of the book!Overall, this is a nice book that has a very unique collection of wines and meads that can be made from ingredients you can find in your garden or local farmer's market. Just make sure not to skip the first few chapters in your rush to get into the kitchen!Disclaimer: As per FTC guidelines, I received one copy of this book in exchange for my honest review. I received no monetary compensation. All opinions expressed here are mine and mine alone.", 'I use this every year when I start filling my cellar with my homemade wines.I love to try the wild recipes, as the fruit is freely picked locally along the roads and woods where I live.B.', 'From the title, I was expecting this book to be along the same lines as "Wild Fermentation," by Sandor Ellix Katz. It wasn\'t.There are about three paragraphs in this book that discuss wild fermentation (i.e. fermenting wine with nothing but the wild yeast in the atmosphere),

and those paragraphs contained several inaccuracies (for example, wild yeast exists everywhere, not just on the skins of grapes, and these yeasts will ferment anything containing sugar, not just grape juice). This book wasn't by any means bad, it just wasn't what I thought it would be.", "Very Very little in this book on the how-to of wine making but if you're an experienced wine maker and you're looking for a recipe book for mead and wine this is the one to get. Tons of stuff.", "While this book isn't really for the beginner it has plenty of good basic wine and mead recipes. I've tried several with mostly good luck. It's also one of the few publications that have workable mead recipes. My only objection to this book is it seems to treat aging as the most important step in all wines. While it is very important, it isn't all that makes a wine, and especially mead, great.", "If you are looking for a book to explain how to make true home made wine with out a kit, this is the book you need. Simple, well written, exactly what I was looking for after an extensive search.", "better to get recipes off of you tube from epicfantasy, his recipe makes a really good mead... this book actually contributed to ruining a few batches, don't use nutrients or hops not necessary, you will ruin your batch, just my two cents...", "I got this book for my first winemaking book, and used one of the blackberry wine recipes for my first batch. The recipes are just recipes, without the minute detail, and it was hard to turn back and forth from the recipes to the 'how to' intro to get the general detailed steps, and there were a couple of steps that I wasn't sure exactly what to do. Also, there are tips I could have used, for example the siphoning; the book makes it sound simple but it was very frustrating, and there are tools available to start the siphon that I hope will be very useful. The book is very inspiring and the recipes are diverse and interesting, I expect to use it again.", "I enjoy the diverse recipes and varying challenges of each, a must have for any wine maker. I am glad to have this book in my collection.", "In a well thought-out and easy to use guide, MAKING WILD WINES & MEADS is a great beginner's book that my boyfriend and I will be using to start our first batches of beverages. As amateurs, this guide has a great variety of recipes and presents basic topics in a clear, concise way that delves into enough detail without miring you down in facts. The order of topics is also very logical: we're first introduced to what we need to start making wine as well as necessary equipment, and items that are nice to have. Recipes come at the end -- you know, after you actually figure out how to make a recipe come together. These include a good mixture of non-grape ingredients found at both your local supermarket and farmer's markets for foods as diverse as cherries and blueberries, plus more unusual ingredients like herbs and flowers. An informative, all-inclusive how-to guide for beginners and wine enthusiasts.", "Very informative. Gives step by step instructions for wines, meads, wine coolers and wine punches. Well worth having.", "I'm going to break my review of this book into two components, the instructions (which gets a 3) and the recipe section (which gets a 5). Instructions: Simple and straightforward, this would be a great book for someone starting out in the hobby (though probably not as a first and only book on the subject). As far as the instructions are concerned I would recommend this to anyone who has read a more detailed book on home brewing and maybe felt a little overwhelmed, but who isn't ready to give up on it. The directions are stolid, basic, "tried and true" instructions with a few procedural options thrown in, but not enough to overwhelm (and believe me, brewing can get AWFULLY overwhelming). If you're old hat at home brewing don't expect any mystical revelations, but it is probably worth taking a skim-through to get a feel for the author's intentions. The section on sterilization was unexpectedly thin. Considering all the items they recommend you get from a brew supply already, household bleach should not be the focus of the sterilization section. Recipes: This is where for me this book shines. The recipes take up about 2/3 of the book and range everywhere from the tried and true classics (grape, peach, strawberry, honey) to the really out-there (beet wine anyone? how about snap pea? or crabapple?). For an experienced brewer with a few books under their belt there might not be so many forays into the "wild" as the title might suggest, but the recipe list would look pretty out-there to someone primarily used to grape table wines. There are variations of most of the wines to account for different tastes without filling half the book with tiny alterations of the same recipe. They provide both a sweet and dry variation of many recipes, and several include versions which account for different varieties of the same fruit or levels of ripeness. There is a separate mead section but many of the wines also use honey as the main sugar additive, so there's a lot of opportunity for experimentation if that is an interest of yours. Some brew science

is still a bit deeper then I'm personally interested in going right now, and sometimes it's awfully nice to be able follow a pre-tested recipe to approximate the results I'm looking for rather than having to calculate every single additive based on tables and graphs. I think that alone will keep this book near the top of my reference pile for this hobby. Yield for each of these recipes is one gallon, which is a nice economical size for testing out something. The cost of fresh fruit and honey can add up fast, and in the worst case scenario it can be no fun having to get rid of five gallons of something that turned out badly after what could even be several years of work and patience. While authors assume sulfiting as a baseline procedure, they continually remind that this is optional and do discuss the necessary preparation differences in each recipe. This is highly appreciated for those of us who prefer not to use sulfites. In the end I still think the best judge of an instructional book is if reading it makes me start a mental wish-list of what to buy the next time I play with that specific hobby, and I've already started working out the contents of my next brew-store order.', 'I bought this book for the mead making content. It has about 40 pages of material on mead making including some excellent recipes. One of the better mead books I have read and pretty much read them all. Not necessarily for an absolute beginner but if you know a little bit about mead or wine making this is perfect for you. For example the recipes use pectic enzyme, campden tablets and wine tannin. Clearly written and easy to understand.']

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[The book is not bad, but I would recommend just reading "The Art of War" and finding your own ways of applying the strategies to your life, management style, career, etc. Sun Tzu was a remarkable strategist and I find applications for his principles throughout everyday life.', 'For a first time reader, this book provides a good introduction to the concepts in the Art of War by Sun Tzu. This book briefly mentions the differences between western and eastern strategy. The book "On War" by Carl von Clausewitz is believed to be the foundation of much of the Western strategy. Clausewitzian theory concentrates on the big battle as the way to win. His work expresses so many ideas that it can be used to justify any positions and in addition, it is filled with convoluted sentences and difficult to read. On the other hand, the eastern strategist Sun Tzu's the Art of War is a masterpiece of simplicity. The fundamental principles of strategy are the same for all managers at all times and situations. Only the tactics are likely to change. Strategy is best defined as "doing the right thing" while tactics is "doing things right". The dividing line between tactics and strategy is indicated by the point of contact. Therefore, strategy stops at the border in war and at the HQ door in business, whereas tactics begins with contact with the enemies in war and customers in business. The book is divided into 2 parts. Part 1 is divided into 13 chapters like the original work, sharing the same title as the original translation. Each chapter provides the correlation of the teachings to the present business world, ending with examples on actual business scenarios. Part 2 provides a useful guide to practical applications. The practical applications are cited by real persons working in various industries, giving examples of key Sun Tzu concepts in which they have applied in their line of work. Finally the book ends with an outline of Sun Tzu's key concepts to aid in applications and which also serves to provide a good summary of the entire book Sun Tzu's The Art of War.', 'I love this book so much because its easy to read, you can relate to and it will stick in your mind which will help you in making decisions and change some of your perspective. i would love to read it again if i had time to do so.', "I will try to keep this short. All the other 5 stars point out the merits for this book. In short it gives modern insights to a very important book on strategy. Shows that true wisdom rings true for thousands of years. The criticisms that I have read on this book are true but are not really fair. This book is not designed to be a play by play guide for managers that have no insights of their own. If this book doesn't generate ideas for you without spoon-feeding examples and how to's then you will never lead a winning organization. You are a sheep not a shepherd. If one understands Sun Tzu, if not a master as no one really is, they would realize that any example given automatically is rendered useless. A widely publicized tactic lacks the element of surprise, rule #19. My criticism of it is that he doesn't understand history that well, at least the

Revolutionary War. He cites things that are common misperceptions about that war to support his arguments. The rebels always employed unconventional tactics not just towards the end. Also almost all of the battles were fought conventionally and on open fields. This is contrary to what the author writes. Stick to business examples. Also citing Tyco CEO Dennis Kozlowski does little to advance his point. Who could have known and I'm sure any future editions will strike this reference. This book isn't perfect but if you are a shepherd and can generate ideas on your own then this book is for you. It will help give fire to the sparks you already have. Quit wasting time and order it. Assume your competitor has already read it and is using its insights against you.", 'Michaelson, who has also written a few other books related to Sun Tzu's ancient text, takes a very usable approach in the "Art of War for Managers". It is very well thought out and has numerous instantly recognizable examples in the modern context. The language is easy to follow and direct quotes from the original Sun Tzu often have several different translations provided for better understanding. The 50 Strategic Rules are divided up following the 13 chapters of the original "Art of War". Each Rule is a 5-10 minute read, so it's very easy to pick-up from your last read after having the book placed to the side for a while. Although, it is important to note that each Rule is not very in-depth, I believe it was meant to provide quick and simple insights. Each Rule includes a quoted Sun Tzu text, usually a helpful quote from a famous leader, then a well written manager's commentary to describe and support. The easy accessibility to these quick lessons are extremely useful when looking for inspiring ideas while making important business decisions. Part Two of this book includes a very useful "Practical Applications" chapter. While not completely practical, the concepts are generally well accepted and do inspire ideas that are very practical. Having specific examples of modern business implementation is where many "Art of War" writers usually fail. To see this added section affirms that Michaelson thought his book out to tactical ends. I've read many attempts at the "Art of War" and Michaelson's books are easily on the top of that pile. Although I do see duplication in his newer work "Sun Tzu - Strategies for Marketing", the layout for "Art of War for Managers" has made it more useful to me. It has benefitted me to have read both.', 'This book successfully describes how the fundamental strategic truths taught by Sun Tzu in The Art of War can be applied to modern day corporate skirmishes.', "This is a book based on Sun Tzu's classic. At a high level this book is divided in two sections. The first one in which a translation of the original text is found, together with commentary and how it applies to the business world. The second part consists of short essays/commentary by managers on successful applications of this work in a business setting. It also contains a summary of the main concepts presented in the book. These main concepts are grouped into 13 sections, as with the original work: Laying Plans, Waging War, Attack by Stratagem, Disposition of Military Strength, Use of Energy, Weakness and Strength, Maneuvering, Variation of Tactics, On the March, Terrain, The Nine Varieties of Ground, Attack by Fire and Employment of Secret Agents. Each section is then subdivided into strategic rules. What makes this book unique is the application of these concepts in a business setting, particularly in the corporate world. This includes how company strategize, market and deliver product and services. On the criticism side, while the book is written in a way to allow for each section to be self-standing, if one is looking to read it from cover to cover, they will encounter some repetition in content and examples provided. In addition, the applications/examples are somewhat superficial and do not contain deep analysis.", 'Michaelson has done an excellent job of providing a clear, readable version of Sun Tzu along with his insight and application of the work. The latest version augments his previous efforts by adding more practical uses. From a strong background in strategic marketing, Jerry clearly reviews the 13 chapters of the Chinese classic. Not only does he vividly apply his expertise, he adds insight from others as well. His examples are real. Moreover, as opposed to other works, Michaelson works with the Chinese text and looks to apply it. For any manager, it is a powerful tool to access Asian strategy. For anyone who wants to examine the linkage between Asian strategy and business application, the work is essential. Easy to read and well organized as a reference, I recommend this work whole heartedly.', 'The review which follows is of a book which I read when it was first published in 1999. I recently re-read it. Here are my reactions to it seven years later. Many of those who read my reviews are owners/CEOs of small businesses. Whenever I receive an e-mail from one of them asking me to recommend books which will be of greatest

practical value, I always include a choice of R.L. Wing's or Samuel B. Griffith's translation of Sun Tzu's *The Art of War* on the list. Occasionally, someone who has read *The Art of War* asks for a recommendation of related sources. There are several to select from, notably *The Art of Business: In the Footsteps of Giants* written by Raymond T. Yeh and Stephanie H. Yeh; two books by Mark R. McNeilly, *Sun Tzu and the Art of Business* and *Sun Tzu and the Art of Modern Warfare*; and this one, which I read when it was first published and only now am I reviewing. Here are a few of the reasons for my rating of Michaelson's book. First, Michaelson has selected and then discusses 50 "strategic rules" suggested by Sun Tzu's classic. To facilitate and support periodic review, the key concepts are summarized on pages 169-190 and range from "Thoroughly Assess Conditions" to "Practice Counterintelligence." Don't expect any head-snappers. The greatest value of *The Art of War* is that it helps, indeed insists that its reader think strategically. (Please keep in mind that it was written 2,500 years ago.) Michaelson fully understands that. His purpose is to apply ancient concepts to major perils and opportunities in the contemporary. I also appreciate Michaelson's provision of several reader-friendly sections such as those in which he quotes a passage from *The Art of War* and then offers a "translation" of its relevance, followed by a "Manager's Commentary" in which he recommends appropriate application of Sun Tzu's insight. Throughout his rigorous and eloquent narrative, Michaelson also includes checklists such as the one found on page 114 when he identifies "key ingredients" which are common to all growing organizations: customer focus by creating systems that deliver perceived value; selection (i.e. hiring) of decent as well as competent people; and then training them with highly-interactive learning sessions which are both formal and on-the-job. Finally, I hold this book in high regard because Michaelson also includes 13 brief but insightful commentaries by senior-level executives who share their own real-world experiences. For example, Domminick Attanosio (senior advisor, Young and Partners, LLC) explains how a public pharmaceutical company developed a new delivery system to adjustable dosing of oral medications by following each of several of Sun Tzu's basic principles: "Know the enemy and know yourself, and you can fight 100 battles with no danger of defeat." "Travel where there is no enemy." "Pursue one's strategic designs to overawe the enemy." "An army can be raised only when there is money at hand." "The general whose only interest is to protect his people and promote the best interests of his sovereign is the precious jewel of the state." "The enlightened rulers must deliberate upon the plans to go to battle, and good generals generally execute them." "To subdue the enemy without fighting is the supreme excellence." Obviously, it would be a fool's errand to manage by slogans but even more foolish to ignore what can be learned from sources such as Sun Tzu's *The Art of War*. The knowledge these sources provide can -- and should -- guide and inform the careful selection and then effective execution of appropriate strategies and tactics. Credit Michaelson with a thorough understanding and brilliant interpretation of what can be learned from arguably the world's first management consultant. Bravo! "Art of War is a treatise on military strategy written in 5th or 6th BC; Sun Tzu formulated these rules based on the context at that time and the work is still relevant because the dynamics of human interaction still pretty much remains the same. This book is an attempt to cast Sun Tzu's rules of warfare in the context of present day business and it presents these rules in the form of easily consumable capsules (but does that help?). There probably isn't anything new here that you are not already aware of; if you have already been in battles you would/should be aware of the importance of many of the points mentioned here. However, the fact that a famous ancient treatise identifies and attaches importance to many of the points that you observed during your school of hard knocks validates your observations and indicates the timelessness of those ideas. Also, present day business needn't be conducted with an emphasis on combativeness; the enemy is often not your competitor, but your inability to innovate and deliver value, i.e. the enemy lies within you." Michaelson uses a new translation of Sun Tzu's *The Art of War* to illustrate how the wisdom of ancient principles of combat can be applied to modern business. While much of what Sun Tzu says does not seem extraordinary or extremely profound, it might be remembered that "common sense is not so common." Though much of what Sun Tzu says might be taken for granted, it is likely human nature's propensity to ignore the obvious and the time-tested which makes Sun Tzu's work a classic. Michaelson is successful in pointing out some timeless precepts and ideas that can be applied from Sun Tzu's thought to the business world. It is also a

dynamic and creative approach to an ancient text. That said, there seems to be a superficial feel to the book, as a hundred brief, different case examples of businesses (as opposed to a few in depth) don't quite illustrate with full impact the meaning and import of the wisdom of Sun Tzu's classic. So I would rate this between 3 and 4 stars - a good, but not extraordinary read.']

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[Base don facts and reasonable conclusions, the book goes a step further from the simple hypothesis that Al Qaeda may have acquired nuclear weapons in the past decade. The author presents many sources from which the reader can draw the near certainty that militant Islam has already many nuclear suitcase-bombs in its possession and has hired the Soviet and Pakistani experts to maintain and operate them, along with thousands of willing suicide bombers who long to detonate them. Even more terrifying is the quite high possibility that such weapons have already been smuggled inside the USA and Al Qaeda awaits with exemplary patience the right moment to produce a horrible "American Hiroshima". One can not avoid the thought that Osama bin Laden would not have dared to provoke the US colossus in such a way as with the 9/11 attacks, if he didn't have a mightier weapon in stock for the next and more catastrophic strike. "Osama's Revenge" is full of evidence and data concerning this appalling eventuality but also presents a short and marvellous overview of the campaign in Afghanistan and the many mistakes and clumsy operations of US and British forces there. Of special historic value are also the full texts of the declarations of war from Osama bin Laden against the West in August 1996 and February 1998, included in the Appendices.', 'What surprised me most about this book (and i thought i was media savvy) was its complete translations of lots of Osama's manifestoes. Here's why: I didn't really understand till now that the manifestoes are translated into English and available. Why aren't they printed in every paper in America? I mean, we knew what Hitler's views were. Hitler said just exactly what he meant to do from the very beginning in _Mein Kampf_. After reading these manifestoes in much of their entirety, i have every confidence that Osama has every intention to accomplish these goals as stated. And here's the thing... and a clue as to the reason that we have not had access to this material in the mainstream press, i think, the reason we only see Osama on the news seemingly babbling (in a language we don't understand), it's because Osama (or his writers) is/are eloquent as hell and make a compelling case for El-Quida's actions. Don't get me wrong, Osama wants to kill anyone like me and how. My reading convinces me i and all Western women would die as soon as i was in Osama's power. But it also scares the hell out of me because, if the whole Arab world is familiar with this material, then i can't blame them. A lot of what he says would even appeal to certain groups in this country who are not Arabs nor Islamic. We have made some bad enemies in El-Quida. We made them. We did. Through our actions and/or inattention to what our Big Business and Governments were up to these last fifty years in the middle east. Yikes. Update 9/19/'06: In a recent speech Osama said "President Bush says I hate freedom and democracy. If I did, I would have attacked Sweden".', 'I saw this book! See the close illustration of a suitcase sized, nuclear bomb? Does it look scary? And its so easy to sneak onto a bus, train, or leave in a parked car near city hall! In my book titled, "Adult Bedtime stories," one of the six short stories Titled, "The Pessimist," is about two of these weapons, detonated in two American cities. This book illustrates just what these terrorist would do to kill Americans. Lets not sleep on this! Its just a matter of time!', 'Williams begins with a several page cogent statement by bin Laden summarizing why he is against America, and the actions required for him to cease. Reasons include support for Israel, and occupation on Muslim lands, but nothing about Bush's "they don't like freedom." Osama went to Afghanistan, according to Williams, partly because of its potential for funding terrorism via opium sales. Sales to the U.S. would not only provide money for his efforts, but also weaken the U.S. and help convince others that the U.S. is a corrupt society. Money, however, is only an enabler. The much bigger issue involves what Osama has/could do with large amounts of money. According to Williams, a number of Soviet "suitcase bombs" are missing - though various sources disagree on what that number is (30-80 is the most credible figure). Worse yet, a number of them were already

smuggled into the U.S. and secreted by the Soviets during the Cold War. What exactly is a "suitcase bomb?" From various sources it is contended that they began weighing 800 lbs, then were reduced to 320 lbs, and in their last version - only 60 lbs. Explosive power ranges from 10-250 tons, to 1-10 kilotons. The Hiroshima bomb was 13 kilotons, and the Oklahoma City bomb was an estimated .2 tons). bin Laden reportedly purchased twenty nuclear suitcases in Grozny in 1996 for \$30 million in cash and two tons of heroin, and intends to explode 6-7 simultaneously in the U.S. So why hasn't he done it? Williams (and other sources) state that the suitcases' nuclear triggers would quickly deteriorate to uselessness in about four months. That's the "good news." The "bad news" is that through expertise provided by Dr. Khan (father of Pakistan's bomb), and the resources of Iran's and/or Pakistan's nuclear reactors, the triggers could be replaced. Again the obvious question: "What are we doing in Iraq?", "This is a very short book, with a dramatic message. On the surface, it looks like an attempt to convince US voters that 9/11 was just the beginning of their problems. Quoting bin Laden 'videos', Williams convincingly claims Osama bin Laden wants non-Muslims dead and has nuclear bombs to accomplish that goal. The fear factor is very high. After more reflection, the book reminds me of a blackmail note. Just as a blackmailer, Williams attacks the American reader's self-confidence at every opportunity. Mr. bin Laden is super-human, while the American government weak and corrupt. Osama knows all our weaknesses, and solves problems beyond our skills. For the poor people of Afghanistan, he build hospitals, roads and shelters. He sells heroin to Europe and America, but his puritanical comrades avoid the stuff themselves. The Afghan heroin funds his nuclear projects and simultaneously undermines the western will. In contrast, the stupid American generals run up and down the mountain sides looking for Osama in all the wrong places. The corrupt US government has turned Pakistani and Afghan friendship into a deep seated hate for all things American. Defended by the billions of Osama loving Muslims around the world, it is obvious the US Army can never catch him. Offering the reader a measure of pity, Williams provides instructions on converting to Islam. This sort of paper thin caricature does nothing to educate and much to demoralize. It is probably best to act as if Osama has nukes in America, but I don't think it is a reality. Osama's nuclear attack is only believable if 1) the bombs were available for purchase, 2) are now in the US and 3) still work. Even with the plutonium, obtaining active tritium gas would be very difficult. Keeping them refreshed with tritium gas is not easy; it leaks, gets absorbed and decays. Still a few fresh ones may be around. On the other hand, a variety of reports suggest similar economic damage can be done with a few suicide bombs set off at key gas and electrical nodes around the US. If one wants to catalog the catastrophic, nuclear briefcases are not the worst or most likely. In short, Osama doesn't need a nuke, except perhaps for the media carnival that would follow. And, the media would make a killing on the event. Imagine the network anchors crawling around the rubble and think about how long they would smirk about the disaster. As I write in early 2005, the panic over Osama-nukes is about a year old, and has faded from the foreground of media coverage. That panic, probably part of the US political campaign cycle, is the source from which the book emerges. Wondering who Mr. Williams might be and what motivates him, I checked for other titles he has penned: The Vatican Exposed: Money, Murder, and the Mafia (May 1, 2003) Al-Qaeda : Brotherhood of Terror (February 8, 2002) The Complete Idiot's Guide(R) to the Crusades (October 18, 2001) The Complete Idiot's Guide to the Lives of the Saints (June 26, 2001) Mr. Williams has a Ph.D. in historical theology and served as professor of Catholic theology and patristics (study of lives of Church Fathers) at two Catholic Universities. Despite the dust-cover claims, this isn't really the background of a journalist or FBI consultant. Perhaps the stress of writing 'lives of the saints' for 'idiots' was too much for him.", 'This is the first book to paint a real picture of Osama Bin Laden's ideology in real terms. The letters declaring War against America should have been released to the public and discussed with at least as much vigor as the "Laci Peterson Case" or the idiot rape case in Colorado. Instead, the American Public has been duped by the media moguls and again by the politico's and their pundits into some false sense of safety. It is too bad that we have the attention span of five year olds as is thoroughly demonstrated throughout our social consciousness. Osama Bin Laden doesn't care if you are liberal or conservative, gay or straight, educated or uneducated, rich or poor, or even an atheist but watch out if you are a Christian or a Jew. HE HATES ALL and is DETERMINED to DESTROY ALL that is not Traditional Islam. He despises our weaknesses and the

fact that we import these things to Arabian countries. He has used our liberal, must tolerate everything, politically correct society against us... in fact...he literally took it to the BANK. THIS society is bankrolling his Jihad along with Muslim extremist societies around the world. He laughs at the fact that we have no backbone in this country and stand for nothing....except some arbitrary concept called "Freedom" which has been taken far out of context in our society. Everything LIBERAL AMERICA espouses....from the Hollywood elitists to the Michael Moore idiots, is exactly what Bin Laden sites as a reason for his Jihad.....WE DO NOT STAND TOGETHER proud of who we are....we have allowed ourselves to be divided by special interests and this year more than any other....liberal interests that are more concerned with power than with people.....Bin Laden singles out Clinton and his actions with Lewinsky going unpunished and his turning tail in Somalia as examples of our "cowardice." He blames the United States for what the United Nations, France, Germany, and Russia did in scamming the world in the "Oil for Food Program." Yet Kerry wants to buddy up with exactly these people who put each and every one of us in jeopardy. Kerry isn't helping and he won't make us safer or safe. He is divisive and has created a chasm in a self serving attempt to regain the White House. There is no negotiating with Bin Laden and his group.....and as best I can tell.....we can't even figure out who his lackey's are here in the United States because they came in during the Clinton years and settled into our society as members indistinguishable from our neighbors. He is ready to do the utmost at all costs to take us out, one by one if necessary, and make us pay!!!! Sadly, we aren't ready for a thing. The American public is interested only in their own petty lives. They no longer vote, but Bin Laden is holding each member of our society accountable because we can, and therefore to him we are all legitimate targets. He takes our freedoms more seriously than we do and in that respect he has a point. We have allowed ourselves to be overtaken with immoral, ignoble ideology that has created more harm than good and more trouble than help. WE ARE NOT ONE BIT SAFER TODAY.....BOTH political parties are responsible because they don't wish to OFFEND anyone. WHERE ARE THE ADULTS in this society? Where are those that say enough of this behavior, it's time for responsible decisions even if at times offensive.....like it or not....Bin Laden will hold us accountable for what we have failed to hold our politicians accountable for. Who cares what you drive or what rights you think you're entitled to or what amount of fat is in a hamburger or what Jesus would eat or what "value" which party currently holds.....IF THIS BOOK IS CORRECT and BIN LADEN has suitcase Nuclear weapons...this country will have a rude awakening and will be required to take a good hard look at itself and it's leaders the self serving, self interested, demagogues who haven't done a thing to make us safer. So, the next time you get on a plane and have to take your shoes off or give up your cuticle scissors.....remember the fact that those intending to do us harm ARE REAL and ARE HERE NOW while we screen for shoe bombs and scissors that couldn't do as much harm as a ball point pen. Always playing catch up. The irony is that so much of our tax dollars have been wasted from the local entities to the national entities that could have secured this country through updated technology and training and instead of politically dividing national security agencies our government should have been demanding a spirit of cooperation. Shame on us for what we have allowed our government to get away with while sitting back hoping to get ours. SO MUCH FOR AN OPEN SOCIETY!!!!!!!', 'As someone who is accused of "reading too much," I have read piles of books on this and related subjects. But this one stands out not because of any original thesis or fact finding: almost all of this information is buried somewhere on the internet. However, the author has put together a madman's game plan and it rings too loudly of possibility. The one thing Williams does not cover is just how big a member of the Flat Earth Society Osama Bin Laden might be. To inflict this amount of damage on the world would have consequences. Our atmosphere is a planetary one and therefore what starts here will float there. But unfortunately given the as yet unproven tenets of Islam and its great belief in heaven, I suspect it wouldn't matter to Osama if he destroyed everything. The only smaller threat that he might be encouraged to look at is that he should be confident that the US and other nations would most likely retaliate by the guaranteed wiping of that Holy Real Estate off the map: there will be no Mecca for him to lead his followers to - in the presence of Jesus, no less -- because it, too, will be a mushroom clouded wasteland hit by the very western technology he lusts after.', 'This is the third of three books that I am reviewing today and

that I strongly recommend be read by every adult in America. The first two, in order of priority, are Mahmood Mamdani's *Good Muslim, Bad Muslim: America, the Cold War, and the Roots of Terror* and CIA Anonymous Executive Analyst, *Imperial Hubris: Why the West Is Losing the War on Terror*. I should add that terror is a tactic, not an enemy, it is impossible to win a war against a tactic. What this book does is piece together all of the English-language reports over the past ten years or so regarding the probabilities and specifics of Bin Laden and Al Qaeda's having acquired several forms or portable nuclear devices. Although some reviewers have slammed this book for being fictional, they do not know what they are talking about. The FACTS are that the Soviet general officer responsible for the 100 suitcase nuclear bombs designed for Spetsnaz use, some pre-positioned in the USA, has said publicly, in writing, and on more than one occasion that 66 of those are unaccounted for. I took one star off for excessive reliance on two secondary sources, both excellent but never-the-less cited too often, and the commensurate lack of attention to foreign language materials that could have deepened this study considerably, especially when one takes into account the CIA executive analyst's comments in *IMPERIAL HUBRIS* regarding the straight truth-telling that can be found in Bin Laden's Arabic-language postings. "Nuclear hell storm" is out there (the author does cite this), and we had better take this more seriously than our government has. The author opens with a notional "letter to America" from Bin Laden that is based on Bin Laden's actual statements (as itemized in *IMPERIAL HUBRIS*) and is alone worth the price of the book. If we don't take a long hard look at ourselves and correct the misbehavior that is radicalizing over a billion Muslims, we will not (not!) win this war. The author does a really fine job, not just of amassing and stringing together a coherent story of Bin Laden's likely possession of nuclear capabilities, but also of showing the inter-relationship between the Afghanistan drug fields that the U.S. Government has stupidly allowed to flourish, the Pakistani production facilities that take the opium to a "Number 4" level of quality, and criminal organizations as well as corrupt governments everywhere that facilitate Bin Laden's operations. The roles of Russia, Iran, North Korea, and Pakistan (especially Pakistan) in facilitating the storage, refurbishment, and technical maintenance of the purchased nuclear elements are covered in a manner that persuades me--this is a very real threat. The book is a useful compilation of both mistakes by the US, and events taking place from 2002-2004, and it ends with full translated copies of the 23 Aug 96 Fatwa and the related 23 Feb 98 World Islamic Statement. Within the book are some extracts from Al Qaeda training manuals, one portion of which make it clear that the "sleepers" now in the US are specifically forbidden to go to mosques or appear Islamic in any way. Bottom line, totally consistent with the other two books I recommend: the US needs to meet Bin Laden's reasonable demands, and redirect its focus from occupying Islamic countries toward cleaning up its own homeland. [I realize that calling Bin Laden's demands "reasonable" in going to infuriate many people, but I have to say, based on all three books taken as a whole, that all three authors agree on this point, and they have persuaded me. We cannot win if we persist in supporting 44 dictators, occupying Muslim lands, demanding cheap oil at the expense of the Muslim populations, and supporting an Israel that is racist as well as terrorist in nature toward the Palestinians. It is what it is--the sooner we stop deceiving ourselves, and demand that our government get back to the ideals of moral capitalism and truly representative democracy, the sooner we have a chance to avoid this "nuclear hellstorm" that I believe this book credibly documents as a very real possibility.] See also, with reviews: *Breaking the Real Axis of Evil: How to Oust the World's Last Dictators by 2025*, *Blood Money: Wasted Billions, Lost Lives, and Corporate Greed in Iraq*, *Open Target: Where America Is Vulnerable to Attack*, *America the Vulnerable: How Our Government Is Failing to Protect Us from Terrorism*, *Vice: Dick Cheney and the Hijacking of the American Presidency*, *Running on Empty: How the Democratic and Republican Parties Are Bankrupting Our Future and What Americans Can Do About It*, "2 things to consider. If he has so many nukes and they are in place why hasn't he used them? Maybe he doesn't want thier Holy Land turned into a glass parking lot. I think this book serves the purpose of keeping people in fear so they won't mind if more liberties are taken away. Lets say he does fire off one or more of these. Yes it would be bad, but we would recover. Japan did and we would too. Would our liberties survive? Not likely. What he presents raises Fear and nothing more. He also forgets that the US has some pretty good detection equipment and there are satelites that can pick up radio active sources from space. I

am more worried over the loss of liberties and the race towards a police state than I am nukes. Governments killed over 170 million of their own citizens in the 20th century alone. That does not include people lost in war battles. If we were the republic that we started out as and left people alone and concentrated on protecting our rights rather than "spreading democracy" we wouldn't have to worry about suitcase nukes in the first place. Don't buy into the fear people. If you really want truth about what is happening read the "State Vs. The People" available from [...] . Not available from Amazon yet I am sorry to say :-(, "This work is valuable in that it presents the evil ideology of Bin- Laden. If you are not a Closed- Minded Fanatic Believer in Islam , if you believe in individual freedom and choice then you deserve according to the Bin- Laden ideology to be exterminated. Only if you think exactly the way this narrow maniac thinks do you have a right to breathe on this earth. For presenting a detailed picture of the Bin- Laden ideology this book is commendable. As to the military- threat scenarios I think that after 9/11 there is not a sane person in the world who can say that ' great disaster' might not come again. It very well might. And there are an incredible number of directions and places from which it might come. I do not however think that it can come from suitcase nuclear weapons of the former Soviet Union. The fact is we know of no such device being operable. And as another writer on Amazon has rightly said the fact that it has not happened yet is strong evidence that it will not happen. And there is one clear reason for this. Terrorists tend to aim to do the maximum amount of destruction they are capable of at any given time. They do not delay. If they could have done it they probably would have done it. This again does not mean the West and the United States especially is not under greater threat than before. Since 9/11 there are many more Islamic terrorists in the world with one or another variant of a Bin- Laden like ideology. There are too it is well to remember other kinds of dangers, especially the WMD threats presented by nations like North Korea and Iran. It may well be that the threats mentioned in this work are not the real and the dangerous ones. But again no one can know with certainty where the next Evil may come from. Whether the Intelligence services of the Western world will be ahead of the terrorists is not certain. Rather that is something to be worked for by them, and prayed for by the rest of us.", 'Williams' thesis is that Al Qaeda used the enormous profits of its heroin and opium operations to purchase several "suitcase" nuclear weapons from Russian criminals. The suitcase nukes, which are hard to maintain, have supposedly been made ready for use by rogue Russian and Pakistani scientists. Worse yet, claims Williams, these weapons have already been deployed to Al Qaeda terrorist cells in several major cities in the United States, ready for an "American Hiroshima" that will kill upwards of 4 million Americans and devastate the world's economy. Williams' claims are sensational, and they must be taken with a large grain of salt. His chapter notes show that Williams relied on newspaper articles, internet sources and rumor rather than privileged access to military intelligence. And the proposition that nuclear weapons are in the hands of Islamists begs a couple of key questions: why haven't they been used against the Russians, who have many mortal enemies in Chechnya? For that matter. why haven't they already been detonated in America, Europe, Iraq or Afghanistan? Williams hints at some possible answers. Perhaps Al Qaeda has the weapons, but they are unreliable and difficult to maintain. Perhaps bin Laden is just waiting for the right anniversary date--say, an October 7 (the start of the war in Afghanistan), or a January 15 (the start of the First Gulf War), or even a November 27 (the anniversary of Pope Urban's call for crusade in 1095). Above all, Williams argues, bin Laden and al Qaeda are patient--the fact that a nuclear weapon hasn't gone off yet is no comfort that al Qaeda isn't working hard to make it happen. Another possibility is that al Qaeda understands that the nuclear destruction of one or more American cities could very easily lead to a savage retaliation by the United States. Even bin Laden may be unwilling to pick the ultimate fight with an adversary that is equipped with a large arsenal of thermonuclear warheads. In the face of an "American Hiroshima," I suspect that the American public and its leaders would be very hard to restrain, and that possibility may give pause even to a fanatic. Still, the threat of nuclear terrorism is so dangerous that it has to be taken seriously. Imagine a single nuclear weapon exploding in Long Beach, which handles a huge proportion of the imports coming into the United States--apart from the tragic and enormous loss of life, the world economy (not just America's) would be plunged into a depression overnight. For a more plausible but equally disturbing take on the nuclear threat, read Graham

Allison's "Nuclear Terrorism: The Ultimate Preventable Catastrophe." Allison's argument is that the real nuclear threat comes from unprotected stockpiles of enriched uranium 235 in the former Soviet Union. The Bush Administration has drastically cut the funding for programs that were intended to secure these stockpiles, and Allison makes a very cogent argument that the war in Iraq has distracted the United States from the critical task of keeping Russian uranium out of the hands of terrorists. If a nuclear weapon does explode in the US, it may very well be a U-235 fission device (like the bomb dropped on Hiroshima) delivered by containership to a major port (Long Beach, New Orleans, Houston, Boston, or New York). Remember, U-235 weapons are so well understood and reliable that the one dropped on Hiroshima was not even tested--it was the much trickier plutonium implosion bomb that was the subject of the famous July 1945 test at Alamogordo. In 1945, the problem with a U-235 bomb was that it took an entire year to make enough enriched uranium for just one bomb--the Russians have solved that problem for al Qaeda and have left tons of material in scores of poorly protected sites. And just in case you sleep well at night thinking that the Department of Homeland Security will be able to protect us from this nuclear threat and its aftermath--well, just consider the Bush Administration's recent performance in the face of Hurricane Katrina.]

