

B000BYGGBM

[I have used these in the past and have always had nothing but the best result from these. I highly recommend these to everyone. Trusted brand name means nothing but the best!', "I've been using HP DVD+R discs for years, and I burn a LOT of discs. My discs come out perfect nearly every time. Plus, HP blank discs come with plenty of room and lines for labeling. I'll continue to use blank HP media for as long as they are available =)", "Cheapest DVD's I could find in a decent quantity. Burns from my Samsung DVD desktop burner and HP laptop... works. Small, Circular, Blank...", 'Nothing bad to write about this so I gave it 5 stars. I will probably use it again in the future.', 'I have not had any coasters yet with HP. The package I received is the black/green/yellow label, not the white and blue label. I took off a star because the cake box that the discs come in was damaged. They need to be better packaged because I like to use them for other projects.', "3 out of the first 6 disks I used reported disk failure during burning. Since then I've burned about 25 more with only 1 more burn failure (about the 16th or 17th disk). On about half the disks about halfway through the burn it would hang for a long time... like it was on the verge of failure, but barely made it through. This was on a very clean malware-free machine. 4.66ghz, with 4gb of ram, with no clutter running in the background. Never had a disk hang in the middle of a burn before. Very time consuming when I needed to burn several disks in a hurry. No burn failures with any other brand I've used so far. Oh well, I got them real cheap when they were on sale.", 'Not much to say except this product works as expected, no issues & was good value for money. I would recommend.', "Had an old drive and the DVD's sometimes didn't burn correctly or were not recognized. I got a new DVD-RW drive and I can see now how reliable these discs are. Haven't had a single one fail yet and they work in every other drive with no problems, even at 16X!", 'The Hewlett Packard 16X 4.7GB DVD+R 50 Pack are a very good price and fast delivery. They all seem to work fine and were the newest kind. Thank you Mike', 'Have never had 1 of the HP DVD+Rs to fail and have probably used 500 of them', "I'm happy with the Hewlett Packard 16x 4.7GB DVD's. These are very good quality and record without any glitches. The play back is excellent. I like that there is plenty of room to record even the longest amount of data. I depend on Hewlett Packard to manufacture such great quality products and they have lived up to my expectations.", "These were a great deal and have not disappointed yet. Would recommend for any movie burning. Haven't tried to use as storage yet."]

B000L9M2LU

[I have been using this on a regular basis and I can say that it is well built and does a great job with metering my lights.', "A superb light meter. Unless you're an extreme professional, it does far more than you'll ever need. Well put together, easy to read, however, you will take some time getting used to this product's functions and features!", 'The meter exceeds all expectations. It is ideal incident metering and reflective spot metering. All in one meter. Good construction.', "I love the concept behind having the ability to store custom profiles in the meter for your lenses. What I have noticed is the settings do not seem to stay, after about two weeks of shooting I noticed that all of my pictures on all my profiled lenses were all overexposed. I tried to recalibrate them and I continued to have overexposed pictures. One major negative that I, along with many other people, have noticed is that once you load a custom profile you cannot delete it from your meter using the DTS (version 3.0). I cannot imagine why Sekonic did not add a feature to delete profiles from your meter using the DTS. The only way I was able to delete my custom profiles was to remove the battery while I had the meter turned on. Another negative I have noted is the instructions are not very user friendly. I'm not sure who writes the instruction manuals, but I had to google stuff to actually figure out how to use the settings.", 'The memory button rubber cover fell off when I took it out the box and it took a couple of minutes to come alive. Sold it to a friend and got a Kenko. Looked really nice too.', "If you're using studio strobes a light meter will make life a lot easier. The Sekonic L-758DR is well built and accurately calculates flash exposure every time. It also works great with existing PocketWizard radio triggers.", "I really like this metering. It's a little large and a little cumbersome..."