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["What can I say about Stephen M. Miller's new book. It is GREAT. This is the perfect book to visualize the Bible. I know I'm a visual person and this book has helped me retain the information that is set before me. Great Job Stephen. This is the perfect book to give as gifts I plan to buy more.", 'This book is a summary of the Bible with some full-color pictures of paintings and maps related to the events as well as some illustrative photos (like of a mandrake, a goat, household idols, etc.). There were a few sidebars with cultural background information about the described event, but it's the quality of information you'd find in a study Bible. I didn't find that it really added any deep insight into the Bible and none of the information was new to me. Also, while this book did briefly mention traditional views of the Bible (like that the Torah was written by Moses), the author presented these views in a dismissive way and included much more information on Bible-critical views (like the view that the Old Testament wasn't put down in written form--beyond the law--until King David's time). I felt like the author didn't believe in the supernatural events described in the Bible. For example, he included one sentence on the traditional view of the plagues in Exodus but gave a paragraph plus a large sidebar to explain the view that the plagues were simply typical natural disasters for Egypt (and he doesn't point out that the Egyptians would hardly be impressed with Moses if this was just a natural disaster cycle they experienced every year). He also has a "Bible History" timeline set next to a secular world history timeline so that it's obvious that the two don't agree for much of the Old Testament. Since this book is dismissive toward my views of the Bible, I didn't particularly enjoy it. While easy to read, I also don't quite see the point of this book. You'd get more out of reading a study Bible and looking at a Bible atlas or Bible handbook. If that's too much reading, "The Essential Bible Guide" by Menashe Har-El, Paul Wright, and Baruch Sarel gives a reader a much greater depth of information in half the pages of this book. Personally, I wouldn't recommend "The Complete Visual Bible." I received this book as a eBook review copy from the publisher.', 'Reading visual bible daily! Adds human element to the written words of bible. Shows what was written centuries ago holds true to today. Same struggles. Same desires. Same disobedience. Same grace.', 'This is one of those books that I fall in love at first sight. It is a visually appealing partial paraphrase of the Bible. It is a colourful rendition of the flow of the biblical story. It is a dynamic interplay of part atlas, part dictionary, part biblical history, and part retelling of the Old and New Testament Bible in narrative style. One simply will not get bored with this book. Clarity is the strongest point in this book. The tables, the illustrations, photographs and beautiful graphics, this book is perhaps one of the best 'photo albums' of the Bible I have seen. The author needs to be commended for the massive amount of research and painstaking details to highlight the biblical text. It brings to life even the obscure parts of the Bible. For example, for those of us who think that certain books of the Bible is 'boring,' try reading that particular book with the Visual Bible. It will give

the reader a refreshing read indeed. This book is also strong in guiding the reader through the Bible. It excites me so much that I WANT to read the Bible more. This is perhaps the biggest reason to want to buy this book.

Three Precautions to Note

There are three guidelines to take when reading this massive volume. Firstly, like any paraphrase, we need to be aware that this is a re-telling of the biblical story FROM THE PERSPECTIVE of the author. This means that we need to do our homework, to read the Bible for ourselves in the first place, and verify the contents. Secondly, because this book is a visual aid to reading the Bible, it is only a help, and not meant to substitute the actual reading of the texts. Remember that the Bible is originally meant to be heard, not seen. Thirdly, while the author attempts to be as accurate as possible, sometimes, the contexts may be a little too modern for ancient comfort. What this means is that the reader may risk reading the 21st Century into ancient contexts. This may unwittingly warp the reader's understanding of actual events in history.

In summary, this book gives a fresh look at the Bible. If you are a Bible teacher, or a student of the Bible, this is a huge aid for teaching learning, in a pedagogical world that is increasingly visual-dependent.

conradel receive this book free, courtesy of Barbour Publishing, without any form of financial compensation. I am under no obligation to give a positive review. All comments remain my own."

"This and the Complete Guide to the Bible were two books my wife needed for her Bible study class. When they came in she was out of town so I read both over the next couple of days. Mr. Miller did a good job of giving the reader a vision of the place and time to go along with the Bible study. These were not quite as much detail as say the Old and New Testament Surveys I took as an undergrad in college, but I think about right for the lay person who wishes to expand their knowledge of the Bible."

"I love The Complete Visual Bible. Stephen Miller condenses 66 books into one that is humorous, well-illustrated and easy to read. I recommend it to anyone who wants a general overview of the Bible."

"In the introduction, the author points out how deeply encouraged he was when an atheist read his manuscript and found the book acceptable. I would say this seems to set the tone for much of the book. The author seems to try to explain away scriptural topics (such as women's issues, creationist views, etc.). There seems to be a lot of occasions where this book lays a fair amount of doubt on what scripture plainly says. The author presents quite a few 'alternate theories' or weird speculations which only seem to complicate or confuse things that are plainly revealed in scripture. He seems to use so many qualifiers such as 'Christian students say' or 'some experts say' to present things that are apparently uncomfortable for the author to accept, or to present some other funky alternative ideas outside normative Christian beliefs. As others have mentioned, this book seems to have quite a bit of 'critical' content (or might I even say 'hostile' views) against traditionally held elements of the Judeo-Christian faith. He makes some contradicting points, proposing that Paul may not have even wrote the epistles to Timothy and Titus. He proposes that the Star of Bethlehem (as he calls it) was not a star. He questions whether the book of Jonah was based on an actual event (even though Jesus himself asserted that Jonah spent three days in the belly of a fish). The author doesn't seem to understand the story of Cain and Abel. Of course, the author also seems to cast doubt on Noah's flood and whether the Israelites crossed the Red Sea (same old tired assertions). There seems to be a lot of other 'weirdness' in the book that does not make sense. It seems to make a point to doubt scripture on many occasions in this way.

I didn't want to write a scathing review on this. It has a lot of pretty pictures and a nice layout. There is some decent information and timelines in there. But for my taste, there is too much subtle bible-bashing and undermining of the faith. If you are an atheist who doesn't really want to believe the scriptures, this might be a good book for you. But if you love Christ and believe what God has revealed in scripture, then I would suggest something that more reliably supports the faith. I am okay with a fair challenge against scripture, but this book seems to masquerade as something that is true to the faith, when it instead seems to undermine the faith. Sorry to say this, but that is the way I read this material."

"I am finding many errors the author and his editor apparently missed or never read directly from the Scriptures. Right from the beginning he misrepresents stories like Adam and Eve. The author says on page 14, "In the garden of Eden, Adam and Eve have just one rule: "You must not eat the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden. Do not even touch it. If you do, you will die" (Genesis 3:3)." Well, this quoted verse is actually the words of Eve, not God. God's statement about the rules in the garden are stated in Genesis 2:16. The difference is 'touching' the

fruit versus eating it; Eve added to God's expectations in her zeal but made God out to be more demanding in the process. This small addition twists the story just enough to make God seem unreasonable and that is the kind of twisting that leads to wrong ideas. This book is full of that sort of misinformation. Therefore, be warned: You must look up each reference yourself to evaluate whether the author is being true to the text. Maybe these errors were unintentional. However, the reader is misguided by the title of this book "The Complete Visual Bible" when it is not a Bible at all, but merely a man's personal summary of his own erroneous interpretation of the Bible. The style of writing is entertaining and conversational which I enjoyed, as well as many insights I previously never heard. So, that was good. I just have to look everything up and confirm it's true before I assume its accuracy.'

'First of all, I would like to extend a heartfelt "Thank you" to Stephen Miller and his publisher for sending me an electronic copy of "The Complete Visual Bible" to review for them. I am truly grateful for this opportunity and their generosity. "The Complete Visual Bible" by Stephen M. Miller is a feast for the eyes. This visually stunning book offers quite a bit of information about Bible times, culture and references. It didn't include everything I was hoping to find within its pages, but what one book can include everything? Especially considering how many photographs and illustrations are included within these pages. I was overcome by the rich and vibrant colors that stimulated my eyes as I perused this volume. The variety of information in "The Complete Visual Bible" makes it a good addition to your Bible study library. Especially for people who are visual learners, this book is truly an optical marvel.'

'With his unique "journalistic" approach to the material, Steve Miller takes us inside the Bible as few other writers have, bringing its stories to life with vivid illustrations and colorful maps. Telling the story of God's relationship with his people in rich detail -- yet with a gentle wit -- he makes it all feel as real as today's headlines.'

'The Complete Visual Bible There is nothing more wonderful than to take a long trip with your closest friend and discover wonderful places and memories -- well that is how one feels when one reads a Stephen Miller book for the first time. The Complete Visual Bible is Miller's latest and greatest of all his books on many levels - certainly in the area of graphics, charts, maps, illustrations, photos, and research. If you have a short attention span and you are looking for a visually stunning overview through the Bible -- this book will not disappoint. This is a reference book and not a devotional book and it is written for all regardless of what one believes. The introduction at the beginning of the book proves this point -- Miller received a letter from an atheist (who gave him permission to use one of his photos) and this person commented how much he enjoyed how this book was put together and the care to detail with this subject matter. Stephen Miller writes his books on the Bible to get his readers excited to discover the "Book," not because it is his living only -- and he has many books under his belt -- but because he enjoys the thrill of bringing the novice explorer through the greatest book ever written. If you are looking for a quick tour with lavish pictures and charts with very little commentary - then this is your book. If you want something more detailed, then I would recommend his earlier book called The Complete Guide to the Bible which had a more detailed overview of each book of the Bible with highlighted portions. What Miller has done, with this latest work, is to combine three of his best books (Complete Guide to the Bible, The Jesus of the Bible, and The Complete Guide to Bible Prophecy) -- taking all the charts and illustrations and making a more complete visual presentation, but all new and exciting. Each book of the Bible is presented with what is called "The Big Scene" - a beautiful illustration in artwork representing a major event in that book. The "Story Line" gives an overview of that book including Location, Time, and Author. On that spread you are given a "Time Line" which describes Bible History and World History. The dates or approximations are accepted by most scholars -- he even gives two dates for the exodus either 1440 BC or 1290 BC -- both dates have strong evidence of support by Bible scholars. Miller then does a "visual" commentary on the major chapters in each book. This is a 542 page book that is reasonably priced at \$19.99 and well worth it. There is even a web site where you can download the index at [...]. I enjoyed this book very much and had just a few reservations. I wanted to comment on some of the criticisms that I read online by other reviewers. It was brought up that Miller downplays the supernatural accounts of miracles by using explanations of natural law. Miller simply presents commonly held explanations, for example, the plagues of Egypt were one natural disaster that brought on the next. Actually this view is pretty much held by most conservative scholars and is well presented in Moses and the

Gods of Egypt: Studies in Exodus by John J. Davis. It is also fascinating how each plague was a slap in the face to the so-called gods of Egypt at that time. One book reviewer was upset that Miller had said that the "Jews buried Moses instead of God doing the job." The truth of the matter is that some manuscripts say "God buried Moses" and some say "He was buried," which Miller points out implies that he was buried by someone other than God. Remember Miller never gives his views -- he only presents the views of others. I found Miller's humor appropriate, in the right places, and very witty -- this is a joyful tour and not the "Book of Common Prayer!" Examples of his wit involved the Baker in prison with Joseph who "became toast" and the Apostle Paul becoming "Ballistic against the Judaizers in Galatia and suggesting castration." That comment had we rolling on the floor with a slight twinge! One criticism that is very noticeable is the use of personal paraphrasing. I don't know who the PR man is for Eugene Petersen (he probably could sell ice in Greenland) and the constant use of the Message Bible, but it takes away from Miller's work. The NKJV, NIV, TNIV, and NRSV are clearly cogent and respected enough translations. This is my little pet peeve: You don't paraphrase Shakespeare with modern lingo - leave the Scripture alone! Let me all urge you to purchase this book about the "Book of Books" -- let Stephen Miller, as a trusted friend, take you on a visual journey through God's Word. Whatever happens on this extraordinary trip could just change your life!]

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[I purchased this book to use for personal devotions during Lent 2014. At \$24 for the hard copy I expected it to be beautiful and it is. The art included is varied, apt, and spectacularly printed. The paper is a heavy weight with a sheen that gives the art depth. I love the built in ribbon bookmarks too. So why didn't I give it five stars? First, there is at least one serious editing problem. One of the Rohr essays in week one refers to lectionary readings about Adam and Eve that are not the readings included for that day. I can't imagine why no one else noticed this -- unless they didn't actually use the book. Second, as good as Rohr's contributions are, they are a tough act to follow, and week two (which is as far as I am as I write this) is much weaker. I am hoping the contributors for the remain weeks go back to the depth and quality of the first week.", "This collection of writings and art has been a wonderful addition to our Lenten devotions. Three contributors, Rolheiser, Rohr and Norris, were known to me and this drew me to purchase the book. Just opening it the first time convinced me to order another copy for a friend. The format is perfect for making complete use of its resources. History of the Lenten season and observances leads into each week's offering. The art pages are rich in color and illustrate the text beautifully, allowing these paintings to further enrich one's experience. I love that the book includes a glossary of where each work can be found. And each writer of the daily readings provides a week of devotional focus relating their personal observations to Scripture and Lent. I write this in the 5th week with every expectation of finishing the journey better prepared to celebrate the Resurrection once again.", 'Like its companion volume, God with us, these two facilitate fulfilling a desire to cultivate personal depth during the two particularly intense times of every year, Christmas and Easter. Wonderful concept well offered and completed if I use it.', 'This book is beautiful, the writings, the paintings . . . all very good and with material provided by several different writers.', 'the past couple of years my Lenten practice has been enriched by books from Paraclete Press. Two years ago I prayed the daily offices from the Prayer Book of the Early Christians through Lent. Last year my wife and I read Seeking His Mind: 40 Meetings With Christ by M. Basil Pennington as part of our evening devotions. I was on the hunt for a good reader for Lent this year and was excited by Paraclete's latest offering, God For Us: Rediscovering the Meaning of Lent and Easter. I am highly impressed and excited about this! I have read God With Us, the companion volume to this book which explores the meaning of Advent and Christmas. So I had some inkling of what to expect when I opened the book. However, I was ill-prepared for how beautiful this book is. It is a hardcover book with ribbon bookmarks. Inside, it has inside a stunning collection of art work. Icons, religious art, landscapes, and still life which deepen our experience of Jesus life, death and resurrection. The art is well chosen to illustrate the

readings, they are not just pretty pictures. I counted over a hundred paintings, in a variety of styles but mostly from the Western European tradition. *God For Us* is edited by Greg Pennoyer and Gregory Wolfe (of Image Journal). Pennoyer and Wolfe have assembled an impressive list of Christian writers and poets which include the likes of Richard Rohr, Lauren Winner, Scott Cairns, James Schaap, Luci Shaw, and Kathleen Norris. There is a preface from Greg Pennoyer and an introduction by Ronald Rolheiser, OMI. Beth Bevis opens the volume with a section on the history of Lent and has fourteen other articles which punctuate the text. These authors share a commitment to Christ and they are all great writers (five of which are personal favorites). However they also represent a range of church traditions. They are Catholic, Orthodox, Episcopalian, Presbyterian (maybe more; I don't know the denominational affiliation of James Schaap or Beth Bevis). Each week of Lent has daily readings by one of these contributors. Richard Rohr writes the entries from Shrove Tuesday to the Saturday of the first full week of Lent (a week-and-a-half's worth). Lauren Winner covers week two; Scott Cairns, week three, James Schaap, week four; Luci Shaw, week five; and Kathleen Norris covers Holy Week and Easter Sunday. Bevis's articles introduce each of the weeks as well as important feast and fast days. The daily entries are each about two days long, reflect on the daily lectionary and close with a brief printed prayer. This is a substantive devotional which opens up the contributors' own practice of Lent. The literary gifts of the authors ensures that this devotionally really like the format for this book. Reading one author for a week and then changing to the next, provides both continuity and variety. Beth Bevis's articles illuminate aspects of church tradition (i.e. Lent as the season of Baptismal preparation, differences between practices East and West, etc.). This gives a rooted-ness and framework for the rest of the book. I love how well this book is crafted! As I look over this book I am grateful for a book that helps me press fully into the meaning of the season. I will be reading this through Lent and would love some friends to read this with. So if you are shopping for a Lenten devotional, perhaps we can read in community and go through this together. Thank you to Paraclete Press for providing me a copy of this book in exchange for my honest review. 'Paraclete Press has done it again! *God For Us* is another heirloom quality devotional written, crafted, and printed in the same beautiful spirit as *God With Us*. *God For Us* is as its subtitle suggests, a devotional focused on the Liturgical season of Lent and Easter. Paraclete Press with Editors Greg Pennoyer and Gregory Wolfe have gathered together some of the most well respected Christian writers (Beth Bevis, Scott Cairns, Kathleen Norris, James Schaap, Luci Shaw, Richard Rohr, Ronald Rolheiser, and Lauren F. Winner) from the modern day and assembled their writings into a theme that helps us draw closer to God with our reflections upon this most holy Lenten and Easter Season. As I mentioned earlier, this is truly an heirloom quality book and very sturdy. It is hardbound with glossy, heavy gauge paper. Paraclete Press has also thoughtfully included a couple ribbon markers for place keeping. The book could easily stand on the devotional writing alone, but the inclusion of Christian art spanning 1500 years makes this work truly rise above other seasonal devotional books. Another feature of this style of devotional writing (perhaps it would be better to refer to this book as part of a series) is the all-in-one approach to teaching and practice. The book appeals to many different learning styles as it incorporates history, art, poetry, prayers, liturgy, and Scripture to hopefully engage as many of the senses as the reader allows engaging. The flow of the book follows the Lenten-Easter season in full, beginning with Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday, proceeding through the Lenten Calendar, landing on Palm Sunday, entering Holy Week, the Holy Triduum (Good Friday, Holy Saturday, Easter/Pascha), completion of the journey on Easter Sunday. The book is completed with a very thorough notes section that details every resource used throughout the devotions. There is also a nice biographical section for the contributing authors and a resource guide for every illustration shown in the book. This is a marvelous and very attractive resource for one of the most sobering and beautiful seasons of the Church Calendar. If you have been wondering what you might use as a devotional resource for yourself or your family, this might be worth your consideration. There is still plenty time to order and receive the book from online retailers before the Lenten Season begins. Amazon.com is retailing the book for just around \$20.00 before tax and shipping. In my opinion, this stunningly handsome book is well worth that price and then some. Thanks go out to Paraclete Press for another winning devotional guide!', 'I looked for a

Lenten resource that incorporated more of the broad scope of thought in Christendom. I was not disappointed by this ! The readings follow the Revised Common Lectionary. The art brings new depth and beauty to the texts. And the wisdom of the authors, as well as skillful editing and publishing, make it a volume that I will use again and again. I am delighted with this resource and it has been a blessing for me during this Lenten season.', 'God for Us: Rediscovering the Meaning of Lent and Easter Edited by Greg Pennoyer and Gregory Wolfe God for Us is a wonderful collection of essays on the meaning of Lent and Easter written by a great host of writers, including writers, priests, a poet, and professors. The book is stunningly enhanced by incorporating famous works of art throughout the chapters as a way of illuminating the message or theme of the piece. Each reading includes a few Scripture readings, identification of the day of the church calendar, a short explanation, prayer, and work of art depicting that chapter. Whether you worship in a church with high or low liturgy, this book will expand your appreciation for the Lenten and Eastern season which mirror the life of Christ. The powerful reminder coming through in this book was the fact that we are all on a journey. Commenting on Shrove Tuesday and Lent, Richard Rohr writes, 'Lent is intended to lead us into an always hidden future and an always greater opportunity, and it is in truth a future created by God but still unknown to us. We now enter Lent with a new and open horizon, ready to both expect and work for God's ever new springtime.' (6) There is a combination of feasting and fasting that is part of the Lenten season that connects with this hidden future. We don't know the exact outcome of the future but we work for the Lord with an expectant spirit knowing that He is good and has our good in mind. The dual nature of letting go of the things that hinder our worship and taking on the practices that draw us near to God remind us that change is possible, even in the time being. Richard reminds us in his prayer of the eschatological dimension of our journey in his prayer, writing, 'May we never lose hope in the eternal spring that you have promised to all of creation in a new heaven and a new earth.' (7) This chapter includes Pieter Brueghel's The Peasant Dance which joyously illuminates the feasting side before the Lenten season. Luci Shaw picks upon the unique way the Bible uses narrative and literary devices to reveal its Maker. She writes, 'How energizing it is that the Bible is pierced through and through with metaphor, analogy, parable, simile, comparison. God is saying, 'This is how I bring my truth into your human reality.' (123) The Mighty God is evidenced in very concrete metaphors and images. Rocks, forts, lions, and forts are just a few of the ways God is described by the biblical writers. Based upon John 9, Luci brings out the story of Jesus in a poem called The Sighting. The initial lines are worth repeating, 'Out of the shaft of spittle/the scratch of dire, /he made an anointing.' (124) The descriptors here bring forth the story of Jesus in his anointing clearly and wonderfully. Even more, recognizing the provocative way Scripture uses imagery and metaphor, this language helps us along the way through Lent. We groan at times at the demand of such a season but realize that in the Lord's Supper Jesus offers himself as the Bread of Life. We eagerly anticipate the rejoicing of Resurrection Sunday as we look forward to the Supper of the Lamb. These images and concrete reminders help us along the way in our journey of faith. This collection of essays on Lent and Easter were a breath of fresh air for me. The paintings provided in each chapter were also remarkable expressions of way people have envisioned the faith. I think all will find something to resonate with in these pages, not least because they help us on our journey of faith. Thanks to Paraclete Press for the copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.', 'This is truly the most meaningful Lenten devotion I have ever used. I very much look forward to reading it every day. I take notes and highlight sentences or phrases that resonate with me. Due to this, I also ordered the Devotions for Advent and Christmas by the same 2 editors and look forward to Advent to read it, also.', 'I love the format of these. I have the Advent/Christmas one as well. These are well done and will be used over and over each liturgical season.']

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["Vegans are not immune to snack attacks, and I do love a good cookie. Thankfully all of my

favorites are here, plus many many more that are certain to also become favorites. There are your basic chocolate chip, peanut butter and oatmeal cookies, elegant cookies for parties, filled cookies, pressed cookies. I am a confident cook, and I have done a lot of baking, but I was not very confident of my abilities when it came to vegan baking. No worries here! I recommend that every new vegan find a good vegan baking cookbook to add to their collection, as baking is an exact science, and someone else has already done the tasting and testing for you, you don't have to worry if you've calculated the egg and dairy alternatives properly.", "I was really looking forward to this book. But so far I have been under impressed. I love that there are pics for almost every cookie. And there are plenty of cookies to choose from. However, all the cookies I have tried so far have been major fails. The White Russian Cookies were very bland, the only thing you could taste was the Kahlua. The Delightful Coconut Caramel Butter Cookies tasted great. Except for the fact that the "caramel" never hardened. They had to stay in the fridge and even then the caramel slid right off the cookie, very messy. The S'mores Bars were over powered by the odd taste of the graham crackers. We threw most of them out. The Bakery-Style Chocolate Chip Cookies with a Hint of Maple went from the oven to my mouth to the trash. the maple was SO overpowering and that was after I cut the amount in half. And there was way to much flour. The batter was very dry, had to add some soy milk. The Soft Baked Chocolate Chip Cookies also used way to much flour (a running theme in this book). And they were super cakey. If I wanted cake I would bake a cake. So far this book has been a major fail. I'm gonna stick with Vegan Cookies Take Over Your Cookie Jar.", "I've made over sixty of these recipes so far and since I shouldn't eat that many my workplace has been basking in a sugar-y glow. The almond kisses are wonderful, the faux thin mints wowed the staunchest anti-vegan, the orange cream bars disappeared (one recipe I hoard for myself), the snickerdoodles won over my now boyfriend, heck I've even used the sugar cookies in baking demonstrations and had people begging me where I got the recipe. This is my go-to book for cookies. Oh and by far my favorite cookie in the world is the sticky date and apple bars. They ship well too for all those lonesome vegans that don't have this book yet.", "I needed a cookie platter for a special event and of course wanted to showcase how wonderful vegan baking can be. I made the oatmeal cream pies, ginger snaps, peanut butter chocolate chips, cranberry almond, and dark chocolate truffle cookies. Every recipe came out perfect and the cookies were a big hit. Looking forward to making more recipes from this lovely little book.", "I love this book! There are so many unique cookie recipes, plus many more for classics, and vegan versions of popular commercial cookies. I've had great success with all the recipes I've tried so far, especially the oatmeal raisin ones. I'm looking forward to going into the holiday baking season with this book by my side.", "Kelly Peloza proves that delicious and vegan aren't contradictory terms when it comes to creating cookies! Her vision of sugarplums are those without dairy milk, eggs or hydrogenated oils. We were amazed at the range of vegan possibilities when it comes to cookie recipes, from Peanut Butter Cup cookies and Chocolate Marzipan Ravioli to Mocha Biscotti and Coconut Oatmeal Raisin Breakfast Cookies. Gorgeous close-ups of the finished products look good enough to eat, so imagine how the real deal will taste. We predict Kelly Peloza is a name to watch in the world of vegan cooking and recipes.", "I was so impressed when I got Kelly's book in the mail. I was even more impressed when I used the recipes in here! FANTASTIC", "I own a bazillion (maybe an exaggeration) vegan cookbooks and this is one of my favourites. I love the look of the book, hard cover, glossy pictures of lots of the recipes which is always a bonus! I have tried a few and they all worked perfectly for me. I would definitely recommend this book to anyone who loves a great cookie, vegan or not! There is something for every taste and just reading through the book, which I did cover to cover, makes me drool because everything sounds so delicious. All of the ingredients are pantry staples for the most part and while some appeal to a more grown up taste there are loads that will appeal to kids too.", "Okay so I've only made 4 of the recipes so far but I'm in love. This is the 5th Vegan cookie cookbook I've purchased and the only one that even comes close is "Vegan Cookies Invade Your Cookie Jar." Kelly's book has more scope, it is amazingly professional and has the best index in a Vegan book I've seen in quite some time. I've made some of these recipes gluten free and others with regular flour. I just got done baking some Oatmeal Raisin as they are my husband's favorite. That would be the very picky, very non-Vegan husband who is always criticizing new recipes. He ended up baking

some himself because I only made a trayful and refrigerated the rest of the dough. I'd say he was a convert. I think my search for the perfect Vegan cookie book is over. Thanks Kelly you're my cookie baking hero, uh heroine? super hero? anyway my advise is to BUY THIS BOOK!', 'This book has tons of really cool cookie recipes and many tips for vegan baking. Pictures are gorgeous and although the book is smaller, it is voluminous and cheap for a hardcover with so many great recipes.', 'I kept coming accross this ebook when browsing for vegan cookbooks. This wonderful cookie book has yummy and creative vegan recipes and at such a bargain!', 'Beautiful photos of every dessert. Plus, lovely written, personal descriptions of each recipe. This combo entices me to want to make every dessert in the book (and this book is loaded with recipes!). Many of the recipes have simple and few ingredients, making them a cinch to make with ingredients I've already got on-hand. Many recipes for "old favorites," plus, many desserts that are new to me.', 'As my quote on the inside cover says, these are all great recipes for vegans and non-vegans alike. Cool photography and lots of great info.', 'What a great vegan cookie book. I have 4 veg children but they still wanna be kids and we just made fun and tasty holiday sugar cookies. I also made the Mexican Wedding Cookies for the adults and even the kids loved them! It's was a great buy!', 'I rated average for now because I really was looking forward to a whole book of vegan cookies, just in time for Christmas. That being said, the first I tried was PB Oatmeal-flawless. Then chocolate-chocolate bakery, again, excellent. Next up were Lemon Poppy, Ginger & Molasses. All three came out appearance wise more like slice \n bake, flat topped disks, not like the photos. The Molasses dough was very crumbly & I had difficulty forming balls (I use a scoop). Too much flour in the recipes? Weight for flour would have been helpful. The next was Cashew Chip (one more to decide whether to return the book or not). This one was excellent, kinda macaroonish in texture/chewiness. Anyway, I'm gonna keep at it, so many others look good. I brought the lemon poppy & ginger to work, they went quicky, so taste isn't an issue. I am an experienced baker & find it annoying to have to tweak "tested" recipes. However, if a few more come out well, a couple misses out of over 140 isn't bad...', 'Easy to follow directions with great receipes that really taste good. You will love this book converting your old favorites into new ones.', 'Really beautiful book; it's a hard cover book with beautiful pictures for each delicious, vegan recipe. Highly recommended and very much worth the price."]

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[This is the story of Cam and Kara and it also gives teasers of her sister and cousin. I love this series but I will admit that it is pretty short to cost \$8. I would recommend reading the series in order.', 'This is book four in the Trek Mi Q'an series, though it is the fifth in line if you include Seized. Anyway, this is the story of Kara and Cam. However, there are other story lines in here as well that makes this book feel rushed and all over the place. There is just an incredible amount of plot (which is appreciated), but it is not succinct or cohesive enough to leave the reader at ease. At times I felt it was almost a chore to get through this, even though this book only contains 108 pages. I came to like Cam when we were introduced to him in book one. He was very young, genuine though a little nave. Now, however, he has risen in rank despite his meager upbringing, and has proven in more ways than one that he is fit to be the husband of Kara Q'ana Tal, third daughter to Empress Kyra and Emperor/King Zor. Since this was such a short book, I really wish they did not have to share their book with other characters. It really shortened their story to a simplification of a love story that I felt could have been deeper and more developed, especially considering these two characters in mind, and Kara's lineage. And let us consider Kara's lineage. Considering that Kara, Dari and Jana grew up in Tryston, where women seem as happy as ever to acclimate and accept the role people play in their society, why would these three girls be against any of it? And could they not talk to their mothers (at least) about how they felt instead of going this drastic, dramatic route? Was it an end all be all for them? Did they never have it in mind to go back? And since they were away for five years and became warriors on their own merits, why does it seem that they gave in so easy to the males that wanted them? These questions I felt were never answered. And let us bring it

back to the couples of Dari and Gio, and Jana and Yorin. Where was I when this happened? I saw the development courting of Jana and Yorin, but since when were Dari and Gio to be a couple? This is some of the confusing stuff that I was talking (or rather writing) about when it came to plot being all over the place. It would have been better for each of the girls to get their own books, or at least if this book were longer so that their individual stories flowed and made sense overall. The potential is incredibly bountiful, but the outcome was just not it. Also, will Kari and Kyra ever be in the same room, or see each other at all?", "Another example of Jade's wonderful entrancing, sexy characters blended together with a world where your fantasies are becoming more than just a thought. ABSOLUTELY LOVED LOVED EVERY MOMENT. LOOKING FORWARD TO THE ENTIRE SERIES!!!!", 'A new series..this one is book four of seven...and so many questions have now been answered...great story.....now to start book five...four left me on a cliff hanger!', "I didn't expect to love this series but now I've read the whole lot. The characters are interesting and powerful. Great adult entertainment.", "The plan goes on with a hitch, Dari isn't joining them right then. But after five yessat years they are joined by Dari and everything is fine?but something Evil is following Dari and the boy-child Banzi. Then Cam finds Kara and Jana is found by a legendary male species named Yolin andDeath knows what Dari is running from. Kyra finds the answer to a LONG lostOops ;) you will have to read it to find out", 'Very entertaining! This is the first book I read from Jaid Black, taking a few scenes apart I loved the story.', "The primary story is about Kara fleeing from Cam because she wanted some independent time before she married. He initially thought she was dead, but as soon as he heard she was alive, five years later, he was able to hunt her and find her. Separate stories begin about Dari fleeing her future husband while learning about and how to stop the evil one. Jana mates with Yorin who takes her to his ice planet. Kari continues to flee from Death and helps Dari. Data: Sexual language: erotic. Number of sex scenes: thirteen plus. Setting: 6044 and 6049 Yessat Years Galis, Khan-Gor and other planets. Copyright: 2001. Genre: erotic paranormal science fiction romance. This story is also published in the anthology Conquest (Trek Mi Q'an #4 & #5). Other Books: For a list of my reviews of other Jaid Black books, see my 5 star review of One Dark Night.", 'I cannot put the books down and keep reading and reading. I look forward to the next one. Jaid Black is awesome!', "Jaid Black's amazing talent with words never ceases to amaze me. She knows exactly how to draw a reader into the storyline and make the characters on the page come alive. Her Trek M'Qan series has kept me spellbound from beginning to end, and left me hungry for more. Her futuristic reality keeps getting more and more amazing with each installment. I can't wait for the next one. Keem 'em coming!", "Loveeeeeeeee this series by Jaid Black. Kara and Cam's story you have been reading about it from the previous books so the hype was worth it love love love. Kara doesn't want to be Cam's true mate she was to go out and live a little but Cam is not trying to hear that Kara escapes and Cam goes to look for her and when He found her oh boy watch out.", 'I hate this series and this book is no exception. The problem for me is the way they talk is just really annoying, old English sort of and I hate it. Also I thought the story did not flow well like the author had to hurry up in places I am not a fan', "Jaid Black manages to keep several story lines going at once and keep them all interesting. There is the main story between Cam and Kara, she strikes out for her independence only to find she really misses her mate and her family. This story, though, is the reason I gave this book a four instead of a five star rating. I didn't like the fact that Kara had to kiss up so much and that her, Jana and Dari's bid for independence didn't really bring about any changes on Trek Mi Q'an. The story about Dari and Gio made me anxious for more. What is evil about Gio's sire and why is Dari the only one, besides Baki the male slave, who can see it? Can't wait for this story. Jana finds her mate Jana is taken by Yorin to his home planet of Khan-Gor where she mates with him and becomes another species. This transformation is explained in the book Devilish Dot. Kari, Death's future mate, and Dari end up on Khan-Gor so, you know, Jana is going to play an important role in helping Dari defeat the evil one (Gio's father) on Arak. Death must also play an important role because he has faced this evil before and knows why Dari must keep silent to protect Gio. Can't wait for the next installment in this series."]

"I really like the pictures and layouts. I am just in the beginning stages of scrapbooking, so I needed some ideas. I was able to get a lot of ideas with this book. However, most of the pages are more advanced than my skill level at this time. I'm sure I'll be using this book for years to come.", "This book was great for me because I have not been scrapbooking for long. I can look at this book and get ideas for layouts and designs. If you have been into papercrafts for a long time this book will be repetitious to you.", "Lots of great ideas for scrapbooks. Comes as a very handy tool when you need a little inspiration for your layouts.", "I found this to be a great springboard for scrapbooking ideas. I borrowed this book from the library and just had to have it. It's packed with pages on a huge variety of topics by some of Memory Makers best scrappers. If you're looking for fresh scrapbooking ideas such as you'd get from magazines, you'll like this book. I'm a die hard scrapbooker and have been for several years and I really enjoyed this book.", "This is definitely eye candy, loads of lovely colors and the book is laid out beautifully. But when I really looked at the pages and layouts, I found a great deal of repetition, and nothing really new. I walked away and picked it up again. Nope. It did not end up being one of the idea books I return to time and again unfortunately. But it is eye candy. The DVD rom is sort of fluff as the pages are not as good as what's in the book.", "I'm an aspiring scrapbooker and the Memory Makers books have been an invaluable source of inspiration for me. The freedom of expression unleashed in this volume collected from Memory Makers contributors is staggering and a far cry from the traditional layout and design techniques I learned so many years ago. The editors have compiled the collection in five chapter organized "by the most popular topics seen in scrapbooks". Both analog and digital designs are displayed. While most certainly not a how-to book, each page does have a listing of the materials used, which is helpful. Many of the pages harbor a very personal gestalt, the sum of the parts becoming an inseparable whole. Going through here, I am inundated with ideas, restrained only by the knowledge that I must crawl before I walk. This collection (and the additional materials on the CD) provide me with a good part of the education I need. Jerry", "This 224 page book is filled with innovative ideas for scrapbooking. Designed for traditional scrapbookers, it is still a wealth of ideas that can be imitated by anyone adept with their own digital scrapbooking software. Most pages contain two illustrations of contributor's scrap pages. These well-laid-out examples provide a list of needed materials for those who wish to produce a traditional scrapbook, and will inspire digital scrapbookers to create professional looking digital pages. I thumb through this book when I need a new idea for pages. I have a good working knowledge of Adobe Photoshop CS4 and use that program to create my pages, backgrounds and embellishments. For helpful suggestions on how to make backgrounds and embellishments I use Creative Scrapbooking With Your Computer also by Memory Makers Books.", "I am not even into scrapbooking, but this is a perfect library addition for those who also love Art Journaling, or all things crafty!", "A cd-rom of page ideas and sketches accompanies Memory Makers' THE AMAZING PAGE: 650 NEW SCRAPBOOK PAGE IDEAS, TIPS AND TECHNIQUES, which focuses on scrapbook themes, styles, and page layouts which have proven the best of the Memory Makers editor's choices over time. Here are boxed sidebars and tips, full-color page examples, and plenty of insights on what makes a page exciting. Together these how-to guides pack in plenty of details. Diane C. Donovan California Bookwatch", "I enjoyed looking through this book. I'm sure I will be referring to it often when in need of a page idea. I would recommend this to anyone looking for an page idea.", "I purchased this for scrap book ideas and I was definitely not disappointed. I even refer other scrap bookers to use it.", "This is a fantastic book for the scrapper that likes to visualize what they want a page to look like. I took some new idea's and layouts from this book that are really cool!", "There seem to be two scrapbooking philosophies: 1st: the scrapbooking as an art philosophy in which you create beautiful masterpieces which combine numerous papers, embellishments, and personal skills to create a work of art and include a photograph or two among the components. 2nd: the scrapbooking as photo album in which you try to present as many photographs as possible as beautifully as possible using some non-photo components in the design but keeping the emphasis (and the expense) for the photos. I belong to the second group and, therefore, was not particularly impressed by this book. The vast

majority of the pages feature 3 photos or less (many only one). While I recognize that they look great, I can't afford to spend a fortune in the scrapbooking components and supplies needed to replicate these masterpieces. I aim for a minimum of 4 photos per page and 8 photos per 2-page spread--minimum. My budget for stickers, brads, buttons, ribbons, papers, and other artistic embellishments just doesn't spread far enough to create frequent masterpieces.", 'Every time I get stuck with a page I reach for this book. There are so many different layouts that there's always something that helps me to get over my "scraper's block". There's also a short description on the inspiration and construct behind each page. The reason I didn't give this five stars is that I would have liked to see the pages grouped by style (eg heritage, contemporary, richly embellished) instead of theme, now the truly great pages get too easily lost between the pages that don't inspire me the least.']

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['Right from the first page this book engulfs you in a sense of mystery and dread. One night Sarah Maine witnesses green lights in the sky and a glowing green mist engulfs the valley below. The next day Sarah makes a horrifying discovery, that plunges Sarah and her two young children in a desperate race to escape from a murderous government coverup. Helped by a young policeman, she battles to stay alive. All the while she has to wonder if her husband is still alive as he has disappeared. The story races from one suspenseful scene to another with a truly satisfying conclusion.', "This was an interesting thriller. It was sad (what happened and why) and kept me holding my breath every time I read about the police so near. If you're looking for something neat and easy to read fast (because it's hard to put it down) then this is your book.Carol Boshears", "THE TROJAN PROJECT BY EILEEN THORNTONWhen I read the first few pages I was hooked. It was scary to try and imagine what was going on when Sarah sees the blinding light. My imagination was in overtime here!Sarah had been looking out for her husband (a farmer) who should have been home ages ago. After all he was only in the top field checking on some sheep. Why hadn't he come home yet, what could have happened? The events that follow as Sarah tries to find out where her husband is are traumatic to say the least, especially when she discovers Dave, one of the farmhands, lying in the road. What was wrong with Dave? Sarah is horrified. How can this be happening and what has really happened to Pete, her husband?As Sarah sets out to find answers it leads to a terrifying journey with her children to try to get to London. Thank goodness she has the help of the young policeman.While Sarah is trying to get to her father, Sir Charles Hammond an eminent government scientist, the story switches to London. What has happened with the Trojan Project he had been working on?The tension builds as we follow Sarah desperately trying to avoid the military and reach London, at the same time as, unknown to Sarah, Pete and Josh who are trying to catch up with her. What happens when they all reach their destination?I will leave the reader to discover the answers themselves.This is a fast paced, intriguing thriller and I wanted to keep turning the pages.Thank you Eileen Thornton for a brilliant read which is fully deserving of five stars.", ""The Trojan Project" by Eileen Thornton is an amazing thriller.It starts out as a mystery about Pete, Sarah's farmer husband not returning home but then turns into a much sinister plot about an accident in a chemical plant, involving military operations and governmental cover up.Told cleverly with some flashbacks and separative narratives we learn about the husband and wife and a former love rival. What follows is a fast paced and nail biting thriller as witnesses and survivors are being hunted.Gripping, palatable and very enjoyable.", 'The story wakes the reader up to the cold hard facts of chemical warfare and the greed of men to have what they want regardless of the damage they do.', 'The plot is pure formula and the writing is cliched and could have been written by a computer programed to put out a "thriller".', 'Very good plot. The author did an excellent job of telling the story. Although a little wording at times and lost my interest periodically by the middle of the book the storyline picked up steam.', "I definitely recommend this intriguing novel by Scottish author Eileen Thornton. It's a mystery thriller, beginning when strange green mist descends upon a Northumbrian farming community, dissolving all life into a puddle of toxic liquid. Everything

and everyone who touches this is rapidly killed and liquefied. When you start reading, all sorts of weird and wonderful scenarios go through your mind and the scary truth is revealed fairly early in the book. Don't worry, I won't spoil it for you, but it was not what I was expecting. A few survivors manage to escape the toxic mist and are hunted down like fugitives by the culprits. I found the characters well-written and engaging. A dastardly villain is revealed to add to the tension and sends minions out to capture the survivors before they can reach London and alert the authorities. Will the goodies reach safety, or will they be caught and the secret lost forever? The novel is well-written and reminded me of Stephen King and the late Tom Clancy. Well done to the author and I look forward to reading more of her works. Recommended for adult readers. Rating 5 stars * * * * *, "I love a story in which the hero/heroine is being pursued and skillfully escapes capture just when it seems all is lost. This tale details not just one person in such a a plight, but two. In some stories the flier does not avoid capture, but must escape once caught---or suffer consequences. You must read this enthralling adventure to discover how those who flee fare. The heroine in *The Trojan Project* is a city girl, Sarah, who married Peter, a farmer, and moved to the farm to live with him. Two children later---all the while happily married---her husband leaves on a normal day's work to tend sheep. At usual supper time Peter has not returned, nor later at bedtime. Although the children are all nestled and snug in their beds, Pete is nowhere to be seen. But a large semicircle of blinding blue light does show behind the hill where Pete is tending sheep. Then the light disappears and an orange fog creeps over that hill and down into the valley below another hill on which Pete's house stands. When morning comes, Sarah discovers that every living thing the cloud has touched not only dies, but their flesh melts like wax in intense heat. Not only that, but any living creature---including people---that touches the pool of a melted body suffers the same fate. While this seems to predict a horror story, the horror turns out to be the government who wants to cover up this incident. Even to the point of killing them and disposing of their bodies by making them touch the putrefying pool of melted body matter. While Sarah doesn't know this, a local deputy sheriff becomes suspicious of an army officer's manner and ends up hiding Sarah and her children from the soldiers, and then helping her by joining her flight and driving her and her two children and a dog to Sarah's parents in London. Sarah's father is very high in the national government and she feels he will protect them. Meanwhile, Pete escapes injury by the strange, destroying occurrence. He finds his home empty, and has also seen the effects of the orange fog. As he begins to seek his wife, he also is considered dangerous by the army. He is captured, and sentenced by the army officer to be disposed of. This fast-action tale will keep you on the edge of your chair clear to the end. Be sure to begin reading it when you will have time to finish it. You won't want to put it down. I read through from the beginning to the end without stopping for any other task.", "A strange light appears in the night sky above the Cherviot. A mist descends, shrouding the hills and valleys. Is it a natural phenomenon or something more sinister? Sarah had planned to be at a friend's house for the night and her two daughters were to stay with a neighbor until her husband Pete returned to pick them up. He and three of his field workers had gone up to Top Meadow to check on Pete's sheep herd. But, unknown to Pete, his daughter Jose came down with a sore throat and Sarah decided to stay home with her children. Sarah had tried to call Pete to tell him that she was with the children but couldn't get through. The only sound coming through her cell phone was static. Apparently the hills were blocking the signal. Sarah wasn't that concerned knowing that Laura would tell Pete that the kids were with her at home. But as the hours passed, Sarah started to worry about Pete's absence. It was getting late and he always called when he knew he would be delayed. As she stood outside their home watching for his headlights to come up the road, she noticed a strange light hovering over the valley. As the light died out a green mist rolled in. Fear rose in Sarah as she stood watching. Everything was so still and quiet. Nothing was moving, not even the cows in the field. As Sarah's fears increased she went in to check on her sleeping daughters. They had slept through the whole phenomenon but to ease some of her worry and fear she decided to spend the night in their room. Surely, by the time morning came, Pete would be in their own room sound asleep. The next morning Pete was still missing. Sarah phoned her friends and neighbor in hopes that someone would know something about, not just Pete, but also the lights from the night before. But her calls were unanswered. In hopes of finding someone to ease her fears for Pete, she loads the girls into her car

and headed down to the valley. She hadn't gone far when she runs across Dave. Dave had been with Pete the day before and informs her that Pete, as well as everyone else from the valley, is dead. While telling her his story, Sarah started noticing that his flesh was melting from his body. His dying words to her is a warning to not touch anything nor anyone. In Sarah's attempt to find someone to help her and explain what has happened she drives to the next town to speak with the police there. Andy, the young constable on duty, actually believes she has lost her mind as she describes what she has seen. But when his superior comes in and hears about the death of Dave, who is one of his best friends, he heads to the valley to check it out for himself. As Sarah and Andy wait for his return, the military show up with full protective suits and weapons. And when they asked for Sarah by name, something tells Andy that he should take Sarah's story seriously. He also fears for her safety with these men and tells the Sergeant that Sarah had gone back to her home and that the woman and children there with him are his own wife and kids. As the military unit leaves, he convinces Sarah that their life is in danger and they must leave immediately before they come back. Follow Sarah and Andy as they are chased by the military all the way to London. See what happens when two unexpected people show up in London after surviving the light and mist. And find out exactly what The Trojan Project really is, who created it and why. When I was a child, my family moved to Utah. I remember two nights that a neighbor came to warn us of the lights in the sky. The first night she knocked on our door around midnight. She was yelling and crying, trying to tell us there was a burning ball of light in the sky. The next night she came to tell us there was a burning rod of fire in the sky. Both nights we all went outside to see these lights for ourselves. And both nights we saw exactly what she saw. I can remember being scared but I couldn't take my eyes off the lights as they moved across the sky. Later we were told the lights were experimental air crafts being tested by the military. I never really believed that story, but after reading The Trojan Project, I think I believe it now. Great book. It will make you stop and wonder what really goes on behind our backs and how much is covered up forever.", 'The Trojan Project is a pacey thriller very reminiscent of the sci-fi stories from the fifties. A chemical weapon is deliberately unleashed - so begins a race to escape a military with orders to kill any possible survivors, and to get the story to the media and to unmask the perpetrator.', 'Anxiously waiting for her husband to come home one evening, Sarah witnesses a strange event, a big glowing green ball of light and then a green mist rolling across the valley below her home. In the morning, when her husband still hasn't returned, Sarah heads down to the valley searching for her husband. What she finds is horrific and puts her on the run for her life. Where is her husband? Who is behind the event? As stated in some prior reviews, the plot is pretty thin. There are no surprises or plot twists. But because of the suspenseful writing and drama, I found the story engaging enough that I was drawn along until the end. The best part was in the cave with Pete and Josh while they tried to find their way out by following the sheep. And with the mixture of an abundance of rich characters throughout the story, it kept the reading fresh. We all know someone who talks endlessly about nothing. Sigh!! I thought the end was fitting with Colin the lorry driver. He, who never has an adventure. It's also terrifying to think there might be a country with this type of weapon in their arsenal. Shudder!! And here is what takes away from the story. There's a mannerism that Thornton uses excessively as a sign of frustration or anger. It became annoying. I can see one person doing it as a habit, but not every character. It's the slamming of fists or hands on desks, tables and steering wheels. I also found a handful of proofreading errors. I recommend this book for a suspenseful romp through the English countryside and parts of London. I give my 4 feathers.', "I don't like novels where most of the story is told through the characters' dialog. This is one of them. Also it jumps around in time. Difficult to follow.", 'So, holy cow this was expensive! I got this as a gift, so I had no idea. Now, it was very good, suspenseful, but not worth the price. NOTHING is worth that price. Off to send a ginormous thank you card.', 'The Trojan Project by Eileen Thornton is a terrific thriller that had me gasping for breath. The author has done an outstanding job creating one of the best conspiracy thrillers I have ever read. It is The X-Files multiplied by a million. The quality of the writing is superb, the pace is perfect and the story is so believable and well laid out. Set in the north of England farming community and London, The Trojan Project grabs the reader from page one with an unnatural disaster so terrifying it actually gave me nightmares. This is a superlative "What If" scenario of the highest order

that never relents throughout and this reader was simply swept away by the author's brilliance at upping the ante with each chapter. Sarah and her children survive the disaster but she is shocked to discover her whole community dead or dying of horrific injuries that defy logic and understanding. She goes for help and this is where the thrills race off at breakneck speed as something far more evil arrives in her small town. Sarah is beside herself not knowing what has happened to her husband Pete and is desperate to find him, but sinister forces are at work to stop her at every turn. And there are so many twists and turns to keep avid readers of thrillers gripping this book with white knuckles. So without a doubt this FIVE STAR conspiracy thriller is very highly recommended and a must read for all lovers of conspiracies.", 'This story got my attention from the very first page. Once you had read so far you could predict what happened. After I read this was an ending I would have much rather seen occur. See if you can figure it out :)', 'Eileen Thornton has written a story that is hard to put down at dinner time. The perils of a family threatened by extreme jealousy that destroys an English village and is a threat to world peace.', 'The Trojan Project is, without a doubt, one of the finest thrillers by a debut novelist I have read in a very long time. This book had me hooked from page one and the storyline was so terrifyingly plausible that it sent shivers down my spine. Eileen Thornton weaves an ingenious plot and the characters are all too recognisable as normal, everyday people caught up in a horrendously frightening situation, where no-one is what they seem and no-one knows who to trust. The villains of the piece are all the more villainous because of what, rather than who they are, and I found myself cheering for the heroes of the book as they slowly unravelled the mystery behind the ghastly Trojan Project. The truly chilling part of this tale is that the scenario the author has skillfully created just might happen one day, and as a result, I found my heart beating a little faster at times as the chilling reality of that fact made itself so clearly evident. The book reminded me very much of the works of one of my own literary favourites, Robert Goddard and that is probably the highest compliment I can pay to this author. The Trojan Project is without a doubt a beautifully crafted and chillingly superb read and I wholeheartedly recommend it to anyone with a love for the thriller genre. Bravo, Eileen Thornton! Brian L Porter Author, A Study in Red - The Secret Journal of Jack the Ripper The Predators & Editors Best Thriller Novel of 2008 Award Winner.']

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[In what is definitely his best work to date, Dave Benbow explores the world of all-gay cruises, through the eyes of a varied group of single and coupled gay men sailing the Mediterranean on the state-of-the-art cruise ship, the RMS Princess Diana. The central characters include Zach (a Los Angeles waiter/amateur photographer who is on the cruise alone, thanks to his rich boyfriend's last-minute revelation that he's leaving him), Kurt (a trust-fund hunk, who started his own publishing company) and Rick (Kurt's lover, and a local Los Angeles television news reporter, trying to get up the nerve to tell Kurt he wants them to move to NYC for a network job), and Hayden (a single investment banker living in Barcelona, whom Rick and Kurt introduce to Zach.) But there is also Rick, the homophobic president of the cruise line, who tries to cancel the trip, claiming he received faxes threatening to blow up the ships for its catering to "fags." In between dealing with that bigot, Jebb, the CEO of Titan Tours running the cruise, finds himself attracted to Dan, an older hunk who seems to be harboring a dark secret of some kind. There's romance, humor, partying, and lots of steamy sex, with a developing mystery as several guests are found dead and one wonders what ulterior motives will surface as the cruise continues. This one is a real page-turner, and seemed much shorter than its 320 pages. I give it five stars out of five, and recommend it as the ideal beach or summer read.', 'I really enjoyed this tale of action and romance at sea. A fresh and new story about a gay cruise that is full of romance, mystery and erotica. There are several main characters in the story and I thought this worked well since the story was about a gay cruise. It was nice to focus on several different characters in one story. It reminded me of the old TV series "The Love Boat" with a little more action when you add a bad guy and a sinking ship. Fast paced and full of romance, I really liked this story. After reading this book I went back and brought Mr. Benbow's

other books, Male Model and Daytime Drama. I like that he has characters from his other books in his new stories. His writing style and sense of romance is just what I need when I want to read an entertaining tale of romance and adventure. I look forward to his next book.', 'I have read both "Male Model" and "Daytime Drama" and gave them outstanding reviews. I was glad to get my hands on "Summer Cruising" because I have really enjoyed Mr. Benbow's previous work. Well sadly, I was rather disappointed in this one as it was so predictable, the characterization was minimal, and the storyline was to say the least, a little ridiculous. The sex in this one was as good as it gets, however, there was just so much of it, it seemed as if after every scene someone found themselves between the sheets. (I don't mean to sound prudish...but I was expecting more substance to the plot). As always the covers of Benbow's novels are very exciting (I wish they would have shown the cover model, Brandon's face...is he to die for or what?). I just wish that the story was as exciting as the cover shot! I will surely read Benbow's next effort where I hope we find him back to his old self.', "As a teenager, I loved reading Jacqueline Susann novels. They were always delightfully detailed, deliciously naughty, and dynamically entertaining. I'm way past my teens now, but it sure is nice to know I can count on Dave Benbow to provide me with the same kind of wonderful reading experience. SUMMER CRUISING is Benbow's latest offering, and just like his last two novels, DAYTIME DRAMA and MALE MODEL, it never disappointed me and left me with a satisfied tear in my eye, and a huge smile on my middle-aged mug. This novel is exactly what a beach or summer read should be. It's sexy and exciting, heartwarming romantic, and impossible to put down. I can't recommend it strongly enough. This time around, Benbow's cast has gathered in Barcelona Spain to take part in a gay cruise of the Mediterranean. Many of these guys have appeared, albeit briefly, in Benbow's previous work. There's extremely wealthy, body building Kurt, and his equally gorgeous Asian American newscaster partner, Rick. Also along is young and hunky Zack a budding photographer, and tri-athlete Hayden, an American living in Spain who is the fraternal twin brother of celebrity Clay Beasley, the star of DAYTIME DRAMA. Thrown into the mix are several new characters. To name a few, there's spunky, but vertically challenged Kirby, a physical trainer from Dallas, Geoff, a cute but obnoxious reality show winner, Garrett Gardner, a rotund and incredibly successful comedian, Jebb Miller, the hot owner of Titan Tours, Dan Smith a dark masculine mystery man, and Rex Lassister, the gorgeous but hatefully homophobic owner of the Princess Diana, the ship chartered for the cruise. Needless to say, it's going to be anything but smooth sailing on this cruise. Benbow packs the plot with mouthwatering goodies. There's new and betrayed love, career making or breaking secrets, murder and mayhem including a plan to blow up the ship, and enough hot sex to please even the most demanding reader. Who could ask for more? All of Dave Benbow's novels take place in an interconnected world. While they are not a series, in the classic sense, they never the less go together, and it really adds to one's reading pleasure. I love my visits into this glamorous world. I always feel swept away and totally engrossed. Jackie Susann, bless her heart, is long gone, but her spirit lives on in SUMMER CRUISING, and the best thing about it, at least for me, is this time around it's a totally gay story being told. If you loved VALLEY OF THE DOLLS, or THE LOVE MACHINE, (and let's face it, you KNOW you did) pick up a copy of this novel, you'll be thrilled you did.", "I purchased this book because of the cover (Brandon), the reviews I read and the fact that my husband and I have been on four Carnival Cruises-non gay because my husband was afraid I'd run around the ship like Jorge. I love this book because of the fast pace and the fact that a murder happened with the first few pages. The sex was HOT. The characters came alive in the book. I look forward to getting the other books by Dave Benbow.", "This is the 3rd book that I have read from Dave Benbow. I love his books. I loved the who-done-it aspect of his books. As I started to read the book, I thought, I was crazy for a moment; because I thought I knew these characters. Then I realized I did because they were smaller characters in Daytime Drama and Male Model. I think that this is the one thing I enjoy most about his books. You can pick up any of his books and have not read a previous one and still enjoy it. What I always like is that when I'm reading or rereading one of his books I want to be a part of these characters lives. I feel like I know them and they are friends of mine. It makes me wish I was on this cruise. Well maybe not when... oh I don't want to give it away for you.", "Dave Benbow's Summer Cruising is a novel of gay romance and steamy sex aboard the cruise ship RMS Princess Diana as it and her passengers sail through

the waters of a sun-drenched Mediterranean, stopping off at picturesque ports of call along the way. Then this idyllic holiday is assaulted by a psychopath whose plan is to send the luxury liner and all aboard her to the bottom of the sea. What follows are daring escapes, personal sacrifices, and heart-pounding rescues as the crew and passengers of the RMS Princess Diana struggle to survive not only the sinking ship, but each other! Summer Cruising documents Benbow as a master storytelling whose finely honed art draws the reader in from the very first page and holds both interest and attention all the way through to a climactic and memorable end.", 'This is a thoroughly enjoyable book. Dave Benbow has produced yet another light, soft summer read. My only problem with it, as you might guess, is the lack of proofreading. The numerous inconsistencies of gender, character or subject matter really jolted me out of the story and destroyed the flow. I would suggest Mr. Benbow move to a publisher who takes pride in their process and product. It can only improve his stature and keep his stories flowing.', 'Summer Cruising is addictive enough to keep me turning the pages but the protagonists lack the depth of those in Male Model and Daytime Drama. I like my gay romance to center on one couple and Summer Cruising have too many couples, leaving barely enough pages for the main couple, Zach and Hayden, to develop their relationship or character. I personally prefer Kurt and Rick whom I got to know from Daytime Drama. The writer also spends too much time describing the European cities, the layout of the ship and the clothes each man wears. Hello, this is not suppose to be a tour guide or fashion book. He should have concentrated on his characters and relationship development. The editing also needs to be improved. It is annoying when the subject referred to in a sentence has the wrong name, and this happens a few times. Still the idea of gay men in a "Titanic" romantic adventure does have its appeal.', "First, I'm writing this because I always like to read the reviews of others before I buy something. What to say about this book. Well I did manage to finish it, largely because I just wanted to see how things turned out. Otherwise, I wasn't loving it. While I occasionally found one or two of the characters engaging, I found that the sophomoric writing style kept getting in the way. And I'm afraid I have very little patience with gay (or for that matter straight) stereotypes. This book was CHOKING on them at every turn! What I disliked most though was the overall image that it left: that most gay men are shallow, arrogant, sex-obsessed, and self-absorbed. While this may be true of a certain percentage of ANY segment of society, I really don't think I should have to read it in a gay romance written by a gay author. Just my opinion(s). You be the judge.", 'Valley Gay Press Book Reviewer: Liz Bradbury (Author of Angel Food and Devil Dogs - A Maggie Gale Mystery) A series of hot, shirtless guys with perfect bodies cavort on an all-gay cruise ship touring the Mediterranean, while a serial killer lurks behind the scenes. Soap opera style romance weaves through the cast of characters, punctuated by graphic and often sticky sex scenes. The simple plot reads like a James Bond thriller that requires little effort to guess the mysterious bad guy. Yet the characters, and there are quite a few of them, are easy to visualize, as are the lush and luxurious settings. Summer Cruising is a book for gay men to put on their summer escapist reading list, or to read now, when the weather outside is frightful and readers long for a sexy vacation for the imagination.', 'Story about a gay cruise and some of the characters aboard. Benbow wrote "Daytime Drama" and "Male Model"--both of which I loved. I LIKED this one but it's not as good as the first two. Why? For starters there's WAY too many characters to keep track of. By the end of the book I was totally confused by what two characters were doing there! Second, the sex. Yes, it's hot and steamy and VERY graphic--but it happened way too much here. Third, some likable characters are viciously killed in the book. That's not fun--just depressing. Fourth, the villains here are far too cruel and vicious. Fifth--the anti-gay thoughts in here gout on my nerves. Yes it's the villain thinking all of it but still... Last, gay stereotypes fly fast and furious here. All the guys think about is sex, alcohol, sex, drugs, sex, leather etc etc. Sure there ARE gay guys like that but when every single character in the book is that way it quickly grated on me. Also most of the happy endings here were totally unrealistic. Still it IS well-written and moves along at a quick pace. So, it is fun to read (somewhat) but too vicious and stereotypical for me.']