But, its a great spot meter. However, I will be keeping my older Sekonic meter in the bag for quick and simple work that doesn't require all the bells and whistles. Regardless, I would recommend Sekonic to anyone who needs a quality meter.", "This is as good as it gets, even without the profile target. If you shoot every day, all day, get the target--the time saver it provides in post can't be felt in a few photos, but after a few hundred--you'll notice.If you don't shoot every day, LR is adequate enough. Then again, if you aren't shooting as your only means of survival, there's plenty of cheaper alternatives out there that get equally great results and keep you a few hundred extra dollars to boot.The profile target that is offered for this meter is for a very specific convenience for a very specific population. If you don't need this convenience, you still have an amazing light meter that will improve your photos instantly.", "I had this meter forever and I sold it to purchase the touch screen model. I regretted it. I ended up selling it and buying this again! It will never leave again! It is large but it is so nice to hold and it's accurate! The screen is beautiful and I love the spot meter! WELL WORTH the cost!!", "It would take a lifetime to master all the intricacies of this pricey gadget. First off, you have to calibrate it, then calibrate your camera or cameras to use this, etc. etc. I guess this is great for professional photographers because of its myriad capabilities, although even pros don't want to spend too much time fiddling with a light meter; it can be too distracting. It's probably a 5-star product but it's not for me - I'm a serious photographer but not a pro.", 'I own both the Gossen and the somewhat equivalent Sekonic light meters. (This review is also posted for the Gossen product)Gossen StarLite ~\$670Sekonic L-758DR ~\$499Comparison:1) The Sekonic is much less expensive with many more features for the money2) The Gossen just seems "cheap\'. The battery cover is a pain to remove. You need a coin and even then you have to shake it or pry it off. There is no real sealing. The Sekonic, on the other hand, has a very positive latch and the cover has a rubber gasket. I can open and close the Sekonic ten times in the time it takes to remove the Gossen\'s cover once.3) The Sekonic has an adjustable eyepiece (correction) for the spot meter while the Gossen does not.4) The Gossen\'s case is a very tight fit and you have to work to put it in the case and to remove it. The Sekonic\'s case is somewhat better.5) The Sekonic is relatively easy to configure. The Gossen has DIP switches inside the (inaccessible) battery compartment. The manual for the Gossen is confusing as the DIP switch\'s numbering INTERNALLY is 4..1 from the top DOWN and the manual numbers the opposite. (You have to figure this out. The illustration showing the actual settings for the DIP switch is correct) Unless you are playing around, you probably will only have to set the Gossen\'s DIP switch a few times.6) It takes a LOT of torque to raise or lower the Gossen\'s lumisphere; the Sekonic\'s is much easier to raise or lower.Accessibility:7) For people with photosensitive / pattern sensitive epilepsy, the Sekonic is probably the worst piece of equipment I own or have ever used. It is just blink, blink, blink. You turn it on, it blinks for ten seconds. You change the mode, it blinks for ten seconds. When you attempt to make a measurement outside of it\'s measuring range, it blinks. The analog display at the bottom has blinking elements (I just had a moderate complex partial seizure a couple of minutes ago when I turned it on to check it out for this review) With the Gossen, when it encounters an out-of-measuring range error, it just indicates "Err" with no blinking. Nevertheless, only about 10% or so of the Gossen\'s functionality is accessible - you cannot use anything except the basic lightmeter functions if you want to avoid blinking elements on the display.Anyways, if you love blinking displays and don\'t care about accessibility, the Sekonic is the clear choice. Otherwise, go for the Gossen as it is at least somewhat usable compared to the Sekonic\'s extreme unusability for epileptics.Comment: the Sekonic is so hopeless I probably will never even turn it on again except for a more extensive review and I am going to suffer when I do that. (I was quite sick from the seizure when I wrote the Gossen review and I am somewhat better now and I have made a few corrections when I posted the review for the Sekonic light meter)', 'I must confest I was a little intimidated when I first received my light meter. However after reviewing a few web sites on how to effectively use the the unit I was well on my way. I just love this piece of equipment and if you can fit it in to your budget as part of your camera kit I highly recommend it.', 'This is a very full-featured product. I bought it to use with my strobes in the studio, but it is also very handy outdoors when you need to know what will give you the best exposure in the highlights - and shadows.']

B000YA7QTO

[It is what it is. A CPU Heatsink Retention. Easy to install. I needed it to fix a friends old motherboard. Hard to find these.', 'I bought this for a old dell PC 2400 and it fit just right nice and fast getting to me I will buy more stuff from shipper Thank you .', 'This item is exactly what the doctor ordered for a pentium 4 socket 478 heatsink retention module. It was just the item needed to keep the cpu cool .', 'Mine finally broke down, letting the heatsink fall in the case... It is an absolute nightmare to change : you need to remove the motherboard and push hard as h**l on these push pins just to remove the old one. I was worried to slip and punch a hole in the board! At least the new one was easy to put back in. How about making these in metal in the future ?', "Grest price for a great item! No screws needed, just snap in and you're done. It stays in securely, and fan mounts to it easily.", 'Used this to replace the stock Dell Dimension 2400 Socket 478 retention bracket. I purchased an aftermarket Rosewill heatsink which required an aftermarket retention bracket, which I only found out after the fact. Research led me to believe that in the process of trying to mount the new heatsink, I could risk breaking the old retention bracket so I bought this once just in case, not realizing that I actually needed it no matter what. Has the plastic push pin things which replace the screws which held in the previous retention bracket. Plastic is sturdy and the price could not be beaten. For an old socket type finding this was very clutch and shipping was great!', "You'd better be computer savvy if you're going to install this bracket, because you'll need to unmount the motherboard to install this item. Quality of the bracket seems A OK.", 'Sort of down and out when you heats sink comes loose. For a reasonable price the cpu was put back in service..', 'Bought to repair my old 478 computer. Probably wil just put it aside for later.Here are five more words.', 'Product was as described, the socket mounted on the mother board with no problems. This is a good replacement when yo need one', "exact replacement of onboard bracket on my motherboard...easy to replace. My last bracket broke where heatsink fastened to it after a few uninstalls and reinstalls of cpu's."]

B004R6H4RA

[The volcano speakers packs a great punch. Its small and has built in rechargeable batteries. Great for the bathroom or for when you travel.', 'These are really neat to hook up to my Kindle Fire and watch my videos that I get as an Amazon Prime member while I take a bubble bath! I like them a lot.UPDATE: The speaker only worked a few times and then broke. It is now past the thirty days so I guess I am out of luck. Big disappointment for me and a waste of money unfortunately.', "I purchased this after a long line of poor substitutes that left me nearly depressed. Bottom Line - this portable speak works quite well. It isn't super loud, and the bass overwhelms the treble but for the price and compact design, it does the job. Recommend.", "Original:I won't beat about the bush. These speakers deliver the best sound quality, volume too, in the smallest package I've ever seen. But because they broke after an hour of light use, I can't recommend this.. While they lasted (fine, I admit I used it a lot more than a normal person) they were wonderful. In fact, they are so good I ordered a replacement. Just be careful, and the'll be fine.UPDATE: After receiving a replacement, I used it in the same way I have used the first. This one is holding up after 2 weeks of use and sound quality is not down in the least. I believe the first was a defect and therefore have raised the rating to 5 stars.When you raise the expansion section, the bass is awesome. If you put a little piece of paper on the vibration part on the top, it will bounce straight out! The speakers are the best value I've ever seen, especially considering the size.", "One of my worst purchases. They quite working only after using them 4 times. I don't see how they got the good ratings. I do not recommend these.", 'I needed speakers for my Sony VAIO laptop because the built-in speakers are so poor.So I bought two of these little guys because the reviews on Amazon were so good.The speakers are not as good as these reviews would have you believe.They are OK, but these are small speakers and they sound like small speakers. There is very little bass response and they sound pretty tinny. Just what