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[This book should be read by anyone who still believes in the conclusions of the Warren Commission. This long essay was first published in the Paris weekly "L' Express" in 1964. It lacks an index and chapter headings, but applies common sense to the reported stories to refute the "lone gunman" theory. A few hours after JFK's death, a suspect was arrested although there were no witnesses and no confessions! We were told Oswald was a fanatical Communist who hated America. Was this too good to be true? The fact that Oswald was never a member of the Communist party, or the "Fair Play for Cuba" group was omitted from the news reports. Never has such an intricate murder been so swiftly settled, without a confession of eyewitnesses! Buchanan explains why neither Soviet Russia or Cuba could benefit from JFK's death (pp. 17-21). The first people to claim JFK was murdered by a Communist were just earlier attacking JFK as pro-Communist! Who was pulling their strings? Buchanan states that Oswald could only have been convicted if he was innocent (p.24)! But if he knew how the crime had happened, he would be silenced (p.26). Oswald's assassination by Jack Ruby proclaims that Oswald was not a lone gunman, and powerful forces were threatened by Oswald's existence and talking. Nothing over the last forty years has disproved this. Buchanan recalls the political circumstances of the assassinations of Lincoln, Garfield, and McKinley. You'll find a description of these crimes, and their history, that is skipped in scholastic history books. The important point is that all were done for political reasons, and not of the assassins were crazy. Anything else is just a cover-up (see 'Time' of 11-29-1963). Page 72 explains why Oswald was not insane: he tried to escape, and plead 'not guilty' when arrested. The premeditation says it was not temporary insanity (p.73). Page 91 says the official conclusion was based on the Bethesda autopsy. (Decades later we learned that this 'best evidence' was based on the body of JFK's double, sacrificed to provide proof of a lone gunman firing from the rear. See "High Treason 2" for these pictures.) Pages 93-97 discuss the number of shots, and the impossibility of three shots in less than 6 seconds from a bolt-action rifle. A bullet that struck JFK at that angle could not have struck Governor Connally's back only a few inches lower, and remained intact. Page 148 mentions Senator Kefauver's 1951 probe into criminal activities in New York, where the police, judges, politicians, and gangsters shared the loot. In the 1930s Senator LaFollette had a similar investigation that showed underworld forces were used by corporations against labor unions. Organized crime is often used to carry out tasks that can't be handled by legal means. The first Gallup poll had 52% believing Oswald represented an extreme right-wing group, gangsters, or some "unknown" force (p.152). Pages 155-6 note the strange behavior of Oswald in the Marine Corps, which implies he was being trained as a secret agent. I believe it is routine to take a smart and talented recruit from the lower classes to use as a secret agent; they are expendable! While they denied Oswald worked for the FBI or CIA, nobody mentioned the obvious: Naval Intelligence. Page 178 tells of the Dallas ruling class, the how the oil business controls them.', 'There s some great info hot off the press in here from only 100 days after the assasination. Of course there were many who saw smoke or heard gunfire up on that grassy knoll ,but there something about reading a journalist reporting before the warren cover was published. For instance, the doctor at parkland who said jfk's frontal throat wound was clearly an entrance wound. Many lone gunman books dont even mention that anymore because the navy Doctors in maryland changed all that talk of a wound from the front to one from the back That doctor at parkland(I recall) gave a press release just before he died (within the last 12 years) stating jfks throat wound was certainly an entrance wound He had to be close to death before he would argue against the "offical" story. A book all serious Nov 22 63 students should have. Possibly the first to question who really killed jfk.-He talks about a cartel that ran dallas from within. (PS) Having been close to a number of combat fatalities (from gunshot wounds,) AND knowing from where the direction of fire originated-I can attest that one does not need to be a doctor to be able to dissern the difference between entrance and exit wounds! Later Comments-1-18-2014-History is often written by victors who cannot hope to permit such views to escalate in the following century. The November 22, 2013 media whitewash would not even allow opposing views to be in 'public' view at Dealy Plaza that day.', 'AS A POLITICAL CONSERVATIVE I WAS NEVER ENAMORED WITH THE KENNEDYS AND THEIR LIBERAL IDEOLOGY. ESPECIALLY TED KENNEDY'S DEVASTATING HARD LEFTISM'S WHICH IS THE ROOT CAUSE [IN MY OPINION] TO THE CURRENT NEAR TOTAL COLLAPSE OF THIS

COUNTRY. IN ANY CASE WHEN IT COMES TO THE JFK ASSASSINATION WE LIKE MINDED CONSERVATIVES CANNOT KICK THIS UNDER THE RUG ANYMORE. I STRONGLY DISAGREE WITH THE PREVIOUS REVIEWER [PAUL FORSTER-3/19/2007]. WHO I FEEL IS QUITE A FEW PAGES TO THE RIGHT OF ME. WITH ALL DUE RESPECT: WAKE AND SMELL THE ROSES. THE BOOK FOR IT'S VERY EARLY PUBLICATION DATE (MARCH 1964) IS A GOOD PIECE OF WORK. THERE ARE PROBLEMS WITH IT OF COURSE, BUT ITS OVERALL LOGIC AND FLOW IS VERY GOOD. RUBY WAS AND STILL IS THE KEY TO THIS TRAGEDY. YOU CAN READ THIS BOOK AND THEN JUMP ALMOST 50 YEARS OF RESEARCH TO WHAT I CONSIDER THE TWO BEST BOOKS ON THE JFK ASSASSINATION. THEY ARE "LBJ: THE MASTERMIND OF JFK'S ASSASSINATION" BY PHILIP F. NELSON AND "INSIDE THE ASSASSINATION RECORDS REVIEW BOARD" VOLUMES 1-5 BY DOUGLAS P. HORNE ESPECIALLY VOLS. 4 AND 5. THESE TOME WORKS WILL CAP BUCHANAN'S "WHO KILLED KENNEDY?". AFTER INITIALLY ACCEPTING THE LONE NUT THEORY PURELY DUE TO DENIAL. I NOW TRULY BELIEVE THAT LBJ & ASSOCIATES WERE BEHIND THE ASSASSINATION PLANNING AND COVER-UP. THERE WAS A HUGE AMOUNT OF CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE FOR YEARS AGAINST LBJ BUT NOW THE GOVERNMENT'S OWN ARRB RELEASES INDICATE LBJ AS THE NUMBER TRAITOR. CASE CLOSED!!!!YES, BUT YOU MUST ASK YOURSELF IF THE GOV'T COULD KILL THE PRESIDENT WHAT ELSE WERE THEY UP TO OVER THE YEARS??', 'In the first definitive book written after the assassination (May 1964), this French reporter, pulled together a series of articles from the French magazine, L'express, as well as made use of information leaked from the Warren Commission (WC) discussions to posit a theory that surprisingly has been very robust and still after nearly fifty years has held up well. His theory roughly is that the assassination was the work of a cabal of Dallas oilmen (led by J. Edgar Hoover's homosexual friend Clint Murchison), assisted by both the CIA and military intelligence as well as by members of the mob. Like books that came along much later (ones that in fact became a brisk cottage industry), Buchanan also demolishes the Commission's theories about Oswald's sanity, the number of shooters, the autopsy, the magic bullet, etc. But what really sets this version of the assassination apart from others is that its analysis is based mostly on logic and common sense, rather than on splitting hairs and parsing assassination minutia. Buchanan dissects the "big picture," breaking it down into easily digestible pieces. As but one example, the author asks a simple question about the "lone Communist nut theory" commonly advanced as the leading theory of the assassination: Why would a "so-called" Communist inspired assassin take a picture of himself holding the very rifle he would be using for the assassination, along with a copy of the Communist newspaper "The Worker?" To imagine that an assassin would do so is delusional and defies common sense. Only a radical right wing conspiracy planner would do something as stupid as that and expect a gullible public to buy it. Another important and interesting aspect of the book is that it covers in some detail the assassinations of the other three U.S. Presidents. The point here being to demonstrate that the accepted notion that all assassinations of U.S. presidents have been "isolated lone nuts cases" is a myth. The plot that killed Lincoln, for instance, was a well-planned top-down affair that ranged from the "mechanics" operating beneath and under John Wilkes Booth's instructions, up through planners like the President of the Confederacy, Jefferson Davis himself. In fact, Davis was later caught fleeing (embarrassingly dressed as a woman) in the Western territory and was subsequently brought to trial much after the assassination had been long forgotten. Another aspect of this book readers will find refreshing is that since the Europeans did not drink the right wing Communist scare Kool Aid that was routinely force-fed to us Americans during the 1960s, their fresh perspective makes the right wing "cock and bull" story about Oswald as the "lone nut assassin" (a la Gerald Posner's Case Closed for example), as well as the "magic bullet theory" look down right silly. A lot to chew on here and well written. Four Stars', "A good very early investigation into JFK's assassination, but for me not as good as Josten ! A good book for beginners in the JFK assassination mystery. 3 1/2 Stars !", 'This was one of the first JFK conspiracy books to be written and no doubt one of the worst. This book does an excellent job of demonstrating that this conspiracy garbage is all politically motivated. The author spends most of the book trying to demonstrate that the sweet innocent Communists (he even tries to whitewash the Communist who assassinated

President McKinley in 1901) couldn't possibly have had anything to do with the assassination. Well there was ONE Communist who had a lot to do with it! Buchanan, of course, blames evil right wing capitalists for the assassination. Some parts of the book are literally laughable. At one point Buchanan hints (but never actually says) that Jack Ruby was one of the assassins! Many blatantly false statements and claims are made, some of which Buchanan must have known were false when he made them. Another annoying feature of the book is Buchanan's frequent quoting from various European newspapers, as if to say, "if all these Europeans think there was a conspiracy, then it must be true". Eventually people are just going to have to accept the fact that one man with a gun can change the course of history.' .. Robert Morrow note: Buchanan - fabulous early effort. Noted JFK researcher John Simkin gives it a full endorsement. I have recently been investigating the Dorothy Kilgallen case. I was especially interested in finding out details of her contact within the Warren Commission and the private interview she had with Jack Ruby after the assassination. With this in mind I borrowed a book from the university library by a couple of journalists, John Kaplan and Jon Waltz, called The Trial of Jack Ruby. The book was extremely poor and was just an attempt to substantiate the idea that Ruby killed Oswald because he did not want Jackie to experience the pain of a trial. It was the last chapter in the book that caught my attention. The authors included a brief attack on a book written by an American called Thomas G. Buchanan. It included the following sentence: "Buchanan asserted that the assassination had been the work of Texas oil interests who felt that Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson, once elevated to the presidency, would protect their favourable percentage depletion tax treatment more vigorously than the Kennedy administration." As members will know, this is very much my position. However, I did not know of the existence of this book, let alone have I read it. The other thing that struck me was that Kaplan and Waltz's book was published in 1965. Buchanan's book must have been published earlier than that. I looked through all the bibliographies of the books that I have on the JFK assassination. I have a large collection and was surprised that I could find no reference to the book. The only book that did refer to it was Michael Benson's "Who's Who in the JFK Assassination". His entry for Buchanan is just over two lines. It gave the title, publisher (Secker & Warburg, London) and date (1964) plus the claim that Jack Ruby was very impressed with the book. I then did a search of the Abe Books database of second-hand books. Apparently the world's bookshops have 191 copies of this book and I was able to buy a first edition for less than a fiver. It came yesterday. I read it in a couple of hours. The book is mind-blowing. The book jacket includes a photograph and brief biography of Buchanan. It says he was born in the Deep South. For many years he worked as a freelance writer for magazines in Europe and Asia but was now living in Paris. The publication date of the book was interesting. It was May 1964. In fact, it was based on a series of articles that appeared in L'Express in March, 1964. As you can see, this was before the publication of the Warren Report. In the preface Buchanan writes that the reason he had written the articles was because he had been contacted by a staff member of the Warren Commission. This person had put him in contact with Ted Kennedy. He in turn had arranged for Buchanan to meet Nicholas Katzenbach to whom Attorney-General Robert F. Kennedy had delegated responsibility in recent months. Buchanan therefore implies that the Kennedy brothers were behind this book. Buchanan goes on to explain that he has been informed that what he has said in these articles will be supported by Warren Commission Report when it is published. What appears to have happened is that someone on the Warren Commission realised that a cover-up was about to take place. Therefore, they had decided to leak what the WC had really found out to a journalist. I suspect this is the same person also leaked information about Jack Ruby to Dorothy Kilgallen. Buchanan claims that the commission discovered that Ruby knew Oswald. In fact, Ruby lent him money to pay back the State Department for the \$435.71 the U.S. had loaned Oswald when he returned from Russia. This happened soon after Oswald arrived back in the U.S. Ruby continued to lend Oswald money until shortly before the assassination of JFK. Buchanan claims that this information was already in the public domain as it had been published in an article by Serge Groussard in L'Aurore. Buchanan is an excellent writer. He logically and clearly explains the whole conspiracy. He is extremely well-informed. For example, he knows about the secret meetings that were taking place on behalf of JFK in Cuba. I assume this information came

from Jean Daniel, the foreign editor of L'Express. Daniel, along with Lisa Howard, had been carrying messages from JFK to Castro during 1963. In fact, Daniel was with Castro when he heard the news that JFK had been assassinated. I have for a long time believed that Daniel was in a position to know about the assassination of JFK. Whatever happened to Daniel? Whatever happened to Buchanan? Buchanan explains that Kennedy was not the conspirators first victim. In October, 1962, they arranged the killing of a prominent Italian politician called Enrico Mattei. This is a complicated story and I will tell it in a future posting. Buchanan argues that the assassination was funded by a Texas oilman. He does not name him but includes the clue that he was a well-known gambler. The one oilman that I know who liked gambling was Clint Murchison (this was something he liked to do with his old mate, J. Edgar Hoover). The only oilman Buchanan names is Morgan Davis, the chairman of Humble Oil. This could be a clue but I have never seen Davis linked to the assassination. Maybe other members could help me with this one. <http://www.spartacus...k/JFKdavisM.htm> Buchanan claims that JFK was killed by two gunmen. One fired from the railroad bridge. Another fired from the Texas School Book Depository. He wore a Dallas Police uniform. Oswald was aware of the conspiracy but did not fire any shots. Oswald believed that Tippit was going to help him escape. However, his real job was to kill him while resisting arrest. Oswald, realised what was happening and fired first. Buchanan claims that Oswald had accomplices from within the Dallas Police Department. They helped him escape from the Texas School Book Depository and helped Ruby kill Oswald. Buchanan's account of the political situation in 1963 is masterly. So also his analysis of the Texas economy and the reasons why JFK had to die. Who Killed Kennedy? by Thomas G. Buchanan is the best book I have read about the assassination. However, that is no doubt been influenced by the fact that I agree with almost every word in the book. If I am right, then we have one of the greatest ironies in history. The mystery was solved by the very first book published on the assassination. 'In an era of simplistic denial, Buchanan's study challenged our perceptions and countered what we were being fed as the official version of reality and, for some of us, aided and abetted our ability to discern the propagandist lies of the coming of Vietnam and subsequent developments to date. This was one of the first challenges to the Warren Commission's basic findings and pre-ordained conclusions, and is highly recommended for a student of that historical age!', 'After reading 2 dozen or so books about the JFK murder, I was lead to this after reading that Jack Ruby had expressed his opinion that this author, more than any others, was on the right track. Almost 50 years after the event, the book holds up quite well. It was written within months of the Dallas killings and it was a bestseller in 19 different European countries. Unlike many of the books published in America on this topic, it spends time on the history of presidential assassinations. The author's knowledge of previous assassins was superior to that of Dulles who claimed in an executive session of the WC, that "all" of the assassins were "lonely outcasts." The real story of Lincoln's killing is rarely told. I never read, while growing up in America, that 4 people were hung in the Lincoln conspiracy; it is easier to simply pass on the report of the "loner" John Wilkes Booth, who was anything but. The truth of the matter, as Buchanan shows, is that all of the killings were of a political nature and that all involved change of direction for the country. They also included, for the most part, other people. Like Peter Dale Scott's later books, Buchanan finds the key in Ruby. It was rightly laughable to Europeans that Ruby could have killed to 'spare Jackie' some pain. Why a gangster would want to kill the alleged assassin is the question that lies at the root of the mystery and this book - written at the time - is still relevant and still unnerving.', 'Buchanan was an American Communist living in Paris and a former reporter with the Washington Evening Star. He was educated at Yale and George Washington universities, and served four years in the Army in WWII, rising to the rank of captain. His book, first widely published in Europe by Secker & Warburg, was based on press accounts. A revised American edition late in 1964 also discussed the findings of the Warren Commission. Reportedly, Jack Ruby read the book and liked it. Buchanan's theory involved two gunmen, neither one Oswald, with complicity by the police. Texas oil might have been behind the assassination, and Oswald was blamed to discredit communism. He believed that one of the bullets was fired from in front of the car (though from the Triple Underpass, not the Grassy Knoll, which is never mentioned by Buchanan). Buchanan noted that the two newspapers

Oswald held in the backyard photos were ideologically hostile to each other. "The most anti-Communist of Europeans realize the death of Kennedy was more sincerely mourned in Moscow than in any other foreign capital, if only for the fact that leaders of the Soviet Union staked their whole political careers upon the chance of detente with the United States." He noted that no sane domestic Communist would kill the President, and risk bringing on a new era of McCarthyism. "One has but to read the very issue of The Worker Oswald is alleged to have been reading to observe that Kennedy was being treated at that time with a respect not far removed from admiration...the first people to proclaim their indignation that the President was murdered by the Communists were those who, one day earlier, had been attacking Kennedy as a 'pro-Communist' himself, and saying that he was the best friend that the Communists had ever had." He noted that the USSR and China took no opportunity of the change in government to make aggressive actions. He interviewed Deputy Attorney General Nicholas Katzenbach in March 1964, who stood by the official description of JFK's wounds at that time (that the back wound was a separate shot from the throat wound, and the throat wound was caused by a fragment dislodged from the head shot): "he said that it was based on an exhaustive study of the President's autopsy, and that there could be no doubt about it...He felt certain any person who had studied this autopsy would have reached the same conclusions. I asked him if I could see a copy of it, but he said that he could not release it...when the President's Commission issued its report, the explanation of the wounds had changed completely..." Buchanan had been through basic training three times - once for the Army Air Corps, once as an officer candidate, and for three years as commander of an automatic weapons unit - and he recalled that Oswald's last score (191) was what he would expect from someone who had fired a rifle for the first time. His best score, 212, was "still lower than the average for men in his branch of the service...To suppose that he shot better after four years of civilian life is perfectly fantastic; shooting, more than any other sport, takes practice...one wonders why he would have chosen such an unfamiliar type of rifle for his own use...it is not likely that, in ordinary training, Oswald received instruction on a weapon with a telescopic sight.", "The question to which the title asks may not be answered by the contents within. Who Killed Kennedy? is one of those books on the subject of JFK's assassination dating from the mid 60s that was on my curiosity list. If you have a deeper interest in reading material on this subject, you might want to consider this book. Buchanan is one of the first book authors to point the finger at LBJ and the Texas industrialists as the interests behind JFK's departure. The author's story goes, after taking a strong interest in the president's death, a member of the Warren Commission made contact with him and put him in touch with Ted Kennedy and Nicholas Katzenbach. If you know your history, the latter was the guy who wrote a memo to Bill Moyers on November 25, 1963 advising him that world must come to the conclusion that the person responsible for the death of Kennedy was the "lone" assassin Oswald. Mr. Buchanan covered the trial of Jack Ruby and made discoveries that were withheld by the Warren Commission about the man being prosecuted. Jack Ruby, in his indirect fashion, was probably the person who put Buchanan on the trail of LBJ. There are very few books from the era of the 60s on the subject of JFK's assassination that hold readers entertained these days. This book is not one of them. For its time, this book was very sensational, but now days it could be considered old hat. However, if you are a researcher, this book is probably worth your while. And if you are researching the subject, you should read a handful of the books that were published back in the 60s. Many of them happen to be the backbone of what present day researchers are exploring. There are nuggets in those older books that have been forgotten, overlooked, and intentionally buried by the mass media.", "If I had to recommend only one book on the JFK assassination it would be this one. What I like about this book is that it doesn't go into superfluous detail. The author simply lays out the puzzle pieces and allows the reader to use his or her judgment. The author gives his own thoughts and in my opinion is about as close to the truth as you can get. The book reads like a spy thriller and I was captivated by it. I couldn't wait till the next page. This was written right after the assassination. As is typical, first hand accounts are always the best information provided before the cover story is introduced. I don't want to describe the details of the book because in my opinion, it is best for the reader to read for him or her self. Bottom line: Why was JFK killed? Money and Power! But they that will be rich fall into..a snare,...which drown men in destruction and perdition. I Timothy 6:9 KJV Ruby, Oswald,

Tippit, Johnson, Nixon, Shaw, Ferrie, Warren, Dulles, etc....the list goes on and on. All of them caught in their own web. And I am convinced they found out later they were unable to free themselves."]

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"I got this as a freebie from the Amazon Kindle free downloads sections. That said, I didn't expect this book to be a good read. Most of the freebies that are available aren't all that great. I liked this author so much, I got the rest of her Heat stories, and liked them all. This is a Sci-Fi Erotica story, it doesn't say when or where it is set. But it feels like an alternate universe in the future. It is between Aidan and War, our two main characters, Aidan is a pilot and War is called an Enforcer (basically a hired goon). The story kept me captivated, it had a believable romance between the two main characters, unlike other Erotic novels, they didn't go at it from page one. The Steamy scenes didn't come about until around Chapter Five. Her Heat series aren't the longest books, to me at least, but they did have substance, it was a full story with bits of erotica thrown in the appropriate parts, it kept me interested and captivated until the end.", "I enjoyed the story and thought it was interesting enough to finish in one sitting. The female was hard, because she had to be and the male was sensitive enough to take care of her. I liked the action and fight scenes and was able to follow it. Now I don't think they would have lost control on those razor-sharp rocks, simple because they were in lust for one another--getting some would have been the last thing on my mind.", "I have never read this author but I thoroughly enjoyed this story and would gladly read another. The disfigured Hero's fear, pain and pride were wonderfully described and I felt myself wanting to reach out and gently touch his scars to reassure him -at exactly the same times Aidan touched Warwick. Don't get me wrong, Warwick was a brutally strong hot male character-but we were so privy to his thoughts within this story that we began to get those protective feelings Aidan acquired. We saw the extremely handsome man Warwick really was. The passion and romance are well mixed with so much strength and wit from both characters that sometimes you're not sure who the real Hero should be in this story. For everyone who likes the strong-take matters into her own hands Heroines--this is definitely the book for you! She is a one WOMAN rescue squad that is the perfect match for our mysterious- masked hired guard Warwick. The sex between them is hot and wicked as well. enjoy!", "Icy Heat is was a surprisingly entertaining and enjoyable futuristic romance that was well written and kept the reader turning the page. Aidan has to save her brother from himself once again when he lands himself in trouble with a gambling debt, promising herself this will be the last time she has two choices to save her brother. Steal a trinket or become a mistress, she decides to try her hand at stealing the trinket knowing she could never be someones mistress. But when she enlists War to help her she becomes to think it was a mistake because she's beginning to have feelings for him and regrets for using him. War was disfigured when he was a child, since then he has always worn a mask to hide his face, but when Aidan asks him to take her to a party he will have to take her as a date. Meaning she has to see his face, and when she doesn't react he doesn't know if she's faking or not. But when he learns of her betrayal he has to determine if the feelings he has for her are enough, because very soon they are going to be put to the test. Icy Heat is an entertaining short story with enough heat to keep your heart racing and enough suspense to keep you turning the page. ash", "This was a free kindle book that I got a couple of months ago. When I read the product description it didn't seem like something I would like. But I love to read different authors and genres, and I ended up surprised. Don't normally like things that are in this setting - planets and space. However, the setting doesn't impact the story at all - the only real mention is when they are traveling. The heroine, Aidan, is a pilot trying to help her degenerate brother, an addicted gambler. The hero, Warwick, is an enforcer with only vengeance keeping him going. The author set the two characters up well and the romance between them was well written. This short story is a great jumping off point - I am looking forward to other installments in this series. I am glad I took a chance and downloaded this book while it was free - otherwise I would have passed up a good read.", "I absolutely loved this book and the dynamics between the two main characters. Their absolute

inability to resist each other from the first meeting, an odd sort of attraction between them makes for a very romantic book. The scarred, macho, but warm-hearted male, plus the cold-hearted, but protective and fiercely loyal female equals the recipe for a great romantic and action-packed novel. I strongly recommend.', "I loved this title! It's fun, sexy, very entertaining. The heroine is feisty, not falling all over the Hero, her own person. She's not mooning over oh lover where art thou? I like a no (or not too much) nonsense heroine that doesn't pout, cry over nothing, cringe, and otherwise wimp out. She can give a punch and take a punch after all this is an adventure. A tough cookie who doesn't mind enjoying one hot hunky guy without agonizing over it. The Hero is long suffering and on the heroine's side. There are lots of bad guys and lots of double crossing. It's just a good light read. I did not think there was too much sex, it was appropriate to the story and relationship. I happen to like space romances and this is a good one. I will read more of this writer.", 'all the Heat books were enjoyable... but this hero was the best. love her strong fiesty heroines, too!', 'Maybe I have been reading too many great books lately to be impressed by this one. It's just okay, really. It's entertaining but the story is so lame and unbelievable. It's like the author made the story just to find a way to justify the characters actions. The characters should be responding to a believable plot. A ridiculous and contrived plot should not be the vehicle for the characters actions. For example, the Enforcer guys wear a mask because he is apparently so hideous that people cannot bear to look at him. Yet when the mask is removed by the heroine, she says his scars are not that bad, he is actually great looking. Duh. Obviously the mask is a vehicle to make the guy "tough" but the author provides no plausible reason for him to wear it. It's like she just wants the guy in a leather mask! A lot of the things in the book are like that. This is one of those books that make me want to rewrite it on behalf of the author. But the sex scenes were fantastic! The author put lots of hard work and energy into those, apparently. And that's about all I can say that's good about the book. Oh, and it was a Kindle freebie.', "If you like your women hard and your men harder this is a steamy romp with just enough familial devotion and revenge to tie a plot around some explicit sexual, and perhaps romantic, content. Something to have fun with, but don't expect great literature.", 'If you like detailed play-by-play sex scenes you will enjoy this. However, plot and dialogue are pretty much an afterthought. For a book of a similar type but much more effective and better written, try Soulless.', "I've never read writing from this author but this was great! the characters struggles and resulting love warmed my heart. looking forward to her other books.", "This was an fun, easy read, a good beach read. The sex scenes weren't vulgar, and the story line was a bit predictable, but still fun. It's set in space, in another galaxy, but unlike some space romances, the author doesn't attempt to drown us in new technology to prove it. No sassy, back talking robots, no AI computers; it's just another world or time. I might even be tempted to read more in the series.", 'First: This book is not appropriate for kids or young adults. It is great for adults, not so much for younger kids if you want them to stay kids. I loved this book. The space thing was not unbelievable and the story flowed well. The spark the main 2 have is awesome and rarely found in the real world. Which is one of the reasons I read books, to get out of the real world. :) If you like a little fantasy, this book will spark your interest.', 'Aidan is a futuristic transport pilot on the hook for her brother's gambling debts. Warwick is masked muscle for a corrupt businessman as he saves up for the revenge of the death of his parents. When they meet up, sparks fly and worlds tremble. Icy Heat isn't going to win any "best written book ever" awards, but I really liked it. And I don't usually like or read futuristic sci-fi novels. Definitely character driven, this story is way more about the people, Aidan and Warwick, than it is about world building or plot development - and that's okay. I wasn't expecting it to be heavy in those areas. But what it IS is surprisingly GOOD with the characters. Aidan is a control freak and has a history of not caring at all for physical contact. She's got a deep love and sense of obligation for her brother Zach, who is addicted to gambling and racking up big debt. I like that she's strong and smart without being a total bitch, and I was actually impressed with a particular scene in which she has to deal with the reality of killing a man. It wasn't focused on for long, but that there was any thought at all given to the complex emotions such an action stirs up, however accidental the killing, was a surprisingly fresh change on the kick-ass and almost conscienceless killer heroines of most urban fantasy/sci fi stuff I read. Warwick is scarred and damaged from those scars, keeping his face and body hidden as his cold heart and colder life is

given over to exacting revenge on the man responsible for his parents death and the scars he keeps hidden. When he meets Aidan and starts to spend time with her, his vulnerability shines through and makes him eminently likable. He really is what made me like the story as much as I did. The childlike confusion and wild hope when Aidan accepts him, scars and all, was so endearing. There were huge gaps in the plot and I would've loved more definition in the world building, more glimpses of Aidan's and War's past, but it's a short book, more novella length, and for what's there, I was satisfied that the core of the story was well represented. It also had quite a nice mix of action and danger that was pretty deftly written. The sex scenes were steamy, too! All in all, a pleasurable satisfying, if not extraordinary read.']

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[never actually read it but needed 16 words to allow this review to be over with. Still four words short. or Five', 'It was my own fault, but somehow I had assumed The Great Gatsby was included. That was the only reason I bought this. Grrr.', 'I just could not get into the story. I found the people a little snobbish and above their peers. They seemed to be rich, bored rascals.', 'I had not read anything by Fitzgerald before, so I started with this. So far, the first short story has been very good. I am reading it on a Kindle and my only complaint (and this may be a user problem) is that the Kindle just jumps into the first short story, and I have NO idea what the title of the short story is.', 'I've long admired Fitzgerald's work, and this one is a nice addition to my collection. Too bad his own life was so unhappy. One of the GREAT contemporary writers.', 'This review was difficult to write. The reason is that I'm a big fan of Fitzgerald's work. I regard his work as remarkably insightful social criticism, just as appropriate today as the day it hit the market. Unfortunately, some of the works featured in the book have been abbreviated; subtly, but enough to make it slightly disappointing. Nevertheless, I found the book worthwhile and would buy it again. It's always intriguing to step into Fitzgerald's world - even though, in my humble opinion, we're back there again!', 'I didn't know he wrote Benjamin buttons. Writes way over my head, luckily my kindle has a word look up and used it 30 or more times. Sorry he died so young!!', 'This guy had a weird imagination. Interesting body of work. Many movies were based upon some of the books content.', 'Well, the stories are perfect... this rating is not for the stories themselves but for the format of this kindle edition. This kindle title is poorly formatted. I agree with the rest of the reviewers. It is a huge title and the navigation is not easy. Also many typos. You cannot go to the table of contents and I did not find any table of contents. There is a much better version that even include more stories (45 stories as opposed to 21 in this title) and for a less price even (0.99\$ instead of 1.99\$). My recommendation is to get this title instead The Works of F. Scott Fitzgerald: 45 Short Stories and Novels. It has an active table of content which is also linked at the start of each chapter... so you can go back any time with one click... There are also 45 stories; did not notice any typos and has a good NCX table of contents... I will go for it and give it a 5 *', 'cannot say anything bad about anything he wrote.....he is a master of his craft and i encourage others to read all his works', 'I had never read Fitzgerald before, I quickly asked myself how I could have missed such wonderful stories and characters. Each story held my interest and had me wondering how one person could know so much about human traits and foibles. These are wonderfully crafted stories just as true today as their time of the early 1900s. I recommend them to all.', 'It is nice to have all these works in one place, but I find there are an enormous number of typos. One can rhyme everything together, however.', 'always enjoyed his writing. glad all these were put together, i couldn't put kindle down. thanks for the hard work', 'While I read a lot. I found his style difficult to keep hold of. His popular works seem to be an easier read.', 'It's nice to have a lot of these works in one volume, and I have always liked Fitzgerald. They could have done a better job of proofreading this book - quite a few typos.', 'It is very lovely to read old works of F Scott Fitzgerald's. His writing style is just wonderful, a lost art.', 'Great for anybody with literary inclination. Prepare to be swept away. I was very happy to have read this now.', 'I believe F. Scott Fitzgerald is the greatest American writer of all time and you could make an argument for him as the greatest writer of all time. This is an outstanding compilation of his

novels and short stories.', "I'm a fan of some of his short stories, but not of his novels. I acknowledge he was a great author, just not always to my taste."]