you would expect from tiny little speakers. But the worst part about these speakers is that when connected, the speakers can only be spread 4 inches apart. So you either have to put both of the speakers on one side of your computer, or behind the screen. You cannot put the speakers on either side of the screen for stereo sound. The nice thing is that these things are super-compact and will travel nicely.', "Got one for my iPhone and iPad for traveling. My iPad doesn't put out much of a volume when watching movies or videos and this little speaker pumps out a lot of sound for it's size. I can charge it via a USB port on my Laptop and the charge lasts quite a while.", 'Way better than I imagined! I mean, it doesn't rattle the walls or anything, but in the first week I've had it, there have been two scenarios already where people come over, and wanna either play some new song on their phone for me or show me some video... and i go "Wait! lemme get something" and i go grab this thing, and people are just blown away! If you've ever been chilling with an ipod or phone and wished you had the right jack or the right plug to make whatever stereo you have at the time work, then THIS is what we've all been waiting for.', 'Outstanding for its size. As featured on the TV program Shark Tank, who got these guys started, the speakers are as great as they say.', 'One day a friend was selling it for 5 bucks, so I figured why not. I didn't have very high expectations for this speaker as my usual "portable speaker" (and I use that term loosely) is a Philips Fidelio DS3000, which is much larger in in a whole different price range. The volcano can go very loud, but the overall sound is muddy to me. It sounds tinny and the bass is muddled, combine that with mono audio and the soundstage becomes very confused. The speaker vibrates not from good, realistic, thumping bass, but rather from bloated bass shaking the light frame of the speaker. Then again this speaker is not targeted towards audiophiles, but regular people with less discerning ears. For 5 bucks I really can't complain much since there's not many speakers you can pick up for that price, but at the list price of \$19.99, it's a waste of money.', "I bought this for my MP3 player, for use at a noisy work environment where I wasn't allowed to use earbuds. Well, it wasn't powerful enough to overcome the ambient noise (it's just a tiny speaker, after all), but it's quite powerful enough for any home use. We usually use it for watching videos on a laptop. It has an internal battery which lasts for a very long time, and recharges through a USB connection. I had bought another portable speaker at the same time as this, but I never DID start using the other one. This one is all I need. One word of warning: the top of the unit is uncovered, so I would imagine it's easy to puncture the speaker and then it wouldn't work well. For adults, I doubt that'd be an issue, but kids tend to find the weak spots of electronics, so keep it out of their reach."]

B006K55018

"I bought this to replace a JVC gone bad. It's doing a great job and takes excellent photos as well. I would recommend it to anyone looking for a good camcorder.", 'I waited to do the review on this until I could use it a lot and give a good review. The camera is easy to use, the touch screen works well, and the menu is very intuitive. Linking and downloading to the computer also works well. I can't accurately comment on battery life as I purchased a larger battery right from the get go and I can get a day out of that easily with lots of stand by time and active filming. Video quality is good but deteriorates rapidly about 2/3 of the way through zooming. The one thing that this camera does that is really annoying and a deal breaker for me is it does not function in cold, or even cool, weather. I use the camera in the outdoors in all weather conditions and a camera that won't function below about 35 degrees Fahrenheit is unacceptable. All my other electronics work just fine, even when it is -20 or colder. This thing gives you a message "cannot access media, warm the camera". If you want to film stuff in the outdoors during fall and winter I would not recommend this product. If that is not an issue than it is a pretty good deal.', "I haven't had the opportunity to use the Handcam as much as I had hoped, but so far I am pleased with it. The pictures taken have been clear and well focused, some taken just using one hand for stills. Good choice so far.", 'This is one of 13 Sony video cameras I own. It is my workhorse. Great low light. great color. Tons of memory too.', "160GB HDD storage! 5.1 surround sound! Built-In USB! GPS! So those are the positives and they are somewhat impressive. However, keep in mind that it is HDD storage and NOT solid state