B0042JTADS

[It was a very good read. It was short, but good. The author did a great job with the characters. Usually, with a short read it comes off being a bit cheesy, the relationship feeling rushed, but Tibby Armstrong did a great job with this book. I will read more books by Tibby Armstrong in the future.', "Musician and journalist Kyra Martin wants desperately to write an article on rock star David Tallis, a man who hasn't given an interview in years. She opts to flirt with him to get her way, but it backfires when he ravages her in his hotel suite. Not only does David have a past he'd like to keep hidden, but he's already dealt with a nasty divorce and doesn't need another greedy woman in his life. He opts to begin a deceitful liaison with the reporter but unfortunately it all comes to light just when he decides he wants more from Kyra than a quick romp in the hay. Will she ever forgive him for his part in the scandal that rocks the media or will she walk away forever? Hot. Hot. Hot! Sheet Music is an unbelievably erotic story between two people who yearn deeply for each other and can't seem to get enough. What starts as a journalist trying to do something that will snare David's attention ends up being a tryst to go down in the history books. It's ridiculous to use a cliché; like 'three-alarm-fire' or 'scorching' for those words to not do justice to the sexual heat this duo puts out. Were these words printed on pages instead of an ebook, the paper would surely burn. Both Kyra and David have pasts with their measure of sorrow and pain. It wasn't over the top but certainly enough to make the reader feel so viscerally for each of them. Tears threatened to spill when David thought Kyra betrayed him... and then again, when it seemed that David betrayed her. I found myself pleading that this couple would reunite. This is the first story I've read by Tibby Armstrong but after this fireworks display, it certainly won't be my last. Wholeheartedly recommended. Courtesy of Fallen Angel Reviews.", 'One of the best romances I have read in some time. I read many books, and this one although may be predictable, is a "feel good" story. I loved it! It could have a sequel. I did leave wanting more.', "Indeed it was ok at best. I hated the fact that the two main characters fell in bed so quickly. The storyline was not developed well enough.", "(Note I own a PDF copy of this book, not the Kindle edition) She's a music reporter. He's an enigmatic musician. Together they catch fire! The best erotic fiction that works on a fictional as well as a heat level works because the author makes us give a tinker's dam about the characters. Sure, the build up of passion, heat, and sex are the main selling points for erotic fiction. It's true. But when an author manages to get you to care what happens outside of the bedroom (or kitchen, or...), then you have a keeper. The author has managed to create a work of fiction that just so happens to have a lot of steamy sex in it. Sheet Music manages that feat. Kyra is a music reporter. Her assignment is David Tallis, a musician whose life is as much of a puzzle and mystery as the more reclusive music stars in our world. Kyra did not get to her position by giving up, even with such a difficult prospect. David enjoys the paparazzi about as much as a root canal. Kyra has to up her game, and wind up under David's sheets in the process... What starts off as a seduction turns out to be a case of About Last Night, as David's Past, Kyra's Present, and their very different personalities collide. With plenty of sex in between, Armstrong manages to keep up the story while continuing to charge up the intense encounters between the two main characters. Armstrong doesn't make it easy for the two characters. Growth, and reflection are necessary for both Kyra and David before the denouement. I didn't think the subject matter would quite appeal to me--I consider myself somewhat musically stunted. Still, I was fascinated by the characters, the setting of London (which I have visited once) felt like the author had done her homework, and well, the encounters between David and Kyra are hot. What more can a reader ask? I look forward to enjoying more books from Ms. Armstrong.", 'Love all the angst and raw emotion throughout this book. Realistic in all of the feelings that are drawn out of the reader.', "Sheet Music stands out in its genre due to an incredible sweetness. Kyra and David come into the book bull-headed and ready to tear one another apart to meet their respective goals. Through the course of the novel, they really grow as people and become more compassionate. Watching that transition

is a pure joy. Five stars to Tibby Armstrong's debut novel!", "I absolutely adored this book! More than being incredibly hot and steamy, the writing is incandescently beautiful and the characters are vivid. I love the backdrop of the rock and roll world, feeling the reality of it behind the scenes. It somehow made the entire story more potent. I don't want to give too much away, but David is one of those haunted, tortured past heroes I adore. Plus, this book really captures the sparkle that rock stars and other truly famous celebrities have. As a reader I really felt his beauty and dazzle, his talent, his enormous fame, yet he is still so real and vibrant and he's flawed just like the rest of us. He has trust issues, which had me rooting for Kyra the whole way through. She's a wonderful, self confident heroine with strong moral principles and you want her to be the one to be the one for David--more so, you want David to let her in because he really is in desperate need of someone to love. One of the most enjoyable books I've read in a while. Even after I finished reading the story stayed with me. I would HIGHLY recommend it. It's one of those books I think will appeal to anyone who enjoys beautifully written erotic romance.", "I first discovered Tibby when I read No Apologies (if you haven't read that one yet, you really should - like, NOW), so when she told me she had another book out, I immediately jumped on the chance to read it. Unfortunately, because I had so much on my plate with school and family, I wasn't able to pick it up right away. And boy, am I ever kicking myself in the butt for that. I had some stuff come up that landed me in a spot where all I was able to do was read, so I grabbed for my iPad and pulled up Sheet Music. I was immediately engrossed in David and Kyra's world. I'm pretty sure I had Tibby gnawing off the ends of her fingers because I tend to live tweet as I read, but I was laughing, screaming, crying, and reaching for my ice water trying to cool off (heh) along with the characters. The one issue I did have with the book was that it felt like David fell for Kyra a little too quickly - but he didn't tell her he loved her. I think he was more intrigued by her, and that's what kept him coming back, despite all the perceived betrayals. I loved the fact that Kyra had a backbone. If there's one thing I hate, it's a weak-willed heroine, and she's not one of them. There were times I wanted to slap them both simply because I wanted them to talk to each other because I wanted them to be together, but it's because I cared about the characters and I just wanted them to be happy - which is the mark of a great author, IMO. Another great read by a fantastic author. I've had the opportunity to beta read the sequel, Undercover Lover (which was recently released) and stars David's little sister Jenny and his bodyguard Gunter. Also a must-read. Totally. (UL review is forthcoming)", 'Reviewed by MichelleKCanada at [...] I adored the couple set up at the beginning of the book. Journalist Kyra Martin has a plan. She thinks she's going to land music legend David Tallis for an exclusive interview, pat herself on the back for a career breaking boost, substantiate her boss's faith in her at the music magazine - Voice and Vibe - and all the while David isn't going to know what hit him. David on the other hand has plans to let her get close, have great sex, lead her on, have her fall hard for him and then discard her like a tissue he'd clean himself up with and all the while she's not going to know what hit her. Oh the games these people play. I found myself rubbing my hands together anticipating how these two are both going to know will hit them. Tibby Armstrong did an excellent job setting up their goals and orchestrating it all out. Also, can I just add that the double entendre play on the book title "Sheet Music" is perfect! One particular part of Tibby Armstrong's writing style I noticed was her amazing ability to communicate how the character was feeling without the author obviously stating, 'she was embarrassed' or 'he was mad'. Having a writer spell out character's feelings to the reader in such a manner is one of my biggest pet peeves. Don't tell a reader what the character is feeling blatantly. Take the time to explain how the character is feeling. What a joy to read Sheet Music in exactly the writing style I crave. Here is an example quickly setting the scene and understanding the characters feelings. Glancing down at her robe, she saw the neckline gaped open, as it probably had throughout dinner. With a hasty clutch at the fabric she pulled it together and tightened the belt, feeling vulnerable and exposed. With just a few short sentences, the reader can clearly visualize the entire scene before them and understand what the character is feeling and why. If there was an award given for the "Best First Kiss" written, it should go to Tibby Armstrong. Seriously the best first kiss I have read in a very long time. Just to add to that satisfying piece of information, Sheet Music is brimming with erotic love scenes. Their intimate moments were sexy, emotional and the heat factor was turned up high. David and Kyra have major chemistry and the steam was wafting from my

Kindle. I just loved Sheet Music. It was an excellent contemporary romance that kept me up late because I didn't want to put it down. It had a great music industry vibe complete with annoying paparazzi, studio recordings, limos and award shows. Sheet Music will make it to my future re-read list.', "Tibby Armstrong's debut novel, Sheet Music, was full of passion and heat. This erotica romance is my favorite type of novel because it has a lot steam but it also has an entertaining plot. The best novels have a decent balance of the two. Kyra, music journalist, and David, musician who hates reporters, are a perfect fit; they just have to figure it out for themselves. Their relationship starts out full of schemes, but once they get to know one another they start to question their schemes, loyalties and faith in one another. Kyra and David are well-developed characters that undergo their individual struggles and ultimately reach their full potential. I was wary going in to this novel because I've had my fill of romance novels starring rock stars and reporters, but I went ahead with this novel anyway. I am extremely glad that I did. While the plot for this novel resembles other novels I've recently read, it still manages to be original. I gave Sheet Music by Tibby Armstrong 4 STARS. I strongly recommend this novel for adults who are looking for a hot and sexy adult romance novel. I think this novel is great for fans of Cherrie Lynn's novels: Unleashed and Rock Me.", 'Have I read better? Sure Have I read worse? Most definitely This is still a decent book with a decent story. I enjoy books with characters actually act like real people and not over-the-top versions of people. This is one of those stories that I would definitely read again.']

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["Your Fatigue Cure by Doug Lee is an all-in-one book on everything you need to know about energy. It serves as an essential, easy to read, reference guide that tells you how to make simple, every day changes for feeling more awake and productive. The text is very conversational and relates to the reader well. If you're looking for a good way to learn how to take better care of your body, this book is a great starting point.", "IF YOU ARE TIRED OF BEING TIRED, AND CAN'T FIGURE OUT WHY YOU ARE THIS WAY, READ THIS BOOK WHILE YOU ARE WALKING. IT WILL PEAK YOUR INTEREST IN WHAT YOU ARE EATING, AND REMIND YOU ARE YOU DRINKING ENOUGH WATER?", 'A short, valuable guide designed to help those suffering from chronic fatigue and related problems. It includes chapters on diet, supplements, drinks, as well as the benefits of healthy living, including breathing techniques, yoga, exercise and advice on positive lifestyle changes. A very helpful book at a low price.', 'A few years ago I really became sick and tired of being sick and tired, so I decided to make major changes in my lifestyle. I decided to live healthier, and embarked on a journey to learn how to have a more vibrant, healthier, happier life. I learned a lot and now I am not nearly as tired as I used to be. I can verify that many of suggested health tips in this book really do work. And none of these are difficult. For instance, the suggestion to get enough sleep and practice good sleep hygiene (such as not keeping a separate sleep schedule for weekdays and weekends) has done wonders for me. I also learned more tips in this book that I am eager to use, including many of the food combining tips. The author does a great job of explaining the effects of eating certain foods at certain times, and in certain combinations. For instance, I had no idea that I needed to have a sufficient source of carnitine to access the energy stored as fat during workouts. The way he explained the simple function of carnitine (and the benefits of getting enough) has me off to the health food store to get some supplements! There are useful tips for everyone in this book as far as tips for reducing fatigue. As the author points out, even a single healthy habit implemented consistently can make a huge difference in the way we feel. How simple and great is that?', 'This publication is concise, and full of sound nutritional and life style information that can improve the level of energy. As an elderly person, I am prone to taking small naps when energy lags. Some of the ideas here have helped me to stay in motion, which is always good for maintaining health as we age. As a nutrition teacher, I appreciate the advice herein on diet for improved energy level. This is well written, and is easy to reference quickly.', 'The information presented here are all great tips for healthy living, not just for fatigue busters. I follow many of the tips provided.', "While there are no new health revelations in this book, its strength lies with its

brevity, quality information, and writing style. You could spend many hours trying to track down the same information which is collected here but why waste your time when this book supplies it in a concise, easy to read format? In particular, I enjoyed the sections on breathing and personal change. Breathing and meditation is not often considered in the Western world but it plays a big part on our health. This section also includes several breathing exercises which was nice. And the last section on personal change is a favorite topic of mine. Before physical changes can be made, you've got to change yourself mentally and this area covers most of the main points to do that. Overall, a great read with good information for the price.", 'It was ok, as far as these sort of books go. But really seemed like a copy of various info we all get in our email.', 'Lots of good ideas. Unfortunately I haven't followed them like I should so I am still tired. I think it is a good book and would do more than give you energy - such as losing weight and just generally healthier.', 'There were a lot of helpful hints in this ebook. I will be incorporating them in my new life style.', 'Good book. Read it for cover to cover. A lot in truth to what Doug says. The suggestions make sense. I tried them out and my energy feels much stronger. Thank you Doug.', 'This book was free. Great idea but poor in the execution. It should have had an editor. Who does recipes like this?', 'Doug Lee's book on fatigue offers some good advice on things we can do to change some of the habits we may have developed that can contribute to fatigue. While you may have heard some of these, you may not realize that supplements like ginseng, rhodiola, COQ10, and carnitine can help supplement our energy levels and provide powerful antioxidants. Learning the right foods to eat before and after a workout are helpful to know to get the most from the time you spend working out, as well as understanding how acid and alkaline drinks affect your pH levels. With helpful tips on things to add to your diet and foods to avoid, this book is definitely worth the 99 cents I paid for it.', 'Everything I planted on our five acres this year was with an eye toward turning it into a bird haven. After reading this book, I will be planting goji berries next year for the humans, and using a net if need be to preserve that crop for the humans. Of course I doubt the crop will be ready next year, but does it hurt to plan ahead? The author surprised me by some of his facts on artificial sweeteners, but that didn't matter. My own doctor told me long ago they did more harm than sugar. And let's not start any arguments about sugar being 'all natural'. So is arsenic. Mr. Lee recommends some fruits more than others and feels most people are too weak to give up their favorite beverages. Since I did in February I have two words for him- free will. What gave me the will power to give up something I enjoyed? Check into what high fructose corn syrup does to your body. But giving up that little caffeine has left me lifeless by 6:30 p.m. I needed this book. Some of the things I knew, like eating in combinations; some I didn't, like more than the same two combinations day after day. So why did I only give the book three stars? At the end of the book there appears to be a link to a website. Wow!! Additional information, right? Nope, scam. A page full of advertising and trying to sell you very own website. What a cheap trick. Of course, after the author sees this he just might change his tactics. Anyway I hope he has the decency to do so. This book is too good to be ruined like that, but I'm not the one who ruined it."]

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['It is not so much that Thorn is so intriguing, as it is the description of the other characters. Not ones you run into in real life, but so well described they take you in.', 'Typical Randy White with a bit less action and more dialogue. Still good reading for RWW fans. A timeless series with new storylines in every book.', 'Laid back guy not wanting to do anything but make fishing flies, but here he goes again. The first few Thorn mysteries are really good, but then Mr. Hall seems to stray from our hero in his stories.', 'I have read several of James W. Hall's books and will continue to do so. I think he is an excellent author. One of my favorites!', 'Reality not deserving of a single star. I actually feel as if I wasted my money and time trying to understand the author.', 'My first James Hall book. Will continue with more. Like the Thorn series and look forward to more. Enjoy it.', 'I like all of the books that James W. Hall writes. My favorite one is Gone Wild. Wish he would write another one continuing that story.', 'This was an interesting and exciting story. I love the descriptive style of this

author. The perfect representation of the beauty of life on the water in the Florida Keys. Fortunately I never encountered a situation like this. Very interesting concept.....!! WOW.', "A good book - made me seek out more of James W. Hall's books. It moved right along and kept me entertained to the end.", "Fun read. Takes you away. More adventures with Thorn and Sugar. Sun, sand, everglades and all around General mayhem. A bit harder to believe than his other works, but isn't that the point?", 'I like all the Thorn books. The Florida Keys life is interesting to me. Thorn lives the real Salt Life.']

B007FZ0HE2

[I love this quilt. It will be perfect for those flag day holidays. Looks like it will be quick and easy to make. Just have to get everything together to get started.', 'Being a Marine Mom, it is something special to add to my quilt collection. Plus fun with the yo-yos. Always looking to add a little something different to a everyday pattern. Thanks', "Very clear instructions. I've enjoyed doing things like this for a while and now I have something I can do with my grand daughter. Can't wait to get started.", "I downloaded this free quilt pattern to see what it's like to read on the new tablet that my son gave me for my birthday a couple of weeks ago. I have made several quilts since I started quilting in 2005 and when you are new to quilting, you need a pattern that gives you explicit instructions that are easy to follow. This pattern does not have those kind of instructions and you need to have some quilting knowledge to understand them. Otherwise, this is a pretty easy quilt to make.", 'Chose this because I love quilting and sewing. Great illustrations and diagrams. Easy instructions for a beautiful item to make.', "Very details directions. LOVE this. Explains in detail and is written and details are very easy to understand. It's great for beginner quilts and more experienced quilt also will love it", 'As a quiler, I loved the thought of this pattern, still do but very hard to do when you don't have the pattern right in front of you. Once I download it will be better to understand. It will look good when I finally finish it.', "I gave this a four star as it is a good pattern but not the best I have seen. The directions are very clear and easy to follow. I haven't made one yet but plan on doing so - making it bigger for a lap quilt. I would recommend this book to my quilting friends who are looking for a quick, easy project.", 'I copied off the pattern and plan to make one for the Red Cross to pass out to veterans in our area. I had never seen that pattern before.', 'I liked looking through this book. I did think it could use a bit more detail for the patterns. Not sure if I would make any of the quilts listed but it did give me some ideas.', "I hate to say I am leaving feedback and buy so much off amazon, that I never received this. So can't rate it and too late to notify seller.", 'This was fun and very easy to do. If you are looking for a quick patriotic gift, this would work.', 'I love making the red, white and blue quilts. I have never seen this one before. Easy to read and easy to follow pattern. Price was great. make a really great beginner quilt.', 'I enjoyed the complete book. Had a lot of good information on the history of quilting. Instructions easy to read pictures helpful.', "I haven't made this yet, but think if I ever do this pattern will be easy to follow and fun to make.", 'Lovely pattern, I would have given it 5 stars if the corners of the border did not have yo-yos on them simply because I can not hang the finished piece due to the yo-yos being in the way of my wall mounted hanger. This is great to lay over a table for display.', "This book had cute ideas but not challenging ones. I would, however, be interested in seeing this author's other works, if any.", 'Booklet has good pattern instructions, but no photos, only drawings. Read this is less than 10 minutes. Glad it was free, because I would have been upset, if I had paid for it. Not one I will keep on my Kindle.', 'like this little book, it is a good idea, hope to make it for 4th of July, to put on my large wooden truck.', "I haven't tried this yet, but even if I never make this exact project it has good ideas to incorporate into other projects."]

B007IUYY7K

[A perfect Joanna Slan novel. Short but very interesting. Love all her books. I am always looking

for her latest book.', 'This is the best short I have read of hers. I loved the story lines in this one because they were clever.', 'As always, another good read. Totally enjoyed the book. If you are a fan of this series definitely a must for you.', 'Kiki Lowenstein - I love to read anything that she is in! Joanna Campbell makes reading fun, I never pass up the opportunity to read something she has written. Pure entertainment!', 'The recent thefts at a local mall intrude on Kiki and her friends' holiday-themed cropping event, but this time the gang has a secret weapon, Aunt Penney. This was another great short story featuring Kiki and her friends.', 'Scrapbooking and a mystery. When it starts off with scrapbooking I knew it would be good. I love to scrapbook!', 'I finally got to read this Kiki gem! Nice theme, but it directed the story rather than overwhelming it. Great job as usual, Joanna.', 'I love these books, both the full length and the short stories like this one. Kiki is everywoman. She's struggles with money, romance, raising a child, family, and oh, every once in a while she has a mystery to solve. She always solves them because she is a very determined person-she has had to be. This book is well written and plotted-I am always surprised that these short stories never feel like short stories as they have all the elements of the longer stories. Good trick, that! I highly recommend any Kiki story short or long you can't go wrong.', 'If you're a fan of the series, this is an excellent little between-the-books addition! Short, sweet and to the point, but right on target! Enjoy!', 'I've read all of her books and enjoyed them all very much. Always fun and surprises and little treats here and there.', 'I am always ready for a new Kiki book!! Slan never fails to deliver a great story and diverse characters.', 'You just can not miss reading the Kiki Lowenstein series. Every book holds your interest! MYSELF I have a hard time putting the book aside to do house work etc.', 'Kiki and friends plan a St. Patricks Day Crop which includes a birthday cake for Kiki's Aunt Penney. Aunt Penney is a great addition to Kiki's crew.Of course there is a little drama. There have been thefts at the local mall and the thief ends up at the crop. Fortunately for the croppers and very unfortunate for the thief Aunt Penney is there.I really liked this story and can't wait for the next one.', 'I'd never read a Kiki Lowenstein book so this was a great intro. I enjoyed it and plan to read more of this series.', 'I love all of the Kiki stories but like the short stories the best. They are good, quick reads and then you move on to the next one. I totally enjoyed this one.', 'I love scrapbooking, maybe her other books are better than this one but this one was really boring!! the cop she is dating is a jerk and I'm a strong woman who can't stand men that are jerks so this was part of the reason why I didn't like the book, but theres no real action is too slow', 'This short story was a fun read, but the full length books have better stories. I got it free (promoting the 2nd collection of short stories to be released in a book) so no complaints on the price.', 'I have read Ms Slan's other books and was really surprised at the ending. I felt like that it was rushed and suddenly ended. I am hoping that this is just a one time occurrence and not the norm.', 'It was easy, cozy read. Likable main character. However not much mystery in it. Very predictable. At times sounded like an Zentangle advertisement or manual. Delicious cabbage recipe a plus.']

B007Q13W7O

['Well done and speaks directly to situations in my life. I find it a useful reference and have mentioned it to others.', 'It can be very hard to deal with pushy, manipulative people and there are many of them around.This little book is short, to the point and very helpful . It's worth re-reading often.', 'I read this entire book in about an hour. Although short, there were some really good strategies for dealing with manipulation, I appreciated the lack of fluff and the fact that this book did not spend chapters and chapters dealing with the psychology of why people manipulate and why others find it difficult to say no. None of that ... just really clear & concise methods for learning to say no, even when you love the person you have to say no to.', 'This author is clearly capable of turning this book into a more satisfying and useful experience. She simply gave up too soon, called it "finished" and moved to publication. It's the outline of a potentially fine book which I hope she will eventually write.', 'Boundaries for Dummies (me).....finally I understand what it's all about. This is a very good, concise and helpful book, with a frequent "how could I not know that?" insight. Thoroughly recommended reading.', 'When you try to be open to the needs of

others, aggressive people often take advantage. This book gives some terrific answers to these people.', 'Although very short, this is an excellent book with good advice for people like me who find it very hard to say no to more assertive and/or aggressive personalities. Well-written, easy to read and understand, it packed a real punch. Dynamite, they say, comes in small packages and this little book proved that old adage! One small complaint is that I would have liked the last chapter "Final Words" to just refresh my memory of the techniques needed to learn how to say NO without feeling guilty or bullied. Contains sound, sensible advice which I feel I can cope with and learn to implement in my life at my own pace', 'Stephanie shares great common sense ideas that are workable in all situations. Accepting one's right to self-respect and respect from others is something I wish I'd learned long ago. I'd recommend this quick read to anyone struggling with the belief that being "agreeable" 24-7-365 is a successful way to live.', 'This book has been particularly helpful to me and I can not wait to put it in practice. Even though it is not very lengthy I believe it contains the right amount of information. I can see myself in some of the situations described in the book and I understand now how I can change this particular negative pattern.', 'I read the 1 star reviews and had to laugh, Keep it simple was a theme and both of them had problems with the "keep it simple" and don't give power trying to prove your point. But over all I loved the fact that she didn't use a ton of words to say something so simple. It would have ruined the book. I found this very useful first because the first way, anyone in any 12 step program would know that to say I need to think about this, means "Let me call my sponsor and get back to you". But then she goes on to say what the sponsor could have said in the following six ways. It may not be CAL approved, but I think everything she said was perhaps in some CAL book I read along the way. KEEP UP THE GRAT WORK!!! I can't wait to see what she has in store for her next book. Every wife, mother, girlfriends, father, husband, boyfriend and sibling of a substance user needs to have this book. It's simple and short and to the point.', 'Ms. Sterner has written a most helpful short book about how to say "no." Too many of us grew up being taught to always be agreeable and helpful and not how to set appropriate boundaries. Consequently we make ourselves miserable because we say "yes" when we really wanted to say "no." The longer we have been doing this, the harder it is to begin refusing to do some of those things we really don't want to do, or perhaps shouldn't be doing anyway. She helps us recognize when and how we are being manipulated. It is much easier to begin saying "no" when you realize the reasons some people constantly ask you to do things for them. Ms. Sterner also makes it very clear that we do not need to offer a reason every time we say "no." It is enough to just refuse and let it go at that. This quick read makes all this easy to understand and act on. This is a great book for anyone who has trouble saying "no", or for anyone wanting to help someone who knows they say "yes" too much but don't know how to stop.', "This book is easy to read, straight to the point, and with excellent examples and stories. I had forgotten how to set boundaries, and I know where that comes from. For specific reasons that I'm not willing to develop on, I felt I had some obligations to a certain relative of mine after a big verbal fight we had a few years ago. I took the blame instead of defending myself. I did and accepted things for this person that I normally didn't accept, and started losing confidence. I chose this book because I felt I needed to learn to set boundaries again, not really knowing what to expect. To my surprise, this book was very helpful, really amazing! I applied what the author suggested. Hadn't even finished the book yet I cancelled an appointment, and made several changes in my schedule of the week. Which led to a huge verbal fight again with that same relative, but this time I got a lot of stuff off my chest, I didn't care anymore! I found out that during all those years I should have never given in or blamed myself. All that I allowed and forced myself to do stopped that very day. Thank you Stephanie for your wonderful book, I now feel really good about myself.", "Written. Well the 7 steps were clear and the boundary responses. Were appropriate and direct manipulating people can and will be brutal if it fits their needs I see their needs don't. Have to be mine", "I thought I knew how to say no and always felt guilty about it - but I have found more ways to say no without hurting others feelings and getting some time and space for myself. I used to say yes, a lot, when I really didn't have the time, the expertise, the inclination, or the will to do. Don't get taken advantage of - check this book out and get your life back.", 'I read the whole book from beginning to end in about an hour. I wish that this had been around before. I could identify with every one of the topics and difficult people. I was

thinking it could be used for assertiveness training as being assigned as part of a bibliotherapy technique. The tips were concise and clear as well as the examples of when to employ them. Very good!', 'While none of the information presented was necessarily new, it was presented clearly, concisely and in a manner that can easily be put to use. The headings were helpful, the suggested phrases are ready for use, and the flow of the material presented was easy to follow. Good reference book.']

B007RTSA7M

[I liked this story but the fact that he says he did not love his first wife in the beginning and talks bad about her to the heroine and then he switches it to he loved her a lot and wrote all these love notes is just ridiculous!!! I like when the hero only falls in love with the heroine. If they were previously married, then they would have had a bad relationship with their first wife. I do not understand how you can give your whole heart to one woman and then love the heroine. It made me mad to read about the letters!!! It just came out of no where like the author was trying to create a problem to make the story longer or create a situation where the heroine leaves the hero so that he realizes that he loves her. It could have been done differently if that is the case. This would have got 5 stars if the letters were not introduced.', 'This was definitely a cute little read and a great way to pass a rainy wet day. I fell in love with the characters and I could not wait to read each page to see where their story would take them.', 'I enjoyed this book very much. I love the characters and the whole plot. Must read!! Look forward to reading more books by this author.', 'A unique story line with enough realistic twists to keep you going. I enjoyed the romantic chemistry. Very clean and fun', 'I liked BABY COMES FIRST a lot. I hadn't read any books by this author before, but definitely want to read more stories by Beverly Farr. Her wonderful writing, characters, and dialogue kept me reading until I finished the book. It's fun to discover a new author that makes you want to buy more of her books!', 'I came upon this book by accident, but I was glad I did. Book was interesting, I couldn't put it down and read it in a day! Book was very enjoyable. It starts out with Hannah, being a smart girl in her mid-30's working in a law firm. She liked her job, paid her well, but she felt her biological clock was ticking away with no prospects of getting married and starting a family. She takes it upon herself and decides to go through a fertility clinic and use donor sperm. The twist in this story is that she knew who the sperm came from. Maybe it was fate, but she was offered a job as his secretary. Hannah didn't want the job and certainly did everything she could to not get the job, but Luke liked her no bull crap attitude and hired her on the spot. Their working relationship begins and Hannah proves to be very smart, patient and puts up with his bad temper. The more time Luke spent with her, the more he felt she was hiding something from him. Hannah began to know the man everyone around the office feared. He was actually a good man behind all that temper and work. She finds herself in a medical situation and realizes she is alone. Luke offers to help her out, for some unknown reason, he really liked Hannah. Soon Luke finds himself wanting to get married and being a father to Hannah's baby. How was she going to break the news to him? Can she make a marriage of convenience into a real one? That is for you to read. Book was delightful and a joy to read. I couldn't believe how much I enjoyed it and next thing you knew, the book was ending. The epilogue was fantastic as well. Nicely done!', 'What a great story! Loved the premises of what she did to have the baby of her dreams. Looking forward to reading more of this authors work', 'It was a happy read, with the fairytale ending... quick read makes you smile. I stories about two people coming together for the sake of a precious little baby, I'm a sucker every time...', 'It's very difficult to find a good romance book but this one has a little bit of everything from laughter to tears to anger and love. I would definitely recommend it!!!', 'I thought it was a great book read it in one sitting couldn't put it down going read others books by her', 'This was a short, sweet romance. I didn't "feel" the chemistry between the characters that usually accompanies romance but it was still an enjoyable read.', 'This was a cute book. Hannah's firm asked her to interview with Luke. She does not want the job. She has heard that Luke eats his secretary's for lunch. Luke's secretary's gets paid more because he is so hard to work for. Hannah does not want the firm to think she is not a team

player. She is pregnant, and needs the health care insurance. So she agrees to the interview. She has fun in the interview, being very direct on what she will, and won't do. She just knows her answers will make her seem like a team player, but will guarantee that she does not get the job. To her shock her plan backfires and she gets the job. The author wrote the book intending on the reader not feeling much of a connection between Luck, and Hannah, because Luke is so distant. I wished there would have been more of a connection, more sizzle between the two. I am glad Luke came around in the end.", "This is exactly what I wanted it to be: a light, fun story. Didn't want anything deep or thought-provoking, just clean romance with some conflict to keep things interesting. Beverly Farr delivers every time!", 'I quite enjoyed "Baby Comes First" the characters were funny, the story line was good. I read this book in one sitting, didn't want to put it down. The Author did an awesome job. It is so true we forget we(females) only have a limited time to pro-create.', "My favorite aspect of this novel is how both of the lead characters are intelligent and remain consistent with their perspectives throughout the story. Aside from a rather foolish/selfish decision by Hannah--a necessary device that gets the plot moving, and is later acknowledged as not the wisest decision--everything that both Hannah and Luke do is so refreshingly well-motivated. They make logical, clear-headed decisions, their motivations are well-explained by their backstories, and the conflict is entirely generated by the differences in their points of view. The chemistry takes a while to heat up, but even that transition feels entirely believable. In short, this romance never feels contrived, the climax is not the usual proposal trope--in fact, the wedding is merely a step along the way to building a strong *marriage*, a much more meaningful proposition--and the resolution of the sexual tension doesn't actually solve any problems: it just reveals the deeper issues of the heart that need to be addressed. A rich bit of insight there! The writing style is fresh and engaging, avoiding overwrought descriptions of either emotions or physical attraction while still conveying the strength of both. There are some clever moments of light humor amidst plenty of entirely reasonable / believable drama. Farr maintains the tension throughout with some very skillful doling out of the information from both characters' points of view. Farr makes it clear that she's done her background research (e.g., on the legal profession and childbearing) without ever once distracting from the story by putting too much of it on display. It bolsters the believability of the tale. There's a wonderfully healthy balance of power in the relationship. Luke's attempts to protect and provide for Hannah are often done in a steamrolling kind of way, because he believes that he's doing the right thing and in the optimal way (which, technically, he sort of is, but it's all truth with no grace). But she calls this behavior for what it is: he's controlling. This is not celebrated as a healthy dynamic, unlike some other popular romances I could name. :) The fact that she recognizes the unhealthy pattern and chooses to stand up to him (without throwing temper tantrums) is just mature and fantastic of her. The male lead also has a refreshingly well-balanced view of women. For example, I liked how Luke, when he's trying to convince Hannah to marry him, tells her that he thinks she's capable of being far more than a mere secretary and part of his argument for the marriage is that she'd be able to go back to school because he could support her financially. So awesome! He both wants her to be a stay-at-home mother and also to take the opportunity to build into herself professionally. Yay! What a concept! You can do both! (Just maybe not all at the same time. :) It was nice to see an intelligent, older female character who didn't fall into any of the stereotypes that I expected of a romance novel heroine. She might not be sexually experienced, but she still knows herself and is confident in her abilities and stands up to even the man she's fallen in love with, despite being physically at a disadvantage. It's a nice distinction to make in a culture that seems to equate sexual experience with maturity / adulthood. I would highly recommend this sweet romance, an easy read in an evening or two, and well worth your time!", 'I don't normally read Romance Books, except maybe Austen, Bronte, and Dickens, but the author of this little work announced it in a discussion group and it peaked my curiosity. It didn't take long to read: one evening. To summarize: the book is charming! Hannah's biological clock is running, she isn't succeeding in the relationship jungle, and she desperately wants a child. A sperm bank offers one solution, but she doesn't want to handicap her child with "bad sperm." She does find a good candidate who has already donated his sperm, and that seems to solve her problems. Only it doesn't solve her problems, it just makes everything more complicated. Yes, we are served up an entire entree of secret attractions, misunderstandings,

snappy dialog, more misunderstandings, and morning sickness. OK, maybe it is not Austen, Bronte, or Dickens, but it is still an enjoyable journey!']