memory. You'll need to insert a SD card into the included SD card slot if you want solid state memory. Sony has decided to place the microphone pickups right at the front (under the lens) which means that you are near certain to pickup wind noise while recording. In fairness, it was minimal but it was evident. Battery use is fast and depletes faster than solid state because of the HDD moving parts. Carry a backup. BUT.... What is most important is the quality of the video. This camcorder has so many positives but when it comes to picture quality, you'll find a severe lack of pixel resolution. Colors will be impressive and even low light indoor video came in with impressive results. The negative was sub-par video. Just no details. No sharpness. Low lines of resolution. We used both 60i and 60p. Maximum quality settings and as said, got great colors but just no details. Can't see a human hair, a flower, a garden leaf or a blade of grass. Playback was using HDMI to a 1080p TV. Sony did a fairly good job of including massive storage, 5.1 sound and GPS. What I wanted mostly was resolution and this model doesn't offer that. I did not use the photo/still aspect as I purchased a camcorder and not a digital still camera.", "When I researched for a camcorder to buy, I wanted: 1. The ability to have wireless, external remote microphone for sound. 2. Large capacity hard drive recording. 3. Sufficient quality for high-action video. The first item was the most difficult feature to find for the price I was willing to pay. Most consumer priced camcorders do not have external microphone jacks. Something that was confusing to me was that this camcorder was listed on the Sony site as being compatible with the Sony ECM-AW2 Wireless Microphone. I called Sony customer service to confirm what the website said, and the clerk assured me that it was compatible. However, after receiving the camcorder, I saw that it does not have the "active interace shoe" required for compatibility with the Sony ECM-AW2 Wireless Microphone. So, I cancelled my order for that item and ordered instead the Sony ECM-AW3 Wireless Microphone -- fortunately this camcorder model DOES have an external microphone jack, and as I was able to determine from watching product demonstrations on YouTube, the Sony ECM-AW3 Wireless Microphone will work with the external mic jack. The video files of this camcorder have the file extension "MTS." I just renamed them to "mpg" and they work fine when played with Windows Media Player and when edited with Sony Vegas. I am very pleased with this camcorder; it has a sturdy feel to it that my older, cheaper camcorders lack. The quality of the recordings is impressive.", "This 8.9MP is good for me, HDD is enough big for long shots for about 2 days training meeting or trip.", "The clarity and zoom of this thing are great. Light weight small enough to carry with me anywhere and disc space allows for a tremendous amount of storage. I love it! I have heard things I've missed when recording and been able to hear when reviewing so i'd say the mic works very well.", "This is without question the best movie camera I have ever owned out of probably 15 I have had since they first started to come out back in the 70's. It is also a great still camera for times when I do not have my digital SLR handy. The hard drive is a great feature to have as well.", "I purchased this camera for the main purpose of recording bands live in 1080p. My biggest issue was being able to record loud audio without distortion. The 5.1 surround sound microphone is awesome for recording loud noise! The video has come out crystal clear even in low light conditions. During one of my filming events I was about 100 feet away from where Kenny Chesney was on stage and could barely see him over the crowd and the 30X zoom lens gave me a great close up shot of him! I ended up having at least 8 people hanging around me watching the viewfinder to see him play as they could not see him on stage. I made a lot of iPhone users very jealous that day! The \$525 was money well spent!!!!", "I highly recommend this camcorder to the average user. It doesn't have some of the bells and whistles that high priced camcorders have but has everything needed to produce a great looking video. In my opinion it is head and shoulders above other brands selling for much more. My thinking is that Sony makes the best camcorder in it's class. Bill"]

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["I am usually very apprehensive to watch movie versions of theatre plays, and it is rare that a performance is pulled off to perfection. This was it! Superb performances, true to the dramatic plot, and complete with intensive moods required to pull it off. And, when I knew that two impressive

actors would portray the characters, Sissy Spacek and Anne Bancroft as Thelma, the mother of Jessie, a young lady planning her suicide, carefully, strategically and nonchalantly. The story takes place in the home with just two people, and all in one night, within a matter of a couple of hours. There is no musical soundtrack to draw from the moods. Pulitzer Prize by Marsha Norman 'Night Mother. Marsha Norman won the Pulitzer Prize in 1983, and when I learned she did the Screenplay for the movie, I was more confident the performance would be first class. If you haven't read the book, do so, it is riveting, unlike something you may have read in drama. A right to die Jessie is divorced and has a juvenile son whose whereabouts are unknown. She caretakes for her mother, Thelma and has a brother Dawson and his family who live nearby. In her lifetime, Jessie has had epileptic seizures, her husband Cecil left her and she moved back with her mother. She feels like a failure. But it is this night, after plans to do her mother's manicure, that Jessie plans go to her bedroom and kill herself. It is her right, as she is tired, hurt, sad, and feels used. Throughout, you will learn of the past. Stages of grief - for the living. In 1969, Dr. Elizabeth Kubler-Ross wrote the groundbreaking book, *On Death and Dying* (Scribner Classics) and named the five stages of grief that people who are dying go through, and not in an exact order. The five stages are denial, anger, bargaining, depression and acceptance. What we see is Thelma, going through these stages, denying that the suicide will happen, angry attempting to stop it, bargaining with Jessie to stay alive, depressed and down with this reality. This is an emotional, powerful film with exceptional performances.... Rizzo", "Okay, here is definitely a minority view, and you can hate it if you want, but it will not be as much as I hated this movie and its view of life. Cissy Spacek is a divorced woman in her late 30s who is an epileptic with a son who is on his way to becoming a criminal. She is living with her mother (Anne Bancroft) and that night plans on killing herself. Throughout the whole movie Spacek and Bancroft talk about their lives and Spacek's decision as if she were going to the dentist for a root canal. Bancroft rants and raves at times, but that is just a mild interruption to the placid movement of time until the evening when Spacek shoots herself. Spacek has simply come to the conclusion that this is the only course of action open to her, but that decision never comes across as convincing--which makes the whole thing seem like such a waste. Also since it is basically the Marsha Norman play converted to the screen, it is very stagey and visually undramatic. What this movie amounted to for me was nothing more than a moral wasteland.", "Who better than Sissy Spacek and Anne Bancroft to depict the doomed mother and daughter in this incredibly well-drawn drama? Without an ounce of special-effects, without even much of a change of scenery outside of maybe moving from the kitchen to the living room, these two reveal the nightmare of their lives and relationships interspersed with what would be humdrum details of laundry and grocery shopping if the dialogue itself weren't so increasingly, incredibly horrifying. This movie drew me in from the very beginning, I could not tear myself away even though the details seemed so harmless at first glance. The longer the story goes on, the deeper the anguish. I don't want to spoil it for you, no one spoiled it for me; so I won't go into the details. I can say there's no happy ending, and I cried...and yet, I understood. *The Long Walk Home*", 'Written for the stage by Marsha Norman, 'NIGHT, MOTHER opened on Broadway in 1983 with Anne Pitoniak and Kathy Bates in the roles of Thelma and Jessie Cates. It proved a stunning success with critics and audiences alike, running 380 performances, receiving the 1983 Pulitzer Prize for Drama, a Tony award for Best Play, and Tony nominations for Pitoniak, Bates, and director Tom Moore. In 1986 Marsha Norman herself adapted the play to film. The roles of Thelma and Jessie went to Anne Bancroft and Sissy Spacek, and in the process of writing--and possibly under pressure from producers--Norman expanded the original play to include characters mentioned but never seen. The result was something slightly less than ideal. Spacek is perfectly cast as the suicidal Jessie, but although she gives an excellent performance Bancroft is intrinsically miscast in the role of Jessie's "plain country woman" mother. The expansion of the original story also has the effect of diluting the claustrophobic intensity of the original. As for director Tom Moore, although his work for the play was memorable, his work with the film was unremarkable. But unexpectedly, such is the power of the story's basic premise that these flaws hardly matter. Watered down, fiddled with, and somewhat miscast, 'NIGHT, MOTHER is still a knock-you-flat story that raises the sort of questions that keep you awake on a sleepless night. Thelma is an ordinary, uneducated woman who takes life as it comes; Jessie, however, is an

uneasy mixture of introspection and uncertainty, a woman whose marriage failed when she developed epilepsy, whose son has become a bit of gutter trash, who has over the years become a recluse in her mother's home. She's tired of the whole thing, and on this particular evening she informs her mother that in a few hours she's going to shoot herself and put an end to it. Like the play, the film is essentially an emotional explosion between the two women, Jessie spelling out her reasons for her suicide, Thelma working to turn Jessie from it. Although the suspense of the film arises from a "Will she do it or not?" situation, the real interest here is in Jessie's motivations, the how and why of her decision, and the tactics that Thelma uses in an effort to bring Jessie's plans to a grinding halt, and the way they battle each other over the course of the film. The interest is in the characters, plain and simple. As noted, Bancroft is not ideally cast here. It is extremely difficult to accept her in the role of Thelma Cates. Even so, Bancroft gives it all she has--and the end result is quite powerful as acting pure and simple, a remarkable feat. But the real powerhouse here is Spacek: we believe her, never question her in the role, and buy into it from start to finish. Even with Bancroft's miscasting, the dilution of the play, and the uninspired direction, Spacek's performance is more than enough to render the film powerful, memorable. This is not a film that I casually recommend. It rather depends on the viewer's life experiences, and I would hardly send it off to a person in a depressed state of mind or one who had a suicide in the family. But it is worth the trouble it takes to seek out, particularly if it leads you on to reading the play itself--or better yet, seeing a stage production of the same.

GFT, Amazon Reviewer, "These two women deserved so much more credit than they got for this movie back then. Two of the very best performances in movie history. Anne Bancroft and Sissy Spacek have that rare talent that comes through in every role they have played. In the original play Sissy's character was played by the great Kathy Bates who I here did an incredible job at it. The movie version of the play is a great adaptation.", "Movie came fast, but I didn't pay attention to the fact that it was VHS. I don't have a VHS player, so I never watched it. Donated it to library.", "It's a shame that "Night, Mother" (1986) isn't currently available on DVD in a U.S.-friendly format. Adapted by Marsha Norman from her own Pulitzer Prize-winning stage drama, the film stars Anne Bancroft as Thelma Cates and Sissy Spacek as her daughter Jessie, who basically has to run her mother's life. About ten minutes in, Jessie matter-of-factly reveals that this will change, because she's decided to shoot herself on this particular night. She does not immediately disclose why. The remainder of the film consists of Jessie calmly explaining to Thelma how to manage her own affairs, while Thelma goes through a rainbow of emotions trying to come to terms with her daughter's decision. Norman and director Tom Moore have done little to open up this story from its stage origins. The camera never really leaves the house, and except from a distance or over a phone, we never hear or see anyone else besides these two characters. The filmic claustrophobia might have been intentional, however, as a visual punctuation of Jessie's cramped existence, and at any rate it's a small gripe when balanced against the tour-de-force acting that we get to witness. It would be difficult to overrate Spacek, who has now spent 40 years giving one amazing performance after another, while Bancroft was always a bit underrated, too often labeled as simply a gifted comedienne. She was much more, and this film offers abundant proof. As we watch her navigate a tidal wave of emotional highs and lows, swinging from anger to frustration to hope to reproof in an effort to change Jessie's mind, her talent is such that we feel ourselves riding the wave right along with her. Spacek, meanwhile, deftly balances her mother's expected hysteria and maintains her resolve, while slowly but surely opening up small doors that reveal her motivations to end her own life. When the moment of truth finally arrives, it is shattering even while expected. Long overdue for an American release. If it comes on cable, don't miss it.

Trivia Side Note: When the play originally ran on Broadway in 1983, Kathy Bates played the part of Jessie and received a Tony nomination. It would be fascinating to see her now play the part of Thelma. She's tailor-made for it.', 'Read some of the other reviews and you'll know the basis of the story. But this kind of film is not for everyone. The story line is difficult to say the least. A woman determined to kill herself and the mother (who loves her more than anyone else in this world) trying desperately to find a way to stop it from happening. If suicide is too distressing a subject for you, do not watch this film. If you are thinking of suicide, do not watch this film. It evidences how someone can convince themselves that this is the right choice (which it is not), but hopefully it also points to