B007WUMF9U

['Really easy read..kept me interested and wanting to know what would happen, but there has to be another part....ended abruptly..', 'The book was interesting but I expected more. The story line was great but the reaction from everyone wasnt what I expected. There were alot of twists and turns but the story was still missing something. The ending was horrible it could have been better..Overall the book was just okay!!', 'The story was awkward to read. There was no suspense. Everything thing felt rushed and way to, to the point. The female characters, especially the main one, were gullible and annoying. Skipped through most of the book because it lacked depth. Wouldn't recommend.', 'This book was so good, when I say page turner I mean it. It was drama with a touch of class. The dilemma that Nya found herself in were unthinkable. Not only was there drama but there were some life lessons also. Great book.', 'I must admit I did not read a review before I downloaded this book. And I am truly sorry I didn't. I am not one of those people that have a problem with the characters having affairs. But I do have a problem with them having affairs with in-laws. How in the world is the reader supposed to believe that they love each other. It was not a good story.', 'I will start by saying, this was a difficult topic for the author to tackle. How do you make the ultimate betrayal seem acceptable. Well Peaches the Writer manage to do that.The story waste no time getting to the meat of what's about to happen. It's written in first person, so we get to experience Nya's thoughts and feelings through the whole book. I like the fact there wasn't a lot of unnecessary drama, however in reality I'm not so sure there wouldn't have been a lot more drama. Kenny is Nya's husband and Nya is in love with his brother Allen. Allen is currently married to Lisa and the just the tip of the iceberg.I wasn't sure how I would feel reading about this type of betrayal, however with every twist and turn you will find yourself praying for Nya and Allen to end up together. I truly enjoyed the story and only wish there were a sequel.', 'I personally was not looking to read a book, that had ethnic back ground deeply imbedded into the story line, however... I was extremely impressed with this book. I'm not finished reading it but I can't seem to put it down either! I just began writing on kindle myself and I hope to write as well as this author in my near future. Excellent story.Best of luck and I will keep u listed as a favorite author to continue to read from. Thank you, G.V. Steitz', 'When I saw the title and read the description I thought - sounds scandalous!! Bought the book, read the book and instead of being wowed I was left with really? unbelievable. It was also kind of predictable. From the main character, to the acceptance of things, to the mom - all UNBELIEVABLE! The writer was on the right track, but just failed to complete the course. There was so many other ways this book could have been written that would have made it an outstanding read. It was still an ok read because you wanted to read to see how much more ridiculous it could get. Also, to bring a character in with only a few pages left to try and throw it in the mix was not beneficial to the book. There was no point or purpose. If that character was to have any relevance, he should've been introduced into the fray at least midway through the book.', 'This is a very good read. Was very interesting from beginning to end. The read kept my attention due to,suspense. I would read agin from this author.', 'The synopsis said that this book would make me believe in love again. No, no it did not! This book was just a big NOPE to me.', 'This was a great read. It has been a while since I have read anything this entangled. What a story.', 'This book was very interesting but I hated the ending. It was rushed to me. The writer just seem to want to end it and did not know how. You have the ending you want but it was quick. Jmo', 'The book was okay. Some of the things in the story seemed a little bit unrealistic. The story was drawn out but interesting then it just ends abruptly. I was wanting more but the last chapter seemed to rush the story to a close with two pages.', 'Loved this story! Had some twist that kept u guessing till the very end. Great, believable characters. I would highly recommend.', 'I truly enjoyed this story. So much detail. I hope there is a part two because I never wanted this storyline to end:~']

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['A new writer for me to enjoy - her heroine is complex, her hero is wary - the family ties well developed, and the story unusual.', 'I have read all three books. Each better than the next. I recommend these books to all my kindle readers.', 'Love the story line. Well written, I have enjoyed them all. Look forward to reading more from this author in the future.', "I enjoyed the relationship between Roberts and Catherine. He is still having regrets about actions from previous books. He falls quickly in love with Catherine and sparks fly. The ending was a bit rushed, but I like these characters so much that i didn't mind.", "3rd book in the series and as usual it doesn't disappoint. I love the characters and the writing style. I definitely found myself swooning for James. And Catherine was a text book heroine. I just adored her.What I love most about this series is how all the characters make an appearance in every book and new ones always emerge.Looking forward to book 4!Who will it be this time! Elizabeth or Chester?? I hope it's Chester. He's very swoon worthy *sigh*", "I am almost sad that I have finished this book because I am now done with the series. I highly recommend this series..it's a great read!", 'WOW! This one is my favor out of the three book! James is one sexy and handsome one! The author really did a great jobs describe him in great detail. Making me fall in love with him!', 'I wondered how Roberts was going to find his woman. Fun to read, just the right length, intriguing story...what else could I ask for in a book? Highly recommended, the whole series.', "Wonderful reading at its best. Great story, plots and romance. Can't wait to find more books from this author. Top of the list for historical romance. Love it!", 'Character likeable nice plot I guess the women in those day was layed back so they let the man lead there is nothing with that just that the women could of stayed out of the way of these crazy men']

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['Kissing Kendal is a sweet and cute romance that you will finish in no time and you will be left with a huge grin afterwards. Yes it is that sweet.Kissing Kendall is the story of Kendall, a young widow who after losing her parents and husband is afraid to fall in love and live again and Brad, her best friend\'s brother who is in love with her since he can remember himself but has never acted upon those feelings in fear of ruining their friendship.Jennifer Shirk has done a really good job with both the character development in this story and the pace of the romance. Not an incredible work, but good nonetheless. For the first half of the book I was reading nonstop and loving every minute of it. The second half of this book though, is a whole other matter.Unfortunately, even if in the end of the day I found Kissing Kendall enjoyable and sweet, still I had some problems with it, problems, that are reflecting in my rating of this book, I\'m afraid.For starters, the pace of the book was a bit uneven. You see the first part is moving forward and in a fast pace making it a very enjoyable read until the moment Brad finally reveals his emotions to Kendall. From that point on, the whole story is slowly starting losing its appeal. Because from that moment on starts the non stop back and forth in their relationship, a back and forth that I have to blame solely on Kendall. And she is my second problem with this novel. Because Brad, is an amazing character. Sweet and protective and to be honest, it has been a long time since I read about an undeniably alpha male who was portrayed in such a sweet way. He didn\'t have to scream alpha. He just was, without being possessive or any other thing. So Brad\'s character, is maybe the best thing in Kissing Kendall.Kendall on the other hand, not so much. At least for me. I got that she was wounded, that she couldn\'t move forward and forget and deal with that many misfortunes, but still, her behavior at times was difficult to put up with. She came of as rather self centered. I\'m pretty certain that through her reluctance to fall in love again and the general way she chose to deal with her wounded past, the author\'s intention was to make the reader feel sympathetic towards her. But in my case, all that had the exact opposite effect I\'m afraid. I know Kendall isn\'t self centered. But she certainly appeared that way. And the way she almost "played" with Brad, tired me after a point. I mean one moment she wanted him, the next she

pushed him away and that pattern was repeated over and over again. So, even though I pretty much enjoyed Kissing Kendall, I can't say that it's among the best contemporary romances out there. I had a good time reading it but I don't think I will remember much of it, except for the way Kendall couldn't make up her mind and get what she wanted. Oh, and how I much loved Brad :)', "I really liked this book. This is the first review that I have written that was just an Ok book. The author brought me into the book with Kendall and Brad as the main characters but I couldn't stay in the book. It felt to me that they were missing that spark. I mean Brad had the spark and I know that Kendall lost her husband in a fire and I can see where she would be off kilter but to me something just was off with the book in itself. I guess I was just looking for something more in this book that never emerged. It is however a good read. But for me the Wow factor never showed up. I really enjoy reading this author but this book for me was off the mark. So if you want a fast read with not much spark than pick up this book and enjoy. I kind of feel bad that the WOW factor wasn't in this book for me. But, as they say onto the next book. Kudos to the author. At least I am honest..", "This is the second book I've read by Jennifer Shirk and I liked it a lot. KISSING KENDALL is well-written and filled with witticisms. The characters were all likeable, though I especially liked the heroine. When beta hero Brad finally stepped up to win the heroine's heart the story gained momentum that carried through to the end.", "Kissing Kendall is a story of friendship, love and new beginnings. The story unfolds slowly. We are introduced to Kendall, a young widow, her friends Georgie and Dee, Kendall's grandmother and to Brad, Georgie's brother and a long time friend of Kendall. Kendall's friends and her grandmother think it's time for her to move ahead. The author uses just the right mix of friendship and grandmotherly advice to push Kendall out of her comfort zone and to drive the storyline forward. After much consideration, Kendall decides to pursue her dream of opening a bakery and to start dating. I enjoyed the character of Georgie. Georgie has found love & happiness, she is married and pregnant and wants Kendall and her brother Brad to find the same. She is a full-time pharmacist and a part time matchmaker! Brad has had feelings for Kendall for a long time and at first is afraid to pursue them. Kendall views Brad as a friend. I found it rewarding that the author took her time with the Brad and Kendall's love story. The author dealt with Kendall's fear of losing loved ones and the difficulties she faced as a young unemployed widow while balancing Brad's growing feelings towards Kendall. I found Kissing Kendall to be a heartwarming story. I received a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.", "Loved this latest installment in the Maritime City series! It was great to visit this set of characters again, and the story of Brad/Kendall had me flipping through the pages...pretty sure I finished this one in record time! It had all the elements of Shirk's stories that I've come to love---it was sweet, fast paced, hilarious at times, and the relationships/interactions between characters so well done that it just felt like family. Shirk excels at giving us a glimpse into the life of Kendall and her family and friends, and I loved every perfectly broken, blissful moment. :-)", "Kendall is a widow who's heart is broken and the fear of more loss in her life has her unreceptive to love. Although at times she is indecisive about her feelings and decisions she is endearing and sweet. Brad comes in like a breath of fresh air with his heart on his sleeve. I loved his down to earth personality and all though he tries to deny his feelings for Kendall he never gives up. The stuff heroes are made of. A nice light romance that is enjoyable. 3.5 stars", "It is with a big smile that I put my stamp of approval on this wonderful romance. I loved every minute of this fabulous romance. Is it cheesy and sappy? Possibly, but it was so well-written that I didn't notice. I loved Brad and Kendall, and their romance just sent chills through me. There was some very minor profanity that honestly did not bother me, and there was no sex! Yes!! Jennifer Shirk has a delightful sense of humor--something I often say is lacking in books today. The interactions were genuine, and although the book ended as it should, it was well worth the ride. Even though this is a light read, I so glad there was a message in it that everyone needs to hear. Don't ever be afraid to love. We are not guaranteed tomorrow, and if you live your life in fear, you are certainly going to miss some wonderful times. Take advantage of the opportunities that are facing you now. If you wait, they may pass you by! I was sent a copy of this book in exchange for my honest review. I was not financially compensated, and all opinions are 100 percent mine.", "Take one widow, one best friend, and her yummy brother and you have a delightful read that will have you laughing, crying and falling in love with the characters. This is a fun read that will leave you

smiling long after you've finished reading it. Jennifer Shirk delivers again!", "After losing her husband Jake, Kendall has been living her life in a haze of pain and loneliness. She feels that she needs to move on but doesn't know where to begin. She is a talented baker and her friends encourage her to open her own bakery. She hesitates because she thinks it's a big step for her to make, but her friend Brad puts it in perspective for her and she decides to give it a go. Brad has been Kendall's friend since the first time his sister brought Kendall to the house. He has always been attracted to her, but when his best friend made a move on her and married her he stepped back. Little by little he drifted from them until he was confronted by Jake right before his death. With his guilt and the thought that Kendall would never want him, he sets out to start dating again and forget about Kendall. I truly enjoyed this book. Kendall and Brad were great characters to get to know. From the start I could see where each was coming from and I wanted them to work. The author, Jennifer Shirk, did a great job of developing the characters and their romance throughout the story. I especially enjoyed the changes Kendall went through. She went from being afraid and keeping to herself to being more assertive and open to change. I liked that the author brought Kendall and Brad's doubts and hesitations to the page in a manner that made them seem real. This made their getting together more believable. They started as friends and I could truly feel that connection between them and finally when they admitted their feelings for each other, I could believe that too. Their chemistry was very hot and although there was no sex written you could feel their attraction and how passionate about each other they were. *Kissing Kendall* is a well-written, light and sweet read. It had humor, interesting characters and great dialogue. This is the first book I read by this author and I was pleasantly surprised by it. I received this title from Entangled Publishing through NetGalley in exchange of my honest opinion.", 'A sweet, heart-warming, very well written story I can only recommend to romance lovers! However be warned this is a tame title, no descriptive love scenes just kissing, but the tension will make your toes curl :-). Detailed review: I'll start by saying that when I read the blurb of *Kissing Kendall* and saw that it was Book #2 in the Maritime City series I was a bit intimidated as to whether I should hop on the train in mid-ride since I haven't read the 1st book, *Georgie on my Mind*, but I'm so glad I did, so have no fears fellow readers, *Kissing Kendall* can very well be enjoyed on its own, and I sure did! :-D The biggest surprise for me was that I actually enjoyed *Kissing Kendall* and wasn't left unsatisfied. Lol, don't misunderstand me, what I mean is that I usually read steamy romances, I like to know how the physical attraction develops and evolves between the hero and heroine, so when I saw *Kissing Kendall* was a Bliss title (Entangled Publishing's tame, sweet romance imprint) I thought I would feel like I do with appetizers: wanting more and being grumpy that I'm left hungry. :-(So the biggest surprise for me was that Jennifer Shirk managed to make me sigh with contentment at the end of *Kissing Kendall*, even though the story remained sweet and very PG ;-). I am always sceptical when it comes to widow and widower characters because I fear the author won't find that perfect balance between having the character getting over the death of their loved one too soon and remaining in love with their lost loved one. And in *Kissing Kendall* I thought that Jennifer Shirk managed to strike this balance quite well (yeah to be honest there were some instances when we got glimpses that the dead husband wasn't the ideal supportive husband, but still). I enjoyed (and not in a sadistic way but rather in admiration of Jennifer Shirk's talent) how Kendall was still trying to get over her loss and get back on her feet. She was still grieving and feeling pretty isolated from the outside world and her friends, as if although the world and life went on, she has been paused ever since she lost her husband. I liked how realistic her struggles were and how her pain, insecurities and fears held her back. It made me accept and trust her character, it was realistic that it really took her a lot of time and many things to overcome her fears and try to take little baby steps in the right direction, that is forward. When I was reading *Kissing Kendall* I was thinking how easily Kendall's character could have turned out to be or seen as a bit boring, dull, scared and indecisive heroine, and I guess it may be the case with certain people, it just wasn't with me. So I get that as personal taste and sympathy go you may not have clicked with Kendall. For me all those back and forths added a taste of reality and substance to how really difficult it was for Kendall to get over losing her husband and battling with her attraction and even some stronger feelings for another man. How she experienced and went through the whole palette of emotions like guilt, fear, shock, bewilderment and happiness just to name a few. Brad was

very different from the usual alpha heroes as he was the quiet "best-friend-in-love-with-the-heroine-and-suffering-in-silence" kind of hero. "Look, Kendall and I are just friends. That's all. I admit I love her, but I love her as I would a...a sister." Sister. He almost laughed out loud at that. His feelings for Kendall were nowhere near the sister zone; he knew that much. And he knew the difference between right and wrong. Wrong was arguing with Jake about Kendall the day before he died. Wrong was moving in on a friend before she was over her husband's death--something he'd come damn close to doing the other day. Even though she had felt so good, as if she were made for him, she wasn't his. And he needed to remember that. "He was all that is responsible and protective (hey small town police officer and big brother), considerate and reliable, he was always there for Kendall and never wanting to make her uncomfortable. At first. Because after that he decided she needed to get a little uncomfortable to realize how good he could be for her ;-)" He reached up and cupped her chin, unable to resist running his thumb gently along her jaw. "Okay, I'll back off. But I'll still be there for you. Kind of like your own personal safety net." Kendall gave him a tentative smile. "Thank you." Then she leaned in and drifted a soft kiss across his lips. "If I had known they were making safety nets so handsome, I would have gotten myself one sooner." Brad reached for her hand again. "Come on," he said, pulling her toward the parking lot. "Let's go back to your place and I'll show you what else safety nets are good for." "And what's that?" He flashed her a wicked grin. "Getting tangled in." "Brad was dreamy with all that quiet strength and resolve, he had so much love and tenderness." "Look, it's okay. I don't expect you to say I love you back. At least, not right now," he said with a grin, hoping to coax a smile from her. She did smile back, but it didn't quite reach her eyes. "Okay, thanks for being...honest." Brad stifled a sigh. He told her he loved her and she thanked him for being honest. Of all the possible scenarios of how his declaration of love would be received, never in his wildest fantasies had he counted on that one. "And as long as we're being honest," she went on, "I want you to know that I've really been enjoying our time together, too." She bit her lip, hesitating. "I'm sorry I can't give you more than that." He nodded once. "It's okay. Like I said, no pressure. I'm carrying enough love for the both of us." *sighs* And he even had a uniform!! *stares into space dreamily* Ok, where was I? Ah yes, the characters. As for the secondary cast, well maybe those who have read the first book enjoyed this a bit better, but I found that there was just a bit too much of Georgie and her husband in the story (the hero and heroine of *Georgie on my Mind*, the 1st book). The story unfolded very slowly but that was expected and even realistic considering the heroine is a grieving widow, so I knew with such a set-up I had to be patient. And once Brad decided he wasn't happy sitting on the sideline and wanted to convince Kendall to give him a chance, things progressed nicely. Sure it wasn't at breakneck speed, but with the PG rating as well as the specific condition of the heroine I felt it was acceptable. After I saw some negative ratings on Goodreads I was curious to see how *Kissing Kendall* would fare and was pleasantly surprised what a wonderful, well written and enjoyable story it turned out to be. Verdict: *Kissing Kendall* was a very pleasant surprise for me. The story flew smoothly and Jennifer Shirk is a natural storyteller, her writing is wonderfully evocative, heartfelt and moving. The end wasn't such a hit with me as I'm not a fan of public declarations and I found Kendall's realization a bit sudden, but Kendall and Brad are really good together. *Kissing Kendall* is one of those romances that makes you sigh with satisfaction and contentment because you just know that the hero and heroine will live happily ever after even after "The End". *Kissing Kendall* was a delightful, heart-warming story and I'm looking forward to reading more stories by Jennifer Shirk! Plot: 8/10 Characters: 9/10 Writing: 9/10 Ending: 7/10 Cover: 8/10]

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[There was nothing that really "wowed" me in this book but it was a cute story nonetheless. I actually prefer her young adult novels better.', "I was excited to read a new romance line by Entangled. This is the first book I picked to read in the contemporary line, Bliss. The main problem I had with the story is the characters in this story are too young in their voice and actions and the writing sounds more YA or New Adult, than contemporary adult romance. As some others have said, I had a hard

time connecting with the characters as adults in a romance novel. They just sounded and acted too young. I also like more description--using more of the five senses on a page--in my romance stories. I probably won't read any more by this author but will try a few more in the Bliss line.", 'This was a cute story about two best friends. Kade and Sidney were best friends and were always there for each other until Sidney took off after graduation. It is fun watching these two reconnect and work out what happened in their past. Kade was so sweet and patient with Sidney. Rowan was also their friend and it was great seeing these three interact. It was a very enjoyable book.', "IT WAS A SLOW READ. THERE WASN'T MUCH ACTION BUT AN OKAY LOVE STORY THAT GOT MORE INTERESTING AS THE STORY UNFOLDED.", "A sweet romance based on friendship first, yes please! I really enjoyed reading about Kade and Sydney's past and present and how they were able to finally meld the two together. No insta-love here and a nice break from some of angst ridden books featured twenty-somethings. Looking forward to reading book two.", "This is a great book and I loved the characters. I found the lack of scene breaks interrupted the flow. One minute I'm reading an important scene between the main characters and the next line is a phone conversation. Please edit these scene breaks.", "I loved this book from start to finish! It was the most endearing and loving book. Kade (such a beautiful man with a beautiful heart) and his Sydney. Amazing couple who started as friends and discovered their love for each other. Oh my, by the end I had tears in my eyes. I cannot wait to read Rowan's story and then Jace and Betsy's story.", 'Although I really like this book I feel it started out a little to slow for me and it took a while for me to get into it! But by the end I was sad for it to end!', "Sidney left Shamrock Falls to pursue her dream of making it in Hollywood, only she did it without saying good-bye to her best friends Rowan and Kade. This mistake has haunted her ever since, but she can't make herself keep in touch with them or return to her hometown regardless of the guilt she's been feeling for the past five years. After a series of events, she finds herself back in Shamrock Falls and running straight into Kade. Kade had a rough family life growing up and his only escape was spending time with Sidney and Rowan. Although he tries to convince himself that he is over Sidney and that he is no longer angry about how she left him without a word, it all comes back to him the moment she's standing in front of him. I adored this story! Kelley Vitollo did a great job of bringing to the page a sweet story of forgiveness and new beginnings that tugged at my heart strings and left me wanting to see more from Kade and Sidney. I appreciated the hesitations, doubts and questions that both characters felt because it added to the believability of their happily ever after. I liked the fact that Kade was honest and direct and that he never wavered on his loyalty to Sidney and that she in turn finally accepted her feelings for Kade for what they were - feelings of love, not only friendship. Kade and Sidney were both complex characters with many layers to them - issues about their childhood, their needs and wants. Their connection as best friends through childhood and teenage years, as told through flashbacks, felt real and gave me the opportunity to get to know them better, thus helping me connect to them fully. Needless to say that the chemistry between Kade and Sidney was palpable from the beginning and although their scenes were not overtly explicit their passion for each other came across perfectly through the page. Especially that first kiss, wowza! The secondary characters were a joy to read too and they added beautifully to the story. Rowan, Jace and Betsy all came across as interesting characters, but I especially enjoyed Rowan and her interactions with both Kade and Sidney. I can't wait to read her story! She was funny, adorably sweet and her longing for a family of her own endeared her to me. Lucky Break is the first book in the Shamrock Falls series and a great start to the series. This is the first book of Kelly Vitollo I've read but I am certain it won't be the last one. She managed to capture my attention from the beginning of the story all through the end by bringing to life both Sidney and Kade and bringing to the page a wonderful story of friendship and loyalty.", 'I loved this book! Heart warming story and great characters. There were a few typos but nothing too bad. A definite must read!']

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[Although this book took a turn that I was not expecting all in all it was a good read. If you are

looking for a risqué kind of romance novel then you may enjoy it.', "Wow, visions of Addison bent over being spanked while her pussy is exposed has me burning hot!Cant wait for part two", "In Sorority Pledge 1: A Devil in Disguise, Addison and Logan discover each other and their mutual lust for spanking kinkery. I generally don't like public humiliation, but Addison was so turned on by what was happening that she took me along for the ride. Absorbing start to this series!", 'Although this book is pretty short it is also very entertaining. It is about a girl who is sent on a pledge mission for a sorority. During the stunt she is caught and is punished for her actions.This book is very light and entertaining. It gives a brief glimpse into the world of BDSM.', "Omg this book had me from the get go even though its a shirt story she fitted so much in to it. It's hot an raunchy and I loved every bit off it characters are well written n storyline is smooth", 'Very devious....that sums it all up', "I enjoyed reading this story about Addison and Logan who accidentally meet on Halloween, when the sorority that Addison is in decides to have its pledges throw eggs at Logan's mansion right outside the university. It just so happens that Addison gets caught by the guard on duty, he's wearing a gorilla costume, since he's answering the door to all the kids trick or treating on the block. Anyhow the guard chases Addison into the woods where she stumbles and fallers flat on her face, he hauls her up and carries her all the way back to the mansion like she's a sack of potatoes, then he dumps her on the floor to await his boss. The boss comes down-stairs and says okay you caught one of the brats, yes okay my son will be down to take care of her in a few minutes. Read this book because it will make you laugh, cry and make you cum a lot.", "This book was utterly amazing and sexy as all hell Ms. Draper had me all hot and bothered with the amazing detail that went in to putting these two wonderful characters together. I cant wait to read the second book in this story to see Logan and Addison get together they are meant to be and I truly hope it happens. If you haven't read this book you must it is supremely sexy and deserves more than the 5 stars we are allowed to give books!", "This is a naughty book and could cause some people grief. If you have heart conditions it might be safe to find something safer, perhaps in the Potterverse. And isn't it nice to have a great cover and also great writing?", 'This is steamy. I enjoyed this book, although the ending was sort of out of nowhere. I look forward to reading the rest of the Sage.', 'While participating in a sorority hazing ritual of egging this mansion, Addison is captured by a guy in a gorilla suit and ends up having to chose between the police or a punishment. She picks the punishment and starts on a journey she has always dreamed about but never thought would come true. She finds herself being spanked by a young handsome man who does wonderful things for her lower region.', 'In a word HOT! I was a little worried when I read the opening scene when she was chased through the woods by a gorilla, but soon everything started to heat up, with the introduction of Logan.I really enjoyed this light entertaining sorority story.', 'Reivew: I just don't know what is up with me and picking College stories. I guess I'm trying something new.This one made me happy I was not into a College Frat House. I did some dum things when I was young, but I did them for me and me alone. I never have been a person to do something like 'throw eggs at a house'; just because someone told me to. When someone asked me to do something I always asked why. Why does people do things and not ask why? Addison should have asked why.Addison is the main character in this book and I believe she should have asked why and picked another Frat House to be apart of, but then this book would not been written. Right?Addison is a great character to feel sorry for and want to save from the mean Frat House mother. Just as the Frat House mother is a character you love to hate.The only spoiler I'm saying on this one, is there is no happy ending. You have to see if it happens in Book 2.Talking about characters, I really love Logan. He is a mystery and I love mystery men. They get you tongue tied and your mind on overload to find out why they are a mystery to you. What secrets do they hide? I so can not wait for Book 2. Here is a great quote or two....Quote one: My favorite half line....I can not have the rest of it due to its content, but it is worth seeking out.ÜAfter two minutes or so, I found myself on a wild rollercoaster ride, all loopy, reckless,ÝQuote two: Here is a better quote.ÜTo bow like that is entirely gutsy, sexy, strong and beautiful. I wanted to be like that. And I needed and craved a hammer to break through my walls and defenses and some glue to fix any real brokenness that might be unearthed. I did not need a shredded back or needles shoved up my toenails. I know what I need, and Logan does too. He's my hammer and glue. And I don't care what I have to do, I will make him see

that. I don't even care what the fem-Nazis on campus have to say about that either! It is much weaker to not admit what you need than to live a lie and pretend like you're strong and ...', 'I received these three for review and look forward to the others in the series. The search of a young lady for her Dom comes to an end after a Halloween prank at a mansion. She learns of her desire to be spanked and knows she has found the one to keep her happy. She now has to convince him that they are made for each other. In the final novella they come together and come to an understanding that should make them both happy in the future. An interesting tour through the thoughts and desires of a young woman just awakening to her sexual maturity.', 'Dynamic, compelling, insatiable and HOT, HOT, HOT! I love this story. Only thing I bawled at was her getting 800 smacks and having nothing to show for it a couple hours later.', "This is a cute story about a virgin college student, with bdsm tendencies. It has some juicy parts to it. One of the reasons it didn't get 5 stars from me is because I don't like short stories. If you are wanting a quick little tease, I'd recommend reading it. Otherwise I suggest holding out for great full length novel.", "The main character is a college virgin. She is a sub and she knows it but she is still a virgin and she is looking for a Dom. She believes she may have found the Dom of her dreams only to find out that he really isn't into the BDSM community. This is a good read with some great scenes.", "Addison is a virgin sorority pledge who gets caught throwing eggs at a rich man's home. She's given the choice of Logan, the son of the owner, calling the police or taking her punishment over his knee. If they call the police she could get kicked out of college, so she opts for going over his knee. What she didn't know was that he would do it in front of his dad and his poker playing buddies. But she's too afraid of the consequences. So what is meant as punishment actually ends up being a very erotic experience for her. Lots of spanking in this story and you hear how Addison is feeling about it the whole way, which makes for a very sexy read. 18+ obviously due to sexual situations. If you don't like the idea of being spanked or even have that fantasy, then don't pick this up. This is well written and exciting if you like this type of book."]

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[From staying up ALL NIGHT to read the book. . . it was SO stinking good-too good to put down', 'I really enjoyed this book! It was fresh, unique, and the characters felt like real people with real struggles. I also loved the setting and time period, very original!', "Ruth Axtell is an excellent story teller. Her style and story lines are always unique and intriguing. In Your Eyes had me riveted from the first chapter. I loved the hero in this book! He is strong, confident, and oh so handsome! Francesca is a beautiful and talented artist. They have a strong attraction to each other but it's not all a bed of roses. This is NOT a peaches and cream romance with nothing but lovey dovey scenes that mean nothing. Ruth's writing has depth and character and she always has an underlying message that makes you think. As with the other books that I've read by Ruth, the conversations flow so naturally and realistically. This is one of Ruth's strong points - a true gift. Another gift of Ruth's is her ability to write on so many different subjects. This book tells about art in the era of Rembrandt. I can't even imagine the amount of research that went into this. I found it all very interesting and informative. I highly recommend this romance. I loved it!", 'Ruth Axtell is one of my favorite authors and this one did not disappoint!! She is a wonderful story teller.', "Generally I love anything written by this author. But not this one. While the book was fairly well written with a strong plot, the message, compared to her other books, was weak and shallow. She emphasised the physical nature of the characters so much that it seemed as if that was the only thing that they had in common, the only thing that re-united them and the only thing that will keep them together. Disappointing. The Christian core found in this author's books was missing here.", 'Ruth Axtell writes passionately romantic and exciting stories. In Your Eyes is one of her great ones. The characters are well-drawn and realistic. Even the secondary characters are very memorable. The hero in the beginning is bent on revenge, but you cannot help but love him. The heroine is quietly strong and loyal. If you enjoy passionately romantic stories, you will enjoy this one. There is a lot of heart and emotion and truth in this plot and characters. I highly recommend it to mature readers.', 'This is such

a good story. The author has really done her research. The enormous amount of world trade in that day amazed me. I highly recommend this book.', "I've read quite a few of Ruth Axtell's works and like them all. She holds one's attention and her characters are believable.", "Once I'd started I found it difficult to put down. My only complaint was that Dirk didn't wait for Francesca outside Pieter's flat. It would have been far smarter. I won't tell you when or why because I hate spoilers. :)", 'A true love story, passionately written, with discrete seduction. Totally enjoyable. Forgiveness and love from the Creator. I highly recommend it for all ages above pre-teen.', "Excellent plot, easy reading, enjoyable from beginning to end. I'd like to see a sequel to Dirk's story...with Cesca of course."]

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["This story was short, sweet, and predictable. Everything was neatly wrapped-up at the end and tied with a bow. The H and h didn't seem to have very much interaction overall and fell more in gentle lust than love as they didn't spend enough time in each other's company to actually converse or get to know one another.", "This was a well written short read. The characters were well fleshed out and the supporting characters were perfectly placed and not distracting. Harry's acceptance of Olivias quirky nature was very sweet and satisfying. There is no heat level to this story, just a few well placed kisses.", 'I did NOT order this book. My Kindle has been lost or stolen. Do not authorize any more purchases to this account.M. Pegues', 'Loved the characters and the fact they are friends and family. It is fun to see how they relate. Great', "It was a cute story for the time period written and the main characters moved fast into their relationship which surprised me. The hero caught on quickly to the antics of his attraction and was perceptive enough to hear and act upon her concern for her friend - which I'm sure endeared him to her. I enjoyed reading the story and how it played out.", 'I enjoyed this Regency Seasons Novella so much I ordered the next one in the series. A light-hearted, easy, fun read.', 'I loved this book. It had a little bit of everything. Romance and mystery. The characters are clearly written and the story moves at a good pace. The ending answers the questions raised earlier in the book.A sweet romance that is worth the read.', "I rather enjoyed this novella, because I liked that Miranda was a feisty, strong-willed heroine who is willing to go the extra mile for a friend and isn't afraid to do what needs to be done when others won't help her, but was also smart enough to accept help when it became necessary rather than putting herself in needless danger because of stubbornness and pride. Although, she is very stubborn, but she's not dumb.The romance between her and Lord Hercules (great nickname) was quick, as is usual with a novella, but it was also fairly believable. I enjoyed that he liked her spirit and supported her, and that he didn't go overboard with protectiveness or anything.The only thing I didn't like was finding out the answer to the mystery, because it made me a little sad. But at least Miranda and Harry got a HEA.All in all, a sweet little novella with a couple of kisses, a little bit of mystery, and a couple of great characters.", "This book is one of 4 that I have read by this author Keeps your interest. and flows nicely. Take place in 1800s", 'A pleasant story and I enjoy the novella length, but this novella just had too many related characters with too many names each. It was difficult to keep the characters straight.', 'I enjoyed this very much, liked the characters, interesting story just as with most novellas, too darn short! Good basic regency and enjoyable. Good basic regency is a high accolade to me, because I have read some bad regency, that is for sure. Nice to enjoy every page and not have to skip ahead!"]

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["Cutting a Finer Figure is a refreshing change from the myriad of weight loss and diet books out there. Instead of focusing on the latest diet fads to lose weight, it focuses on sensible, down-to-earth actionable steps that anyone can take to begin losing weight in a 'sustainable' manner. Most diets don't work because they demand too much from us - we need to change our eating habits, the types of food we eat, count the calories, etc. They ask us to make lots of changes to our lifestyle which

can be overwhelming and frankly, quite impossible to maintain. We may lose weight a for while, but most people put the weight back on after a while. A much better way, as advocated by this excellent weight loss book is a shift in our mindset - how we view weight loss and healthy lifestyle. It provides simple, yet actionable steps that we can easily follow each day - things such as eating mindfully and chewing slowly, e.g. taking at least 20 minutes to eat your meal because it takes about 20 minutes for the brain to signal to you that you've had enough. This will prevent accidental over-eating. The book ends with a 12 week kick-start plan for healthy eating and exercise which anyone can follow. I highly recommend this easy and practical book on weight loss.", "Victoria does an excellent job of teaching us how to lose weight naturally and more importantly making it sustainable! I love the idea of spreading the changes required for weight loss over a period of weeks, rather than a sudden change all at once. The book is well written and is packed with sensible and realistic guidelines to help you achieve not just a 'finer figure' but a feeling of overall health and wellbeing. The example 12 week kick-start plan is a godsend. Top marks!", "Then this book's for you. I'm not going to lie. I have a really hard time saying no to snacks that aren't so good for me, especially around the holidays. I mean, everywhere you go, there're stacks of pies and cakes and cookies, bowls of nuts, cheese dips--you name it, it's there. So what's a poor girl to do? Well, this book will help answer that question. First, you have to set goals. And not just any goals, but specific goals with time frames. And you have to keep them reasonable, too. That's smart advice. I know I have a bad habit of setting impossible goals and then feeling like a failure when I don't achieve them. Because they're, you know, impossible! And Angel's got no use for diets. See above for my list of beloved foods. But I could use help moderating how much I let myself have, and this book offers smart ways to do just that. I am going to stop myself now before I give away the whole book. Instead, I'll end with a hearty recommendation to go read this if you need some help with your eating habits!", "Although, this book only includes the basics (goal setting, how to recognize when you are hungry, nutrition, and exercise), it was a wonderful help. Many people think that you need to go on crazy, strict diets, which is a very bad idea; they may work short-term, but are ineffective in the long run. I loved that this book emphasized that the way to lose and keep off weight for the rest of your life is to make gradual lifestyle changes. Although, I have heard a lot of this information before, I liked the way it was presented. I took about six pages of notes. Some of the things I loved about this book are: -There is a section that talks about different sources of the different types of food (dairy, carbohydrates, etc). -The author provides approximate serving sizes, so you have an idea of how much you can and/or should eat by sight (without having to measure everything with measuring cups and spoons). -I also liked the instructions on the strength exercises. -I liked the 12 week kick-start plans for healthy eating and exercising. They give you an idea of realistic goals you can set. Although, it may have been nice to have some meal ideas in this book, you can get that from many other sources. To me, this book was mostly about inspiring people to start making changes in their lives. One of my big problems is that I try to do too much, get overwhelmed and discouraged, and stop. This book certainly helped me with that. I've now set some realistic goals and am excited to get started on my goals that will gradually help me get healthier and lose weight. Thank you!", "Cutting a Finder Figure by Victoria Chambers is a practical informational guide that's going to help you get the figure you want. It's not about crazy fad diet tactics that are going to set you up to fail time and again. We've all been there, done that. This book is going to give you the action steps necessary to make a change for the better in your life. One that will leave you feeling lighter and more energetic, and that's just to start! Your action plan involves TWELVE simple actions that are doable and easy to maintain. Slowly you will build off this pattern you've set and before you know it you will be looking for all sorts of minor adjustments you can make that are going to better your health and help you become better friends with the scale. Sensible and practical is what this book is all about. My recommendation is to give it a read and let Chambers know what you've gained...I mean how much you've lost! :)", "This book was good. It has all of the basic things for someone who is a beginner in trying to lose weight. I felt that it gives you a good sense of how to eat healthy without the pressure. I already knew a lot of what is in the book. It was basically a reminder for me.", "The problem with most weight loss books is that, to follow them, you have to make huge changes to your life style. You have to make huge commitments of time and energy, in order to

change your exercise and eating habits. And let's face it, very few of us HAVE that time and energy. It's HARD to change habits. And while we are struggling to make those changes, our regular life, our jobs and families, don't suddenly take a break and leave us alone while we struggle. The beauty of this book is that it suggests little, bite-size changes we can make gradually, and a lot more easily, at our own pace. Those little changes add up over time and result in big changes, without our having to turn our whole lives upside down first. Use this guide to put your own, personalized plan together, or use the 3 month quick-start plan that's also included. This book puts the power into your own hands.", "Don't plan on writing without a proof reader next time yogurt is not usually spelled with an h the plan makes sense and is do able and I will continue to work with my tweaks .I know how long it has taken me to gain all this weight and. I will continue to work per my plan and with the inspiration of people like you.IRENE from TN", 'A thorough perception about body, hunger and weight loss in a different dimension. The author has done excellent job of sharing certain instances and reaction in a appropriate manner. A thorough read and its worth buying.', "The problem with Weight-Loss Books is that many of them are based on outdated ideas about how our bodies work. In this book, the Author incorporates advice based on the latest science to lay out a plan that works without huge sacrifices. The key lies in using simple systems to ensure you stick to your commitments, and setting a routine to monitor your progress. What goes on in the mind is equally as important as what happens in the body, and this book successfully breaks down various taboos and myths which can be obstacles. Most of all, it gives absolutely clear instructions about how to follow good habits, right down to the hour. Can't fault the content or the writing. Recommended.", 'She makes changing your way of eating so easy. The diet mentality is not there. She cuts portions down to a visible reality. Ounces and such are harder to keep track of than a handful or palm size. I plan on implementing this plan as soon as I can. Little steps are something she emphasizes.', 'It is all what we have heard before, but always nice to read again. I like the consistent tips of goal setting. That is always where I seem to fail. But I am all set now to sit down and get the small/short term and larger/long term goals down on paper and get started!', 'Unlike the majority of fad diet, "lose weight fast" books here on Amazon, this book focuses on natural, healthy weight loss through healthy habits! Instead of focusing on a diet mentality, this book focuses on changing your attitude about getting healthy and gives you actionable advice to help you reach your ideal body! Highly recommended!', "Nothing new here. It's a very short, over-simplified "guide" to weight loss: ditch the diet, eat fruits and veggies and exercise more for the rest of your life. Really? Wow. Who knew losing weight and staying fit could be SO easy? What the book does not address is how underlying (often emotional) issues influence and control eating habits, patterns and addictions. If it were so simple, wouldn't everyone be thin and fit? This book was not worth my money or time.", 'It would be fantastic except for the spelling errors. I feel as though no one thought about reading the book before it was published.', "How refreshing! This program is not about sacrificing and depriving oneself in order to lose weight. Victoria gives realistic and sensible changes that still give a bit of wiggle room for indulging in sweets. What I also like is that this plan doesn't have to require extra cash layouts, as do some diets requiring special foods and supplements. She best sums her program up with the statement: "This is not a quick temporary fix.. it's a planned lifestyle change for longterm success."I'm definitely going to follow Victoria's program. For the amount of good sensible advice given, this book is well worth the price. I highly recommend it.", 'Anyone who has ever tried leading a healthier lifestyle knows that there is a lot of information, and that diets are, more often than not, fads that do not work in the long run. It seems that an increasing number of health articles promote customized lifestyles. Readers are encouraged to test various lifestyles and adopt the one that suits them the most. It makes sense that, while the general rules of a certain lifestyle might suit a large group of people, each would need for small, personalized adjustments based on certain characteristics unique to their life. After all, how can a handful of lifestyles fit seven billion people? Empowerment seems key to developing a healthy, personalized lifestyle; we need to learn to read information, analyze it, apply it to our personal situation, experiment with it, and, based on the results, pick and choose elements of a healthy, individualized lifestyle. This is where books such as Creating a Finer Figure come in. Author Victoria Chambers shares advice on how to adjust oneÙs current lifestyle step by step, questioning oneself the

entire way, and trying to make the reader pry out what elements would create their best overall lifestyle. The book reads like a repository of good advice from a well-read friend, is engaging, easy to read, and filled with great advice. Creating a Finer Figure is also filled with concrete suggestions that form a springboard for the reader to start the process of integrating changes into their lives. The only thing I found lacking are clear references to source materials, which I hope will be part of the next edition of this book.']

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["For anyone who wants to get into Internet Marketing. There are a lot of concepts to digest. The Marketing, the list building, and how to convert those lists into buying customers."Big Profits from a small list" will run you through what the purpose of building your list is. The ethical way of obtaining members on your list. Your responsibility to those who trusted you with their information. And the sequence of Autoresponder messages you should configure to gain their trust. And then the sequence of how you go about recommending products.This book stresses that you don't require thousands upon thousand's of members on your list to gain a respectable income. Most of these people who learn to trust you and your recommendations will be repeat buyers of those recommendations."Big Profits from a small list" will also explain the concept of affiliate marketing as the income streams which you end up plugging into your lists.I have been studying this topic for a couple of months now. I wish I had this book a couple months ago to explain some of the key concepts to making money online.", "I've never yet been disappointed with anything Charlie Page has written. I've been on his mailing list for years, and believe he's one of the most straightforward and honest marketers online. He shares an immense amount of information in this short and very readable book. Go get it now!", 'A lot of good stuff packed into a small book. Great read and lots of good information.Way to go Charlie!', "I'm so thankful Charlie Page got into online marketing.It is no surprise that he is highly successful in his online marketing as all his work istransparent in his heart-driven desire to help others succeed online as well.I'm thankful that I was introduced to Charlie and his work by Vick Streizheus, anotherhighly successful online marketer and mentor.Charlie Page is a mentor of mentors in my personal opinion.Thank you for all you do for us.", "This guide has a lot of actionable and clearly described steps to being a successful e-mail marketer. I really appreciate the author's ethical approach to the subject, and it is a resource that I will be coming back to for sure.", 'If your building your list,I recommend you read this book first!! I give it 5 stars!!! Awesome job Charlie!! I love it!!', "If you want a book that is easy to read and get a ton of information out of it thatwill without a doubt, increase your profits, the Big Profits from a small list is for you.You will be amazed at how you fully understand and can profit from any size list/small list.I have read a lot of information on list building and this is by far, The Best.Easy reading, No-Nonsense, and it's do-able for anyone. Get it, you will be happy.", "I love Charlie's style and his commitment to integrity marketing that is profitable and sustainable.If you want to make money online, having Charlie guide you along is a great idea and this book is a great start.", 'I have all of Charlie\'s products and can tell you that you cannot go wrong by following the suggestions in this excellent book. If you\'re not familiar with Charlie\'s marketing methods, this book is a good start. However, don\'t stop there. Look into Charlie\'s other products. I particularly recommend "Follow Up Selling Systems." I\'m a member and highly recommend it. The marketing recommendations contained in that membership site have taken my online business in a positive, profitable direction. But whatever you do now, get this book and follow its direction by "developing a relationship with your list that causes them to like you, trust you and buy from you." You\'ll be glad you did.', 'Charlie is probably the one person that can be trusted on the Internet today.This book is yet another example of someone willing to go the extra mile, in this case, for free.Keep up the good work.']

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[I liked the ending. It was still too erotic but there was a good story line. I finished the book in record time.', "I can't say that I'm happy for Kaye and Jake, they hurt so many people in the name of love. I felt as though Kaye had no remorse for her betrayal to Claire and Rob. Claire is an amazing woman and mother my heart broke for her. Rob… I can't imagine what he felt finding out his wife was cheating and careless enough to get pregnant with his best friend and business partner.", 'CM Hutton has weaved a beautiful tale of stolen kisses, broken hearts, and a love that spans over twenty years. A must read.', "So the last book ended with a cliffhanger and it wasn't addressed soon into the book, that drove me nuts! But the story was amazing! I think I was able to enjoy this book more because they were no longer hiding and I really liked Jake's POV. I thought the hot scenes were hotter and more descriptive. While there was so much tension and drama going on there was more humor also, I laughed out loud a lot! Loved it :)", "Oh my gosh I thought I was going to go crazy while reading this. The cliffhanger that was left at the end of the first book left me reeling. This book went back to the months in between and nothing was resolved till the end. But the waiting was worth it, I was sitting on the edge of my seat. Great read!We are inside Jake's head for this book, looking through his eyes. I really didn't like him and Kaye in the first book, I felt they were both extremely selfish. Their actions were Rob's snapping point and he was nuts in this book. Everyone has a breaking point, I thought Rob was a great guy and didn't deserve any of this, his true colors came through in this book. I am just not sure if this is the kind of guy he is or if their affair just made him insane. Either way he is a total sociopath!There is all kinds of drama with Jake, Kaye and Rob. This is the rest of their story, they truly do love each other and that shows through in every scene with them together. Claire is great in this one, she is a truly strong woman. I can't wait to see her story and see her have a happy ending. I think there is something more to her and Rob, so I am curious to know what.This is an emotional read for me as I do not agree with cheating spouses. Jake should have manned up years ago with his feelings for Kaye, he destroyed many lives to get what he wanted. They both did. But it was still a good read.", "CM Hutton knows how to deliver a story! I actually jotted down notes as I read this book. The story reads in present time and no flowery talk but sizzling love and heartache. CM Hutton keeps you asking those questions and you have to wait until the end to really get the answers. I really enjoyed reading this sequel to PARADISE TAKEN and look forward to the next sequel (Claire's story - Spring 2014).CM Hutton is a new author but I'm betting she is gonna rock the romance world with her words!", "What an amazing ending to Jake and Kaye's story. I was very happy that they got their happily ever after. I was even more excited to see that Claire has her own story coming soon. These two books were amazing reads and I couldn't put them down. CM Hutton did an outstanding job on these books!", "I enjoyed this book. it was somewhat difficult to read because of the way the first book ended and yet you have to go back so far and read nearly the entire book before you know what happened. but that suspense kept me going. I still felt somewhat uncomfortable with this topic. I hated that these families were being broken, yet I was rooting for Kaye and Jake and didn't like Rob at all by the end. it's just sad and unfortunate circumstances that have to take place for these characters to be together and all the collateral damage. still a good book and I was happy in the end.", 'Saving Us was a book I had been desperately waiting on. After reading Paradise Taken, I knew that no even if I had the sequel the next day it wouldn't be fast enough. It was a giant ending and I needed answers. So with that being said when I got the news that I could read saving us I stopped, sat & read it. Now with all that said I want this review to be spoiler free so please don't be mad when you don't get the answers you might want from it. Saving Us picked up a few months before the ending of Paradise Taken, and this book was truly Jake's story. There were parts I just wanted to scream, cry and there was even that moment when I thought if you were a book I'd toss you across the room. (No matter what I said to Kaye & Jake they didn't seem to listen to me.) Yes I talked to them. Seeing Jake and Kaye trying to become a couple while constantly having to deal with a controlling Rob that spent so much of his time just being a jerk because he thought it was his right. PTTease And Claire, no matter the circumstance she always managed to rise above being that woman. Jake and Kaye share so many insecurities thorough out the entire story and have such a hard time learning how to overcome the mistrust they accidentally created by being together. But to me that only added to the truth of the story. Who

wouldn't worry or be insecure if they were starting a relationship the way that they did. All and all CM Hutton didn't disappoint with this book, I enjoyed it and thought that it flowed so well, I would have to say I absolutely loved it!!! Jammie', "Continuation of the roller coaster! This book has so many ups and downs for everyone it was CRAZY! A good crazy because it made it more real. Kaye and Jake started their relationship as two cheaters so it would be normal that they have some doubts and trust issues. I loved getting to see some of their backstory (flashbacks to college days, etc.) Those little glimpses showed just how much Jake loved Kaye and how strong those feelings grew over the years, even though he tried to fight them. They also show what Rob and Claire knew about those feelings, some things weren't as far left field as you might have thought for those two. You see the pain in having to choose to leave one marriage, where nothing is really wrong, for a relationship where it's as right as right should be. (Hopefully that makes sense!) Again, there are no clear winners because everyone involved is hurting. The thing I loved most about this story is that it makes you think. You think about how every decision affects you and those around you, no matter how small. It left me with, everything happens for a reason and as it should be, even if we don't understand why. Be sure to contact the super sweet,, CM Hutton when you finish so you can know the story behind the story with these characters and what parts are REAL!!!", "I don't think I took a full breath until I was finished this book. Jake and Kaye's story is so heartwrenching that there's just no way to stop reading until the very end. I absolutely loved the ending to their story and this is an author that very quickly became one of my favorites. This story will make you cry and make you smile which are all ingredients for an amazing read!", "I am so excited and happy dancing this 2nd book does not disappoint! The characters come alive, this story is so well written, kudos to CM Hutton for a worthwhile wait!! I loved Paradise Taken and fell in love with the story and book 2 was just awesome!! Can't wait for more of this wonderful author. Love you Cristy xoxo", "This was an emotional rollercoaster of a read from start to finish and I had to step away from it to process the range of emotions and situations the characters find themselves in. This book follows directly on from the events of Paradise Taken and deals with the aftermath of Kaye and Jake's actions and decisions. Love is not always straightforward nor easy and, in the case of Kaye and Jake, is complicated. They are in love with each other but married to other people. It would be easy to judge them and despise them for this but we can not help who we fall in love with. CM Hutton deals with the story in a sensitive manner and helps us empathise with Kaye and Jake. The story examines the impact it has on Rob and Claire, their other halves, and their children. Under so much pressure, the true nature of the characters come out: - some rise to the occasion and some get nasty. It is not a smooth road to their happy ever after for Kaye and Jake and nor should it be but at times it is scary, always emotional and shows that true love will stand the tests that life throws at them. I really loved this book - CM Hutton has dealt with a difficult situation in an emotive, sensitive and realistic way. I have great respect for the way that Kaye and Jake handled the aftermath of their decision. However you feel about what they did, you can not help but feel that what Rob puts them through was just pure wrong - no one deserved that. A must read!", 'Saving Us by author CM Hutton is my latest guilty pleasure. What a deliciously scandalous novel that is right up there sky high on my naughty read pileup. The heat level is intense with a passionate and heart quivering storyline that leaves me tingling upon completion. I was kindly provided a complimentary reviewers copy.', "It's difficult for me to find the words to describe how I felt when reading this story. I felt so many emotions it is difficult to express them. Saving Us is an emotion provoking story. I highly recommend this book!", "I enjoyed this story so much, both parts. I loved Jake and his true love. Claire turned out to be a class act too.*side note- Saving Us really needs a better editor. Many, many mistakes but it didn't take away from the story", "What a rollercoaster ride! In the first book I felt sorry for Rob and Claire. I don't feel sorry for Rob anymore. What an immature jerk. I knew when I started reading this story couldn't end happily for everyone, but the love between Jack and Kaye is so heart felt it pulls you into their story! The children seem to be adjusting well. The only person I still feel sorry for is Claire. I loved this story, Saving Us and is a MUST READ. I'm glad to hear that Claire will get her story and hopefully her happy ending in the next book.", 'Saving Us by C.M. Hutton Series: Paradise Taken #2 Genre: Contemporary Romance>Erotic Romance Age Group: Adult Release Date: February 6th 2014 Length: 347 pages Format: Kindle Source: Purchased Review

Date: April 2014
Steam Rating: Scorcher
Overall Rating: 5 STARS
Review: You have to read Paradise Taken before Saving Us. Whereas Paradise Taken was in Kaye POV, this one is in Jake's POV and starts towards the end of Paradise Taken. Although many of the events are concurrent the storyline is different enough that you don't feel like you are reading the same story. This is the "stuff" we did not find out or understand in the first book.

****Spoilers Ahead if you did not read book one****

I have so much I want to say about these books that I don't even know where to start. I adored Paradise Taken, but Saving Us went above and beyond. The writing was phenomenal, I FELT EVERYTHING. I read this book as quick as life would let me. When I HAD to put it down I was so annoyed! It was one of those kinds of books. The way Paradise Taken ended left me raw, and emotionally spent. But I HAD TO KNOW what happened with the baby. We KNOW he is not dead, so why did Kaye say he was? What could possibly have forced her to be so cruel? I'd like to put it out there that you will NOT get these answers immediately. We go through a lot with Jake and Kaye before that happens. We see just how much he loves her, and just how wonderful a person he is despite the affair. He did not want to love her like he did, he just couldn't help it. We also get a good look into Rob, Kaye's husband. And wow... He is a real d#@kh%ad. He is controlling, arrogant, narcissistic, and by the end I wanted to kill him myself. I thought he was an okay guy that got hurt in Paradise Taken, but I ended up being glad Kaye left him because he became a monster. And Claire. Oh poor Claire :(She is an amazing woman--truly the real "heroine" of the novels. I wanted so badly for her not to hurt, but I knew that there was nothing to be done. And the sex--somebody ice me down! Wow! It is from a man's POV so I am not shocked that he thought about sex a lot - It read like an erotic romance. Which was just fine with me ;) "No one will ever love you as I have for twenty years. This is us, right here, right now, forever feeling what we do to each other. Even at my simplest touch, you're about to come. This is us, Kaye, forever. Never forget."

Overall, I HIGHLY RECOMMEND this two book series. I did like this one a little more than the first because I thought the Author's writing had evolved from good to great. Like I said before, she had me on the edge of my seat the ENTIRE time with Saving Us.

~StacyHggBooks Unhinged Book Blog', "SUMMER'S BOOK BLOG"

Book was kindly given by the author for an honest review

Another emotional ride with this second installment of the series and if haven't read book one, I suggest that you do, so you can fully understand the story. It starts off right where we left these couples and I must say I liked this one even better because now we were able to see how the actions of two people changed the lives of so many. It made everything more poignant for me because this love wasn't just a flying fancy, it was a secret harbored so many years that couldn't be held inside anymore. You know what you learn from reading this book? "Never judge someone until you have walked a mile in their shoes". Yes, they cheated, yes their actions inflicted pain unto others and innocent people were affected but what about them? Should they have suffered in silence and accepted a dull and passionless life? Only going through the motions, existing not living? Now that the affair is revealed it's a whole different ball game and new elements are thrown into the mix, danger, resentment, anger, and unforgiving stances. The road that these two lovers are on is paved with ups and downs, good and bad, pain and joy along with twists and turn. It is not an easy path but one that Jake and Kaye are committed too. It will leave you on the edge of your seat and quickly turning the pages to see what happens next. Lives are shattered and rebuild, new and unexpected joys are experienced and heart breaking and dangerous moments are lived, making this a book you will laugh, cry, cheer and rejoice with.

C M Hutton did a brilliant job bringing to life this difficult subject matter and making it tasteful and meaningful as can be. I recommend this book for anyone looking to get a glimpse into a two couple that will leave them thinking about this couple for a long time to come.", "Not often does a book/s make me really sit back and think after reading... and this one definitely does! This Sequel is so emotional! You will be in pain, love, anger and more while reading. You feel for Jake and Kaye and the other characters and you will be an emotional wreck until the very end. The ending of Paradise Taken is shocking.... and then you get to see the entire love story unfold from the eyes of Jake in this book. Jake has always been in love with Kaye. He knows what he did was wrong to her and her family, his family/kids. Yet, he will never regret the baby he has created with Kaye. He will do anything to keep her safe and be with her if he can. This book shows his feelings for Kaye from the very beginning and throughout the years, feelings he had

about his wife, the way he and Rob met and their friendship and more... and then up to present day like. Rob will be quite frustrating in this book and doesn't let anyone have an easy time at all... which makes it hard for their kids, Kaye and also Jake. Being that both books deal with cheating it is hard to pull off a book with it, but CM does a remarkable job of having us fall in love and sympathize with everyone involved. She makes it in a way that is tasteful and full of love and not pure hate. I am being kind of vague in a sense for this review due to not wanting to spoil anything.... let me just end with saying... you will fall in love with Jake, Kaye, Claire, and all the kids. The kids are remarkable and so are a few friends in this book. Despite the deceit and lies there is true love shown and given in this book. If you love caring, kind, compassionate, forgiving people, mixed with pain, lies, deceit, angst and more you will absolutely love this Sequel to Paradise Taken. 4 emotional stars from me.***I have to say that I have contacted that author to find/learn the background behind the truth in this series... and woah! You will be floored with all the details. I want you to know that should you too like to learn about this in detail you may contact her. She is super sweet and willing to tell you all about it. All you have to do is email her or find her on FB and she will certainly chat and talk with you!"]

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['Great characters and a really good read I would really recommend this book to any thriller fan this whole series rocks.', "You know the good thing about websites like this? You get to discover new books and series you normally would never have heard of before or would've just overlooked for some odd reason. I had never really noticed this series before, but the description of this book really intrigued me since I love archeology and I'm just starting to get into the military genre, which this book has both plus a bit of humor from the back and forth between the two MCs. I even went back and downloaded the first book in this series after I finished. Here's hoping this novella wasn't just a fluke. Thanks to Netgalley for the ARC.", "I really enjoyed The Dig it picked up right after One Rough Man. Brad Taylor's Pike Logan series is a Must read. The characters are great, the writing is superb and the stories are full of adventure, excitement, humor and just the right amount of romance.", 'This author again has been spot on very good and creative writing. I would like to recommend this book to anyone who wants to read a very good book I will be downloading his next book in a few minutes.', 'THE DIG is a short story featuring Pike and Jennifer and is set in the weeks leading up to Jennifer's attempt at joining the Taskforce. I've read the Taskforce series since it began with ONE ROUGH MAN and I'd suggest that if you are a fan of Pike Logan then you will enjoy this story as well. The premise of the story is pretty standard fare for author Brad Taylor - Pike and Jennifer have some conflict over his being super-macho-man, Pike and Jennifer get caught unexpectedly in a real jackpot of a situation, Pike and Jennifer resolve the jackpot using the traits that had caused their earlier conflict ... In this case the jackpot develops when Pike and Jennifer go on an archaeological dig only to stumble into a top secret government project, a search for a mysterious artifact, and two opposing factions with big guns and hidden agendas. Don't worry, Pike's predictable in that he will always do the right thing. Even if it's dangerous. Especially if it's dangerous. Because if there's one thing he can't stand, it's for the good guys to stand quietly on the sidelines and let the bad guys exert their will and influence on society. In the past Taylor's critics have called the dialogue in his books "cheeky" along with other equally unimpressive adjectives (especially for his penchant to have Pike use sappy movie quotes) - and he's been criticized for having too simplistic a worldview and for using a writing style that's equally simplistic - but you know, I really don't think Taylor cares a whit about any of that. And why should he? He knows and understands his audience. Taylor is writing for readers who enjoy it when the good guys are relentless in their belief that bad guys should be beat as often as possible as a matter of principle. And if that's not what you enjoy reading, then take a pass. But if you think it's kind of cool when one of the bad guys takes his best punch at the hero, and the hero responds by calling it "a girly little roundhouse" (as Pike does in THE DIG) ... then you absolutely should be reading this and everything else written by Brad Taylor.', "A short story set just after the first book "One Rough Man";, this gives an insight in to Grolier's first

official gig, which of course goes terribly wrong. Very enjoyable.", "From cover to cover 'The Dig' is a super-charged, action packed story of Pike Logan developing Jennifer into a potential team member. Convincing Jennifer to start up the company forms the back drop of the story. Their relationship develops with more rough road on an almost daily basis that leaves you wondering, if or when it might become a personal relationship. Pike, a man who has no real life other than death and destruction, appears to be developing into a man who has a weakness in being protective of Jennifer. This creates a problem with her own ego that makes her fight everything that Pike stands for and differs from her previous life. The answers will only become apparent in later stories not answered in 'The Dig.'", "Can't wait for the full novel. Love Brad's writing and his grasp of the modern political field and how it has many levels.", "Taylor hits another homerun. Great writing skills and knowledge required to get the next story about taskforce operations in your hands. Thanks for another great read. I have read most of Brad's books and have enjoyed everyone of them. He puts the reader in the action. Thanks for another great read.", "Thought it would be interesting with Roswell being involved. Moved too fast from "location-to-location." Very choppy. I enjoy Brad Taylor's book, but not this little tidbit.", 'I like Pike Logan, but feel he is ben emasculate by his girlfriend. When he is alone doing his thing, he is strong and unbeatable, but when she is with him, he becomes a whimp', 'Great little taste of some of my favorite Brad Taylor characters to tide me over until next month when the new novel comes out!', "I've been reading Pike and Jennifer's adventures from the beginning. I thought Brad Taylor was a good writer, but he manages to improve with each outing. Now I'm on the hook for the next book.", 'Set between the novels One Rough Man and All Necessary Force in the Pike Logan series, "The Dig" takes place before Jennifer formally joins the Taskforce, just after Pike has formed Grolier Recovery Services as a front for Taskforce operations. The story involves the first job for which Grolier is hired, checking out an archeological site near Roswell, New Mexico. Of course, the job is not as straightforward as it seems. The setting gives Pike a chance to make X-Files jokes but the plot does not involve aliens. That doesn't mean it isn't farfetched -- it hinges on the improbable coincidence that Grolier's first legitimate assignment would lead Pike and Jennifer to a conspiracy that indirectly threatens national security -- but the story is clever and such coincidences are common in modern thrillers. As Brad Taylor fans have come to expect, the story moves quickly and builds to some exciting action scenes. While "The Dig" is peppered with action, it is primarily notable for its character development. Pike and Jennifer are still at an early stage of their relationship -- they barely have a friendship -- and Pike is all thumbs when it comes to handling women. The banter between Pike and Jennifer (with Jennifer firmly in control and Pike fumbling to say the right thing) is something that fans of the series will recognize and enjoy. "The Dig" is a promotional story that is meant to entice readers to read Days of Rage, the next Taskforce novel. An excerpt from that novel (which I won't review since it is only an excerpt) is included with the story. Promotional stories are a recent trend made possible by the advent of digital publishing. They aren't always good, but this one is.', 'A very good suspenseful read..you will be entertained.', 'Looks like a great read. Off to a good start and recognizes long, held enemies forgotten. Brad Taylor probably has another winner.']

BOOIWAIUIE

["This is a scorching hot sci-fi read. Alexia is attracted to the android Miles who is assigned to protect her. But nothing is what it seems. What is the truth about Miles and his mission really? Well, you will have to read this delicious book yourself. You won't regret it!", 'This is a very short story. I thought it was well written and I liked the main characters. For me, this read like a portion of or a distilled portion of a book. The characters were a bit one dimensional and I would have liked a bit more romance. What is described in the book is really the attraction seen at the beginning of a relationship and there's a sexy scene at the end but that felt more like a filler to satisfy erotica readers. In any event, the story is creative and I enjoyed it while I read it.', "I think author Charity Parkerson has chosen the perfect time to bring back cyborgs. She puts her own spin on the genre, making it exciting and sexy. Miles must protect his owner, but there is more to it than that. Taboo

love and intrigue mesh well with modern-day elements like the war on terror. I would have liked to see a little more on Miles background, but I'm sure that will come as the series progresses.", 'I enjoyed this book and it will make a good series. I would have enjoyed it more if it started when they first met. I like the build up between a couple.', "Synopsis: Alexia is an artist in the world of AI. When her commitment and integrity put her in danger, she's assigned MILES, an AI who doesn't exactly function as advertised. When the danger comes crawling home, MILES is there. When the dust settles, there is a lot of explaining to do from more than one quarter.Pros: This is a barn burner of a start to a new erotic sci-fi series. I'm not generally one to give 5 stars to short stories, but this one gets every last one. It has tech, it has sex, it has a dominant alpha male, it has a smart, strong, and sexy heroine who doesn't act all stupid. I hope the short story turns into a series of longer stories. The plot start is solid, you aren't left hanging but there is lots of room to expand, and you can read it on a lunch break.Cons: It is short, and it ends long before you want it to. It has a good beginning, middle, and end though, so really the only true beef is that the next one isn't out yet.Opinion: Buy now. This book that crosses the best of Viola Grace's rich visual style with Laurann Dohner's sensuality and gritty characters. I definitely look forward to more.", "If this new series by Charity Parkerson had a tagline, it would be, "I'm not done with you yet." By the time you get to the end of this too short story, you'll be wanting more.If Charity Parkerson's intentions was to blow the doors off the house with this series, then, mission accomplished. I thoroughly enjoyed getting into this tale of Alexia and the forbidden affair with Miles, a cyborg. Oh, there are complications, and in typical Parkerson style, they are in steamy abundance. The lines between reality and fantasy truly do become blurred for Alexia. This is a modern day take on intrigue, sex, and mystery set in the near future that delivers.I love the premise of the series and excited about seeing a different side to the creative imagination of the mad workings of Parkerson's mind. Not to spoil anything here but I was left with a thought by the end of the story. Is it sometimes better to not know than to know at all? What a great stage setting for the next installment in Alexia's quest for the truth. Yeah, I'm ready for the next one,", "I love the premise of this book - a cyborg that you could fall in love with. The book is set in the future where robots are sexy. Alexia is a girl who can look after herself, but there's something going on that even she won't be able to protect herself from. Miles, her cyborg, is hotter than hot but his job is to protect her. And even if they could get together, he doesn't have real feelings - he's not human.I hope this doesn't give too much away, but boy can Charity write a sex scene. This book had romance, sex, intrigue, fast plot (in fact too fast as the book was so good I wished it was longer) and three dimensional characters. This book is one of my faves from Charity - I enjoyed it as much as I did The Sexy Witches first book. I can't wait for the rest of this series to come out!", "Fast paced and thrilling. Made me wish it was a longer story. I can't wait to read more. Sure to be a hit.", "Real or not!This author writes different genre, so I wasn't surprised she came out with a story about technology. It's not far from what's going to happen in the future. Androids helping run our lives, Alexia doesn't want a android following her every move, even a hunk like Miles. Miles must look after Alexia because someone is out to hurt her. When Miles starts to do as he pleases instead of what she tells him, like staring at her and getting sexual, androids aren't suppose to have these feeling for humans, she gets very confused because androids are suppose to obey, not do as they please. Alexia is starting to like miles and knows he's not real, or is he? Yes, there are very hot and steamy parts to this book. I'm thinking I might want a Miles, bahahahahaha! Great start to what I'm sure will be a awesome series, I already can't wait for more of Miles.", 'WOW!!! Great start to a new series. I am so looking forward to more. This story is fast paced and filled with everything I love : Smoking hot scenes, Sci-fi and a creative story line..Alexia is a strong, feisty woman who is assigned protection from terrorists..Miles the hot and sexy "android" guard, is full of surprises...mystery,intrigue and sizzling sex..Very Hot!!!', "This futuristic read is sinfully delicious. Parkerson has an addictive writing style that had me devouring the pages. The chemistry between Alexia and her sexy cyborg Miles was alluring and well crafted. This story is highly recommended for sci-fi lovers and those looking to expand their sub genre reading experience. I'll definitely be following this deliciously spine-tingling series!", "Even though this is very short, I was able to lose myself in the story, feel the emotions of the characters, and imagine the sensations described. I liked the hero's protectiveness, enhanced observation skills

and, of course, his desire for the heroine, who is smart and capable. She isn't one of those childish damsels in distress caused by her own dumb choices.", 'Cyborgs are almost always a win for me. I really liked how she had the cyborg of this story pretend to be an android. It was a nice spin on the man pretends to be machine to seduce a woman storyline. :)', 'Inoperative: Cyborg One by Charity Parkerson Loved this one! Luscious Alexia chasing her emotions to get carried away with Miles, her hot protective cyborg. Sex-filled, stirring passions and engaging characters. Evocative and confused feelings grip the reader throughout the pages of this sizzling techno tease. A fast-moving superb read, which is another great book from Parkerson. A mysterious development leads to a sensual sexy sci-fi - 5*****', 'Last week I listened to Inoperative: Cyborg One and probably enjoyed the experience a little too much. Such is the way of well written erotica. Shall we call it a guilty pleasure? The vivid, exciting scenes definitely caught my imagination. Why did I like this story more than other erotica? The answers lies in the characters and the plot. I felt there was something at stake, and that the hero and heroine were going to face the danger. I highly recommend this story for fans of exotic who also want a great story. Charity Parkerson does a great job and I look forward to reading her books (especially more in the Cyborg series). Hollie Jackson narrates the audiobook to perfection.', "I really liked this story. It was very good with great interaction between the main characters. The story really was too short would have loved more. The first in the series it was a great start and I can't wait for more.", "This was a great short story. It makes me want more. The concept, while not totally original, is well delivered. The characters were interesting and the male lead was sexy. I'll definitely keep an eye out for more cyborg books from Charity Parkerson."]