the fact that a suicide always deeply, adversely and irreversibly affects someone else in this world, even if it's just the person who finds the body (I know of which I speak). This movie may be boring for some, but only because of the film style. It is, as one reviewer said, like watching a play. It is almost what you might see if someone just took out a video camera and made a home movie of the lives of these two people in the last hours of Jesse's life. No interesting angles, effects, changes of venue, et. al. It's just the intense, "real-life" story of a desperate, helpless mother and her daughter who is all but gone. It is a despairing and heartbreaking narrative for anyone with a heart.', 'I cannot begin by saying that not only is this a terrific play/movie, but one of the most superb performances by Anne Bancroft and Sissy Spacek. The whole premise of the movie is about how American society tends to view suicide, and how it is one of those "I don't want to talk about it" subjects. Sissy Spacek (Jessie) asks her mother Anne Bancroft at the beginning of the movie where her father's gun is stored because she plans to kill herself. At first mother does not believe (or want) her, and they carry on with their menial tasks, such as planning for a manicure, changing sofa covers and so on. During the meantime, the daughter is asking her real questions about whether she loved her father, and the mother answers with simple answers that minimize her feelings. In short, Mother is in denial that Jessie is going to kill herself and resorts to making things better around the house for her, like not doing laundry, and other tasks. When that does not work, she blames her epilepsy and her divorce or the fact she does not leave the house much. The problem is that Mother is not listening to Jessie when she tells her she is tired and wants to get off the bus. Things are not going to get any better, she has been constantly thinking about suicide for a year. There has been total lack of communication between them for the exception of gossip and recipes. Her mental status has worsened and ignored by her Mother who should have gotten her some help. Mother seems to believe that a cup of hot coco with three marshmallows, some sunshine or the threat of going to hell is enough to scare her out of her suicidal status. The whole movie is a tug of war between these two stubborn women, Jessie has made up her mind, and Mother pleads, begs and cries, but it does not work.', "A straight dialogue driven movie usually bores me to tears...it's that European introspection style. However, this movie kept me riveted. The dialogue is great, the acting is incredible. Spacek and Bancroft pull off a remarkable achievement in carrying this film. Well worth the cost....but why hasn't this come out on DVD yet?", 'I just happened to watch this movie for the first time on television about 8 years ago and loved it immediately. It was televised again and I made sure to tape it. When watching this movie you cannot help but get engrossed in the lives of Jessie and Thelma Cates. The performances by Sissy Spacek and Anne Bancroft are convincing and powerful. I will admit that "Night, Mother" is a sad story, but it's also very interesting. By the end you feel as though you're a part of the Cates family, and feel the pain as Thelma comes to terms, but not quite, with her daughter's suicide. I would highly recommend this movie!!', "night, Mother (Tom Moore, 1986) Having just finished reading Marsha Norman's wonderful Pulitzer-winning play, I figured I'd check out the movie. I'm still trying to decide whether it was a mistake or not. The first five minutes made me think so-- for one thing, I knew I was in for trouble when I saw "produced by Aaron Spelling," and for another, the syrupy, bucolic music (supplied by TV music guru David Shire, who's about a half-step above Yanni on the subtlety scale) makes a mockery of the play's subject matter: a late-thirtysomething divorcee, Jessie (Sissy Spacek) tells her mother (Anne Bancroft) that she's going to kill herself in a few hours, and the two of them go back and forth about the decision while reliving memories and having heart-to-hearts about various topics. The play is notable for being one of the first, and still one of the only, level-headed looks at suicide in American literature, and after that first bit is out of the way (it actually continues on about fifteen minutes after the opening credits, and none of it's in the play), we get down to the brass tacks of Ms. Norman's contest of wills between a woman who's tired of life and a mother who's too scared to be tired of life. And it's fantastic. Spacek and Bancroft both play their roles to the hilt, and while the dialogue isn't quite as intense in the film as it is in the play (cameras being what they are, the characters are allowed to move about the house, where the play takes place almost completely in two rooms), it still works extremely well. And then comes the end of the play... and David Shire works his magic once again, wrecking the film's effect. (The movie also emphasizes one line I managed to pass over in the play, during Bancroft's last speech, that's just plain bad, and one wonders why Norman, who

adapted her own play for the screen, allowed it to remain.)Fast forward through the first twenty minutes (up to where Spacek asks Bancroft where the gun is, which opens the play) and stop at the last line of the play ("Loretta? Let me speak to Dawson, honey.".) and you've got a decent adaptation of an excellent play. ****", "I know about alot of movies before I even ever see them this was one of those movies that took me forever to see. when I got around to it I was simply blown away. sissy plays a woman who decides to kill herself! no ends and's or but's she simply is going to do it. telling her mother before she does the final act. I guess what touches me most about this movie is all that happens in one's life before it's over. not the fact that she is going to kill herself. also alot of stuff having to do with self confidence. there were things in the movie about what sissy thought of herself and why she felt so alone in the world. as simple as getting fired from a job because the way she looked at people to one of her mom's friends saying her hands were too cold. to the failed mothering of her child gone wrong to failed marriage to husband cecil to losing her father. these things might all seem depressing but in one's life alot takes place. all these things have touched a cord and sissy decides to get off the bus. what you get is a touching story and a wonderful film about a mothers attempt to save her child that has decided to take her life. 2 wonderful timeless performances from both actress's.", "I would really have liked to have seen this performed live. Nevertheless, beautifully adapted and performed. An unhappy epileptic woman pragmatically prepares to kill herself and puts all her affairs in order. Her mother tries to (unconvincingly) convince her not to do it. The mother has stupid arguements, you wait and wait and wait for her mother to say "I LOVE YOU DON'T DO IT",. Compelling, heart breaking and beautifully dark.", "When this first came out I was 10....this movie has been one of my favorites & I am surprized there isn't a DVD version of it. Why?"]