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['A well written short story, that gives you a good depth of the characters and surrounding world with few words. Leaves you wanting more in a way that makes the story even better.', "Prior to reading this, I wasn't really sure what to expect. The cover isn't something that would normally catch my eye, and I'm not very familiar with historical fiction. However, the necromancy concept is one I frequently enjoy exploring, so I decided to give this one a go. As you can see, it worked out well :) I've read a lot of paranormal romance, and I have a heart for gothic fantasy, but I've never read something quite like this before. If you are looking for something original, Larkspur will not disappoint. The key to great fiction is tension, suspense, mystery, and well-drawn characters--all of which Larkspur provides in spades. I like my fiction dark, and V.M. Jaskiernia knows how to deliver. Her approach to necromancy was fresh and alluring, the story was fluid, and I was full immersed in the world V.M. created from the first page. I will definitely consider reading more of her work.", "This story boasts a unique writing style an a unique world. The interaction and development of the characters is incredible, and those characters will have you hooked in no time. What first seems to be a world hanging perhaps too tightly to social standards soon gives way to the much darker grim reality. The story doesn't leave you unsatisfied at any point, but offers plenty of teases into what else is going on in the world. As the series progresses, I'm excited to see where the author takes the story as she adds depth and truly fleshes out the world. If the series does not continue, I fear this novella falls a little flat for my taste. If it does, then this could be the start of something wonderful.", "I have to be honest, this was my first necromancer book. AS I first began to read this book, I was a bit concerned I was not going to be able to get into it. However, with each page I turned, I was sucked into the story even more. It is a very unique story, that you just feel the need to have more of. I scored it a 4 because I felt their could have been a little more character development. There were times I felt a bit confused because I did not understand what was going on. I feel some back story on the characters might have helped with that some. With that being said, the story was darkly beautiful and I am awaiting book 2, as I feel a deep need to know what happens next. Perhaps Pierre has me under a spell just from reading the book....or perhaps it is Lizzy that I must find out more about. I do believe that in his only way Pierre love Lizzy, but I fear, Lizzy will has fallen in love with someone in which she has no idea of what he is capable of. Could this lead to a falling out, or a Gothic love affair that the readers can't put down. I, myself can not wait to find out!", "I've read few necromancer books in

my past. Therefore, I looked forward to expanding my horizons and including Larkspur with my reading material. I was not disappointed. V. M. Jaskiernia's writing style is unique in that it is formal. We don't see a lot of that in today's literature. I enjoyed it. In addition, she has an excellent ability to create a picture through the use of dialogue. Not every author can do that.", "This was a different kind of necromancer from what I am used to, but strangely intriguing. It reminded me of Diablo's Necromancers. They are not always power mad evil characters. They are more normal people who have a darker outlook on life. The only thing was it was a bit slow with the main character being sick most of the story. Very interesting start to a series, I will probably follow it, but I would like to see more action in the future.", 'This book is in the Fantasy genre, in particular it is a dark fantasy romance. Now, normally, I am not a romance person, but I took a shine to this one because it was about a necromancer and not your typical vamp fiction'; not that I don't love vamps, mind you. But this one looked unique. I was not wrong. I was very happy I picked up this book. It was very unique and I enjoyed the book very much. You won't be disappointed if you like the general feel of dark fiction, but are looking for something with a bit of a different feel to it. I like authors who show the reader the respect of spending the time thinking about the little things; not obsessing over them, mind you, but making sure that things work; like character titles (Lords and Ducs and Princes and such) and getting the geography right getting the language and dialects to fit, and just making sure that all the small details fit into the bigger story. I think Ms. Jaskiernia has done this wonderfully. Necromancers are cool, let's be honest. The idea of necromancy is even cool; but we've all been inundated with zombie animators and such. But, this book is even unique as it relates to the masters of the dead! The characters in this book are very well written and the conflict between them builds quickly and early and doesn't really relax. Overall, I thought that this was a really good book. If you like this kind of fiction, pick it up. If you are not generally into it, you might be surprised. Give it a shot!', 'Larkspur: A Necromancer's Romance by V.M. Jaskiernia Larkspur Series Volume 1; Clandestina Pierre Salvador, duc de Piques is the son of a Fae. He was left with the royal family when his father and sister returned to their own plane. He is practicing in the dark magics, and becoming stronger at it. When he returns home after finishing his schooling, a ball is thrown in his honor of his twenty-fourth birthday. Pierre is surprised that an old childhood friend arrives, and he finds the fondness he had for her many years ago, is still there. Lady Elizabeth Anne, Lizzy as Pierre affectionately calls her, is pleased to see her old friend. When he falls ill at the ball, she stays in Clandestina to help him, rather than returning home with her mother. She knows a thing or two about magic and necrocraeft, although she doesn't seem to know how deeply Pierre is involved in it. This book is the first volume in the series and it does end with the reader knowing more will come, maybe a tiny cliffhanger, not too bad. This story is fantasy romance with a bit of a dark side. Pierre is a duc and about to learn to run a duchy, but the magics seems to be his first love. Once the story gets past the first introductions it flowed very easily. This was not my usual type of story and I was surprised to find that I did enjoy it and wasn't ready for it to end. I'll be looking forward to Volume 2, Delphinium.**Received book from author for a fair and honest review', 'Larkspur is a dark fantasy mixed with historical fiction and some pretty awesome characters. Pierre Salvador has just graduated medical school and has returned home for a party in his honor. He has eyes for only one woman, Lady Elizabeth. They dance the night away, and then suddenly Pierre starts to feel ill. Little does anyone know, Pierre has been completing tasks for the lady of death, Mora. This short novel was awesome. It was full of twists and surprises that had me on the edge of my seat. I was a little confused about what was happening at the beginning of the book, but then things sorted themselves out. I was captured by this fantastical world. True to the title, Larkspur was featured throughout the story. Pierre gives Lady Elizabeth purple larkspur signifying first true love. The characters were well thought out and felt real. I recommend this book to anyone who enjoys historical fiction, dark fantasy, and stories with many twists and turns. I am not a historical fiction lover, but I really enjoyed this book.', 'Dark Fantasy, even DF Romance, can cover a multitude of dubious landscapes, but Larkspur proved a frisson of delight with its twisted reflection of the Age of Enlightenment. Despite the quasi-European aristocratic setting of grand house, footmen and gardens by moonlight, the author does not attempt to weigh the story with description. Instead

she uses deft touches to ignite readers' own internal picture-scapes thus creating visual backdrops unique to each reader. For a new writer this shows an exceptionally mature grasp of the alchemy of story-telling. The choice of formal speech patterns and internal narrative fits impeccably with the setting and the strict hierarchy where a signalling fan spoke as loudly as an averted eye, and where no unwed lady walked without a chaperone. And yet the lady is without a chaperone; part trusting to familial connections, part spurred by unseen Mama for an above-station marriage; and the innocent steps into a gilded chamber where the knowledge of healing is openly exalted and the mastery of the soul's journey beyond death pursued with the craving of an addict. VM Jaskiernia has created her world so well that the fey, the allusions to other realms with unique attributes, sits as easily as Pluta, the familiar that cleanses misdeeds, and the ephemeral Lady of Death, and I truly felt for the quivering girl in her nightgown and the torn suitor who delivers her up. If no 2 in the series, Delphinium, had been available I would have shunned the next on my TBR list and devoured it. Alas I had to make do with joining the author's mailing list so I don't miss its launch date. I suggest you do, too.'

'LARKSPUR: A NECROMANCER'S ROMANCE by V. M. Jaskiernia is a beautifully written Dark Fantasy novelette. According to the author, it is the first published story set in the land of Clandestina, a Victorian-esque France/England. Clandestina has some of the best healers around. Doctors there are skilled in medicine and surgery. This land is also rich with magic and has portals into Faery. The story begins when Pierre Salvador, the duc of Piques, returns home from medical school, having graduated one year early. He's quite talented in the practice of medicine. At a party in his honor, he dances with Lady Elizabeth Anne. It's clear that they have deep feelings for each other. However, true to Victorian custom, they treat each other with proper etiquette. When Pierre becomes seriously ill at the party and retreats to his room, Lady Elizabeth volunteers to help with his care. We soon discover that Pierre's sickness is due not to natural causes, but to his practicing the dark art of necromancy. We also learn that Pierre is in love with two women: Lady Elizabeth Anne and Mora, the Lady of Death. From this point on, there are many twists in the story, right straight through to a revealing twist at the end. The author's writing style reminds me of THE HISTORIAN by Elizabeth Kostova. LARKSPUR is convincingly written as though the story is real history. V. M. Jaskiernia does a wonderful job of creating a world in which both the dialogue of the characters and the language of the writer/narrator reflect the time and place of a Victorian-style Europe, in the same way that Elizabeth Kostova convincingly created a European world in which vampires supposedly lived. LARKSPUR also reminds me of Anne Rice's vampire novels, in that both Anne Rice and V. M. Jaskiernia have the ability to make Dark Fantasy beings seem real; with needs, desires, and lives in many ways similar to those of the normal human beings with whom they share the world.'

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["At 29 pages long, this isn't a book, it's a pamphlet!! If readers are required to meet length requirements for a reviews, authors should have to meet length requirements before calling something a book.", "This short story does not have any structure. It's as if the author wrote an outline of a story and then added a few sentences for each point. There is no character development, no background, no defined time period. Too much missing even for a short story.", "What to say. I expected a book and received what I would call a short story. it was more like what we used to read in True Romance Magazine. If you read (What used to be the back cover of a paperback book), you've almost read the whole thing, or at least there wasn't anything new inside.", 'ending too abrupt..would have been nice to have had an epilogue that helped to finish the storyline...otherwise it was a nice bedtime story.', "Highlander's Burden is a very short story. Not a lot of character development but good story for when you have limited amount of time and do not want to get involved in a longer book.", 'it was like watching a movie and having it stop 1/3 of the way through. disappointing to say the least.', "Siobahn is devastated when her husband Colin dies in battle. Colin's cousin John, as the heir, moves in with Siobahn in order to protect her and to take

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['Get off processed foods, lose weight and feel better with “International Paleo Recipes: 59 Delicious Paleo Perfect Gluten-Free Recipes For Your Friends And Family.” Author Tag Powell has put together a great book that contains delicious recipes and ideas to try.', "Great cookbook for me as I was craving some new Paleo recipes. Easy to read format for recipes and

especially the preparation instructions. The meal plans were handy, too. I just printed out the shopping list and headed to the store. Will look forward to more of this author's cookbooks. Great value!", "This book provides wonderful healthy recipes with tons of variations. I really enjoyed looking through it, now I can't wait to cook from it...My family and I are really excited each recipe looks delicious!", "So many choices with different taste sensations. The author truly takes you around the world with his international recipes. With so much content, you can plan several weeks of meals with this one book. Here's a meal plan I made: Breakfast - Cuban Spinach & Avocado Omelet Lunch - Morocco Chicken & Sweet Potato Stew Snack - Mexican Meatballs with Tomato Sauce Salad - Fresh Berry Salad with Strawberry Vinaigrette Dinner - Spiced Roast Beef Dessert - Southern Pecan Pie with Date Crust", "Generous 59 International Paleo recipes. I've already sampled a few: Moroccan Almond Crackers and Sweet & Sour Potatoe Salad are so far my favourites. There are some amazing recipes from foods that are very healthy, but I never liked them, for example Brussel Sprouts. Thanks to the author. Recommended.", "I am impressed by the list of recipes contained in this book. I have looked through them all and just know they are going to be delicious. When you have been eating Paleo for any length of time you learn which combinations of ingredients work best. While I have not tried them all yet I did whip myself up some Bangkok Stir Fried Beef & Veggies with the Vanilla Apple Crisp for dessert and loved them. If you are looking to add another delicious Paleo recipe book to your collection.", "I didn't set out to find a Paleo recipe book, but some of these recipes sounded so good I couldn't resist. I wasn't disappointed. One good item after another. Definitely worth buying!", "This is a great compilation of paleo recipes. But what I really like is that they are also gluten free. These recipes are very versatile and cover both those who need to eat gluten free for health reasons but can still eat paleo and natural too. It has a lot of very good recipes that are really easy to make. The recipes are taken from all over the world which offers a great variety to taste and try! Great book!", "So much good stuff in this book! First of all, if you are unsure of what Paleo actually is it is simply explained. Then follows some truly mouth-watering recipes. The variety of the dishes is surprising and I was very taken by the pomegranate and cucumber salad. Care has been taken to stay true to the taste of international cuisines by careful substitutions of Paleo ingredients. Excellent Paleo recipe book - recommended.", "In our family, we loosely follow the Feingold diet - no artificial colors, flavors or preservatives. We also avoid refined sugar and high fructose corn syrup. We eat pretty well at dinner time, but haven't always done the best when trying to prepare a quick lunch for our 7-year old son. I love this cookbook - it has healthy versions of meals my son loves like chicken nuggets and fish sticks. It also has a great variety of international meals. Our favorites so far are the Mexican Chicken and Avocado burrito and the Asian sesame chicken. Highly recommended!", "I liked the recipes in this cookbook, they are well presented in logical groups for easy selection and I particularly liked the gluten free aspect. In addition to some great recipes, links to meal plans and other useful information can be accessed from the links within the ebook, a nice inclusion. Eating Paleo and gluten free just makes sense and this book provides the right recipes.", "I'm impressed with this book. It seems to have just about everything a dedicated paleo eater would want in a recipe book... a wide array of delicious sounding recipes for assorted snacks, meals and deserts. It even includes a handy explanation of the benefits of the paleo approach for curious friends and relatives. On the downside, the book doesn't have many photos, but it really doesn't need them because the recipes are thoroughly and logically explained. I had no idea that paleo dishes could be so appealing!"

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[Wow! These two stories are both painful, exciting, and sexy! I love how each has a different issue and solution with plenty of steamy hotness! Very well written!', 'Enjoyed these two stories about couples falling in love. The characters were interesting with one book having an unusual story line. I did not like that they were continued instead of having an ending.', 'These are two romances in one book. I really enjoyed the first book. Ashly is dumped at the altar by Jake. It really hits her hard and she is heartbroken. She is upset but determined to move on with her life. When Jakes enters the

picture five years later, she is totally taken by surprise. They have to travel around the globe so she can get her inheritance. Their stay in Africa was magical and adventurous as they explored this beautiful country and went on safari. I really enjoyed this book and I can't wait to see what happens now. I'm hoping Ashly will open up her heart again and give Jake a chance. The second book was good too and I fell in love with Elijah and Charity. It was a fantastic contemporary romance that kept me anxiously flipping through the pages. These were both heartfelt stories that make you wonder if forgiveness is possible. I hope so.', "Not everyone can deal with it well. In both books there are strong heroine's with tales that hook you in the heart... You will want to read the rest of their stories!", "Breathtaking. Both stories reeled me in from beginning to end! Rose and Timms are an excellent team. I'll definitely be reading more by both authors!", "Can't get myself to finish. Started out interesting by Jake disappeared on Ashly 30 min prior to wedding. No info on where he's at until 25mil inheritance. Of course any guy would do anything to get that money, he's just a fire fighter. What really doesn't make sense is for a rich girl to have never been vacationing at places such as Grand Canyon? Really? And she loves being in luxury hotels? Shouldn't that be the norm for her? And a rich girl can't get a loan for her business that she has to do the deal? Wouldn't recommend this book.", "We all remember those relationships that went bad and left a sour taste in our mouths, but not many writers can take the pain and turn it into compelling literature. Sierra Rose is one who can and in My Despicable Ex, the first part of the Ashly Roberts Saga we are drawn in by so many scenes and inferences that make us gasp and say: mmm, yes, that's him, that happened to me - men, can't live with them, can't do without that certain something only they can provide. The villain of the piece is Jake Connors - young, handsome, a man you just know as the wedding bells begin to chime that he is going to do Ashly wrong. Read Part I and you will be hooked.", 'I have read both stories (Pt 1) shown here before. And have enjoyed the journey each had. I finished with the first and second part of "My Despicable Ex" and posted reviews under each one there. Also with pt 1 of "Saving Forever - Part 1". Am waiting to read pt 2 of this one soon. Each pt 1 motivated me to buy the next part.', "I thought I was getting 2 stories. When the first book dead-ended, I didn't even start the second book. Glad this was free, I hate paying for books and get to the end and find it's part one of three. Put it all in one book. It's not like they are long books...we're not talking Gone With the Wind. You can put it all in one book and be done with it.", 'Excellent story lines with exquisite characters. Stories make it impossible to not continue the series and you will fall in love with the characters.', 'Just a couple of short stories that you need to buy more books to get the complete story. I prefer reading complete stories.', "Loved both Ashly and Charity's stories and need to read the next installments NOW. Just love how both authors manage to draw you in and make you care about the characters. Can't wait to see what happens next and will be finding out shortly...", "I really enjoyed these stories. In the first one, Jake dumped Ashly at the altar, but then comes back into her life. They have to travel around the world so that she can inherit her fortune. She's mad with him, but obviously still in love with him. Hmm, I wonder if these two will hook up. Great story! In book two, we meet Charity. She meets a hot, sexy doctor, and although she's dealing with her problems, the doctor and her connect on a deep level. I really enjoyed this romance and I plan to purchase the second parts because both stories intrigued my interest and I want to know what happens next."]

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["I have been trying to deal with my management problems the last few months, but although I have tried everything, nothing seemed to work! Until I found this book... Jones makes an excellent work here explaining the principles of money management in an easy, straightforward way. It is easy to understand and full of useful advice. This book contains solid, proven, actionable advice you can start applying into your life right away! Go ahead and grab a copy. It's totally worth it!", 'Pretty straight forward stuff in this book. Pay off your debt, create a budget plan, build an emergency fund, put money in insurance, etc. Standard money management practices. I liked it because it served as a pretty detailed reminder for me to look after my money appropriately.', "This book has great step

by step instructions on how to be on top of your personal finances. Financial management is so crucial and I'm amazed at how many things I personally was not aware of until I read this book. The best part about this book is that while it is in-depth, it is still very easy to read. It doesn't just give useful tips; it helps you become so much more fiscally responsible. Highly recommend this book for everyone!", 'For just over 2 weeks now, my partner and I have opened a business but neither of us have any business or even accounting background (we're both arts major graduates). I'm the one who's determined to learn about money management and I am indeed very glad to have found this book for less than a dollar. I've already learned a lot from Chapter 1 alone which immediately talked about Creating Financial Statements. I won't delve on the technical details of the book but I can assure you this is the first help I got right after deciding on making some changes with my finances. As the book suggested in its first page, it is best to know what your current financial status is to be able to make adjustments based on that fact. Your goal and purpose should also be clear to you. I highly recommend this book!', 'this book was an okay short book to financial planning. I would recommend it for a short quick read about finances.', 'I suck with money and needed some help. It seems as if I just keep working and all I get is more debt. This book covered some great topics that I really needed to hear such as the debt topic. Great read if you suck at money like me.', 'Jones does an amazing job in this short book by outlining exactly what an individual must do to achieve financial freedom. From looking at what you have and what you need, to setting goals that are far reaching and breaking them down into attainable steps, this book has it all. What good does it do to work all the time and never have any money left over to enjoy yourself? None!! Whether you are a young person just starting out or someone who has found themselves in a financial mess, use this book to start taking the steps necessary to take control. Nobody is ever going to look out for your best interest as well as you. Use this book and the steps in it to attain the goals you have only dreamed of!', 'If you want to plan your financial goals and want to learn how to manage your money, then this is the right book for you. It is short, simple and easy to follow guide that makes you think. I enjoyed this read! I would recommend it!', 'After reading Jones previous title I decided to check into his other books and I'm pleased to find what I would call the follow up to his stay debt free book. I think both of them work very well together, if you are in debt and want to just not get off your debt, but to be able to earn money and reproduce it then this book needs to be part of your collection. The book provides easy to understand and follow plans to create your own financial plan, budget, and safeguard your assets as well as yourself to make sure you and your money is safe.', 'My kids are young adults and this is a great book for them to read as they start their lives. It would also be good for someone who is starting over financially as well. It is well written and really give a lot of good ideas for financial growth. Definitely a good read!', 'If you are looking for a well laid out plan and good practical advice for helping with your money management, this book definitely fits the bill. I started last year trying to get my finances in order and realized I needed some help, so a friend suggested this book. Great tips that helped me with my direction towards financial success. I really needed this!', 'Great easy to understand book! I think this should be required reading for everyone over 16 years old. I also think all engaged couples should read this prior to getting married! Finances can be scary and J.J. Jones has made it simple to grasp. His plan is a great plan to get out of debt and to save- it is again, easy to comprehend and explained to the fullest detail without being boring! Great tips that helped me with my direction towards financial success. I really needed this!', "This book has provided me with a lot of great advice regarding money management and how to grow your money. I particularly found the chapter on putting your money in investments (chapter 6) very useful. I recommend this book for beginners that don't know where to start. This book will get you on the right path."]

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[I simply fell in love with this book! I loved the characters; two strong, quirky and fun people to be sure! Our heroine was older than our hero in this story, which just added to the quirkiness! The two

meet and feel an instant attraction. They come together despite some trouble, and of course the trouble is seen to the old-fashioned way!! This was just so well done and not your ordinary story! Love, love, love!', "Loved Etta's view of the old fashioned Victoria marriage. This story was even better because she made the woman an older widow with a younger man. The story was well written and quite spanking-alcious.. Definitely recommend to others.", "I thoroughly enjoyed this historical tale about Margaret Westbrook and Felix Oliver. The wit and humor were a delight to read and had me laughing out loud several times. The age difference had me concerned at first, as I don't tend to enjoy 'cougar' type stories, but Etta Stark handled this so well. The reactions of Margaret's sons were quite entertaining and believable. I did feel that one spanking was overly harsh, as Felix was partly to blame for the strain between them, but loved the dynamics of their relationship. The historical context was very well done and the references to Thomas Edison made it all the more interesting to read!", 'This story was hilarious and sexy, and quite unique among the spanking romance stories I have read. Widowed Lady, Margaret Westbrook is 41 years old, and smart, ambitious, open minded woman - not at all like the other society women. She is bored and unfulfilled by the Lady's society meetings of flower arranging and rose garden cultivating. So she invites experimental physicist, Felix Oliver to talk about electricity at the next Waverly Ladies society meeting she hosts. Felix is quick witted and charming (and young and handsome!), and completely enthralls the ladies. But he is drawn to Margaret and her sharp intellect. Sparks fly when he casually mentions spanking, during a private dinner, and Margaret opens her mind to the possibilities of a friendship with the younger man. What I loved about this story, was how different their relationship was, than in a lot of other spanking romances. Felix is dominant and witty and handsome, but does not strike me as arrogant or prideful. In fact, one of my favorite scenes includes Margaret calling him a dandy. I almost spit my tea out of my mouth! It was hilarious! He didn't bat an eye. I was sure he was going to get all dommy and toss her over his knee for a harsh reminder about being respectful. But he didn't. And I actually liked it! This man knew exactly who he was, and wasn't afraid to be himself. He wasn't a caveman type, nor was he a wimpy type to bend over to her will. He accepted her as a true equal, but wasn't afraid to exert his authority when needed. He accepted her strengths and ambitions, and made the perfect complement for this not so common Lady. They were perfect for each other! And their banter was hilarious! I loved the fun spankings, and witty banter, and hot sex scenes and wonderful romance. It made for a deliciously fun and entertaining story! (this is a shortened version of the review I posted on Spanking Romance Reviews. To read the whole review, please go to[...])', 'This was a delightful historical DD story about Lady Westbrook a widowed socialite with two adult sons. She falls for a scientific lecturer Mr. Oliver and the adventure of an older woman who must be convinced that a younger man is romantically interested in her was a slight battle considering her eldest son strongly disapproves. Ultimately love conquered all with the help of strongly applied loving discipline. This was different than the norm but well written and a surprising delight.', "Good read. Entertaining and believable throughout. It is great to read about an older more mature woman for a change who is intelligent and not constantly behaving in a silly or dangerous manner. Felix is impressed with her knowledge and interest in science which is what first brought them together but sparks soon fly and they can't keep their hands off each other.", 'I loved this book! We don't get a lot with the main character in her 40's. That is a welcome change! This book is set in England in 1870. Margaret, Lady Westbrook, is a widow. She has two grown sons, who do not live with her. Felix Oliver is an experimental physicist that is working with electricity. Margaret invited Felix to speak at the Waverley Ladies Society meeting. After the speech is done, Felix needs to find a room at the inn, but Margaret insists that he stay with her. They sit in the drawing room discussing the fact that Felix believes that women should be educated and afforded the same opportunities as their brothers. When Margaret questions whether women should be beaten at school, he says, "Women respond to physical discipline so much better than men. Boys should only be beaten until they reach adulthood, but women can benefit from physical chastisement their whole lives." "How can you suggest such a thing?" Margaret was shocked. "Being equal thought you were an advocate of equal rights for women?" "Being equal doesn't mean being the same," replied Mr Oliver smiling. "And the two sexes

are certainly not the same. I think most women would benefit from the occasional spanking. I haven't conducted a full scientific study into the matter, though. Perhaps I should devote some time to practical research.

Margaret goes on to ask if he would spank his wife and he says yes. A month later he has her invited to a dinner at the Royal Institute. Of course, Felix is there and he finally lets her know that he is interested in courting her. She believes that he is joking as he is 26 and only 5 years older than her son. But, they do court and he asks her to marry him and she says yes. The rest of the story is about the first few months of their marriage. This was a wonderful story! I loved the characters, I loved that Felix believed that women were just as intelligent as men and that he supported his wife in her interests. It was very well written and there are plenty of spankings as well. All in all, one of the best books I have read lately!

'This is a great story Great plot strong heroine with a strong Hero lots of action and romance It is a must read', 'Nice story set in era of scientific discovery. Margaret is a widow who loves educating herself in far more interesting matters than needlepoint or gardening. She invites Felix Oliver, a scientist to speak to the Women's group she is a member of. The man is not the old, doddering scientist of her expectations; he is a young, handsome, very charming scientist interested in working on the electric lightbulb. They feel sparks immediately and though she is shocked, he continues to persuade her of his interest in courting her; the older woman. Despite society's views as well as her eldest son's protests, she agrees to marry. They are extremely happy together, he encouraged her to learn whatever she wanted and supports her in her choices. They make a wonderful couple who truly love each other. Felix teaches her that sex is far, far more exciting than simply laying under her previous husband as she produced his heir and a spare. She also learns that spankings can be both pleasurable and painful. It is an easy read, a fun book to read and enjoy if you like romantic DD stories, you'll love this one.', 'Lady Margaret Westbrook, a longtime widow, has a predictable life, one that she's content with though her mind isn't always as engaged as she might like. She's interested in science, but as a woman in the nineteenth century, she's not been given the tools to understand it all or the means with which to pursue her interests. Then she meets Felix Oliver. Felix is a kind of physicist, studying electricity in particular. He comes to give a talk to Margaret Westbrook's ladies society. Chemistry (rather than physics) happens and the two are drawn together. Did I mention that Margaret is 41 and Felix is 26? No? Well, the age difference makes a difference to Margaret at first. It is a hard thing to overcome. Felix and Margaret manage to put aside their age issue and get married. Then they start having sex. And more sex. And more sex on top of that. In fact, they have so much sex that it's a wonder their knees aren't scraped. Felix also spansks. Sometimes he spansks for spurious reasons, but Margaret doesn't actually seem to mind. Their banter, however, is wonderful. Etta Stark has put a lot of humor into their repartee. This is a fun book with, as I might have said a time or two, lots of sex and lots of spankings and a bright sense of humor. If you're looking for a quick and satisfying read, you'll enjoy Lady Westbrook's Discovery.', 'Lady Margaret Westbrook is a 41 year old widow, she invites a scientist, Felix Oliver to be a guest speaker for the Waverley Ladies Society meeting. She is enthralled with his work in electricity. He ends up staying at the Westbrook home when there is no room at an inn. During dinner, he shocks her by telling her his belief in women needing to be spanked. He goes back home but neither Felix or Margaret can get the other one out of their thoughts. They meet again and he proposes to her, even though he is 15 years her junior. She doesn't consent to marriage until after she experiences a spanking. After their marriage, Margaret learns the pleasures of sex, something she never had in her first marriage. This story is an older woman, a younger man and includes spanking, explicit sex, including both oral and anal sex.', 'Lady Westbrooke's Discovery was a delight in that it was an unconventional story where the main characters are very far apart in age-and this time, it's the woman who is older! Set in London around 1870, Margaret has 2 sons, one of whom is quite close to the age of her suitor. This does not deter Felix Oliver at all. He is confident in his own skin and determined to win Lady Westbrooke over. He is smitten and admires her wit and wisdom. She is enchanted and excited that he is working with electricity. Margaret comes from a listless marriage and Felix makes no bones about his will to change that straight away. For such a strong character, I found it a little quick for her to accept spankings so readily but that was a minor point for me. She is introduced to many forms of passion

while coming to grips with their age difference. I enjoyed the book and am looking forward to reading more from Ms. Stark.", 'I enjoyed this story as it differed from the norm. In this book Margaret is older than Felix, in fact he is close in age to her oldest son, but they have a connection that ignites from the first time they meet. I just loved that she went after what she wanted and that Felix was man enough to help her see it through. Nicely done!', 'Lady Westbrooke's Discovery written by Etta Stark takes us back to an age of chivalry. The book is set around the London Area in 1870. Make no mistake this is a strong woman who for all outward appearances has an arrogance and one would never suspect her need to be tamed. In fact it is not apparent she has spanking and later buggery in mind for her behind when her future spouse gives a lecture to the ladies group on electricity. Speaking of electricity there is plenty of that in this book between the couple as a courting complete with spankings along the way. Perhaps the one thing I would have liked to see was more of a struggle to her new domestic discipline. That would have been more in character with the feisty independent lady we are introduced to in the beginning chapter. It just seems like she lays down and accepts her physical punishment too quickly. The 'buggery experiment' aforementioned serves as the sizzling climax of the book as Lady Westbrook is introduced to anal sex after receiving a red hot burning spanked bottom. The description of the spankings, lovemaking and the buggery are first rate yet tastefully done. Ladies get ready for an unbelievable thrill ride of discipline and passion that will leave you breathless. I highly recommend this book for fans of firm, stern spankings from errant behavior as well as those who are interested in a passionate buggery.', "This story really captured my interest. It was extremely well written, with characters fully developed. I loved Lady Westbrook and Felix. There's a sense of fun throughout, with some real giggle moments and even some anxious moments. And if you're after hot sex and naughty spankings, I guarantee you will not be disappointed! It put a smile on my face and naughty thoughts in my head!"]