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['Must have', 'I saw the previews of the movie on ABC and knew it was going to be a good movie. I watched the series and loved it. It is intrigued with scandal, class, slavery, and war. A nation that will be divided later by Civil War, two friends struggle to make the best of their relationship despite what is happening around them. Orry, played by Patrick Swayze, falls for a woman who is not only married, also has one drop of black blood. His love for her has never died because he knew one day that she would get away from the evil clutches of her abusive husband. Love is not like what it used to be.', "North and South by far has to be the best TV miniseries of all time. The saga of the Hazard and Main families is set against a back drop of a fairly young country about to be divided by civil war.The series begins with Orry Main (Patrick Swayze) of Mount Royal, South Carolina setting off to go to the Military Academy at West Point. On his way he rescues the very beautiful Madeline Fabray(Leslie-Anne Down) from a buggy accident and a snake. After taking Ms. Fabray to her destination, he is back on his journey to West Point. Another character that Orry meets on his trip is George Hazard(James Read) and they soon become life long friends. North and South follows both Orry and George during their time at the Point, the Mexican War and after. There is an all-star cast too many to mention.This first installment of the North and South Trilogy follows the lives of both Orry and George and their respective families through the period leading up to the Civil War. North and South written by John Jakes is the best historical fiction book I have read and this Miniseries has stayed true to form. Because of the historical correctness I would say that this movie has enough appeal for those men that can't get enough of Civil War history or even general war history. The main characters in this are fictional, however there are references to historical figures like Lincoln, Grant and Lee to name a few. However there is certainly plenty of appeal to women, namely Swayze and there is an excellent love story as well. That being said I definitely recommend seeing this miniseries as well as North and South Book Two: Love and War.", 'North and South is about two friends, who attend and graduate from West Point. One friend is from the South and the other from the North. The Abolitionist were preaching about the evils of slavery, the brutality of the slave owners, and the inevitibility of machines.North and South is filled with action, carnage, tragedy, sorrow, joy, marriages, obligations, jealousy, true love, and passion. This is probably the best work

for Patrick Swayze. Swayze acting and character were likely and complex, filled with emotion, anger, confidence, love, romance, and empathy. "Gone with the Wind" is a boring epic, in comparison too, "North and South". North and South ranks among great Civil War movies, such as, "Gods and Generals" and "Gettysburg". South Carolina repulsion of Union law and confederacy too succeed from the Union sets the stage for the drama. The war with Mexico for Texas one campaign. The soap opera of family tragedy ends to the first Civil war battle. Tragedy at Harpers Ferry is painful. Virgil's prediction of blood happens as her husband is shot and killed. Billie and Brent marry. Whoredoms, backstabbing, betrayal, incest, abortion, infidelity, and adultery are source of embarrassment and degeneration of the chastity Mount Royal and Resolute Southern women. Pride hardens the heart of the Southern way of life - believing slaves were property and must be controlled by torture. Gentlemen rules reign supreme and honor maintained by dueling. Slave labour will endure because the North misunderstands - Uncle Tom's cabin would end that. The machine would produce great wealth for Mount Royal but not free the slaves on the plantation even though one of the agreements was "no slaves". The darkness of slavery will not dispel immediately and hundreds of years of oppression can not be lifted with sacrifice. The destruction of the South seems speedily as they push five other states into succession. Brother against brother, friend against friend, and north against south.', 'I am so glad to see this available on vhs & dvd. It was an awesome depiction of events & perspectives on them from 2 families caught up in the nation's turmoil before, during & after the civil war. I was a kid when this first came to tv. I enjoyed it then & even more today. Very good.', "Incredible, as good if not better than Gone With The Wind! Stunning set design, incredible costumes and Oscar worthy acting, this stunning portrayal of the Civil War and the lives of the Hazzards and the Maines will take you in and capture your attention. You won't want to leave until you have seen the entire trilogy! This hidden gem is a must see for most of the family (it's a little racy and bloody for the under 16 crowd in my opinion). Men and women will love this movie, make a weekend of it!", "What a great movie. Both North and South, Books 1 & 2, are the perfect compliment to the historical setting and diverse sentiment prior to and during the American Civil War. The original television miniseries departs a little from John Jakes' published work, but overall the epic makes for good watching. A great deal of the first movie was filmed almost exclusively in and around Charleston, SC. Bill Conti's musical score fits perfectly with production. When the series first aired in Autumn 1985, I was glued to the television set and raced back from military field assignments so as not to miss an episode. At the conclusion of the first miniseries I was overjoyed that there was a second series in production, which aired early in 1986. Do yourself a favor, add both sets of videos to your collection.", 'The highlight of this made for tv shmozz is the incomparable JONATHAN FRANKS best known for his much lauded role on Star Trek: The Next Generation. This shmozz is 2 years before TNG started and unfortunately it has no references or allusions to anything Trek. The lack of other TNG castmates really hurts North & South.', 'The best thing about this series is the way it doesn't just present the war as a fait accompli, but as an inevitable consequence of having two strongly divergent ways of life taking root in one country. It makes no overt attempt to judge either, simply presents them as they were: In the North you have crowded factory cities, floods of immigrants, no traditions, no respect for Europe, new money, social Darwinism, corruption, a fast pace, and a sense of advancing into tomorrow. In the South you have agriculture, small towns, plantations where the 18th century never ended, a slow and leisurely pace of life, a European code of honor (and of aristocracy), and a way of life predicated on slavery which, if people had their druthers, would never change. Wherein lies part of the problem -- "Progress" to the North meant just that -- change. To the South it meant a pleasant sort of stagnation. It was only a matter of time before they came into conflict, and "N & S" also does a good, if somewhat TV-moviesh, job of presenting this slow buildup. It avoids the anti-Southern bias which infects Hollywood films to this day and shows that in most cases, Southerners fought out of a sense of resentment -- i.e., that their way of life was being attacked by Northerners -- and out of patriotism for their particular "state" (which they viewed as their real country) rather than out of racism, greed, or hate for the U.S. In those days the concept of the U.S. as a single country was more of an idea than a fact, and the series ably demonstrates this. "North & South" is sometimes dismissed by people who turn up their noses at television movies or by people who don't like

Patrick Swayze, but Swayze does a very commendable job of showing the complexities of Southern character -- goods, bads, and uglies -- and how not all the good was on one side. It lags here and there, and has its share of TV-movie sappiness, but on the whole, it shines.', "I liked the mini series. Acting is good. Scenery lovely. Costuming is superb. Gives the viewer a real feel for the place and time. Unfortunately there are some things I don't care for. Both sides, if there's a character in one family there is another in the other just like that person. Some of the relationships are somewhat stale. The main villain is really two dimensional. Both the southern main character and his northern counterpart fall in love with women socially unacceptable to their society. The northerner falls in love with and marries an Irish Catholic lass. The southerner falls in love with a girl who turns out to be the daughter of a harlot and an Octoroon (One African great grandparent). I would have preferred something more open since history reveals there were quite a few gentle relationships between southern white men and women of African descent which would spare the audience this soap opera stuff. Great scenery. Wonderful scenes. Wonderful authentic costuming. Just pathetic as soap operas are.", "I saw this film at the age of 17 in 1988 when it repeated on ABC, at the time I could care less about history, but when I saw this I was immediately hooked, this is a masterpiece, great storytelling at its best, it made me appreciate our nation's history, the sacrifices that many gave their life for, it is Patrick Swayze's best performance ever, everyone else is superb also, James Read is also superb although he never gained the fame he should have, David Caradine is a man you just love to hate, Kirstie Alley also gives the performance of her career, although very long you never notice the time, just make sure you have enough time, once hooked you will not be able to stop watching.", 'I had ordered North and South, Book 2, so I knew I had to get North & South, Book 1 as well. These arrived as described and very fast. I am looking forward to watching North & South Book 1 soon! Would buy from seller again!', "This series originally aired in the 80's on tv. It's based off of books written by John Jakes. The story is about two families, one from the north and one from the south. This spans the 1840's thru the Civil War clear into the restoration of the South post Civil War. Lots of drama, conflict, romance and vengeance surrounds the plots and characters in this wonderful story of maintaining a friendship when the country is being torn apart around them.", "Don't forget the villains, the men and women you just love to hate (or is it hate to love?). Ashton must've been JR Ewing's grand ma. Kirstie Alley as Virgilia... I must say, did she take her acting lessons from someone's ex-wife for that role or what?", 'Wish it would come out on DVD. This classic series is a dream come true! I absolutely treasure it!', 'Plenty of talent on hand. Swayze comes off best in here as Southern fighting for his land (and later country), but badly stereo-typed rest of cast (except for Leslie Ann Down), especially Alley, Caradine and many blacks (how about the Buckwheat meets Fred Williamson act by Forrest Whitaker?!) hurt overall production. Beautifully filmed and edited like the sorry *Broke Back Mountain*, but wastes too much time in putting the Pro-ducer (especially Dave Wolper, I'm told...) ideas. Yes, there are several redeeming (white and black Southerners in here; especially Washington and Sally Reemus) but there never was any guy named Bent who tried to "off" CSA Pres. Jeff Davis, who is played very well by Lloyd Bridges (who comes off much better than small-faced Hal Holbrook as Lincoln). Also, where are the blacks that fought for the Confederacy?! There were 100,000 more than fought for the Yanks during the war between the states. Also, no mention of white or Indian indentured servants! Oh well, that's Hollywood for ya, Y'all! Long live the South! But go to atlanticbullionandcoindotcom for the real South, in DVDs and videos!', 'The superb casting and directing of this miniseries aside, it taught even this miniseries buff that all miniseries aren't necessarily great simply because they're big. The schools of western New York taught me about the struggle between us Noble Yankees and our saintly belief in human dignity, versus the evil-nasty Johnny Rebs with their ingratitude towards their own country and their cruelty towards their slaves. Give a man a drawl, a bullwhip and dress him in a Klan robe, ya gotcha basic southerner. Which is to say, the way character Virgilia Hazard (Kirstie Alley) feels about southerners in this film. Although care was taken to portray co-protagonist Orry Main (Patrick Swayze) as a good sort of guy, there is the feeling that he's an exception to the general run of his kinfolk. Look at his own kid sister Ashton (Teri Garber), for example. You take Scarlett O'Hara's vixenish little-ole-me hypocrisy and self-centeredness, leave out her courage, and you've got Ashton. But even that isn't enough Reb-bashing for the producers--they transplant villain Elkanah

Bent (Phillip Casnoff) from the Ohio that Jakes has him coming from to Carolina to give them yet another sneering Southron. TV Guide gave Casnoff's portrayal of Bent the "Snidely Whiplash Award", and rightly so. I'll admit that this film taught me the correct pronunciation of Bent's first name--it rhymes with "Dana", not "marijuana". But come on already! As a Yankee, I was taught revisionist history decades before I heard the term for it. Now that I'm old enough to have a less-biased view of that part of my country's history, do I really need the same thing in fiction? John Jakes remarks that, while he was doing research for the book, at least one local asked indignantly; "How can a Yankee presume to come down here and write about US?" I wouldn't doubt that some of those people, if they later read the book, would regret being so defensive toward Jakes. But then they'd watch this film and regret not having had tar and feathers with them at the time.', "This 1985 epic miniseries aired on television only and starred the popular and sexy actor Patrick Swayzee (from Dirty Dancing and Ghost) and the equally sexy James Read (Love Crimes). The saga follows two families, a Yankee Northern family and a Southern one, effectively depicting the divided country during the American Civil War. It is a highly engaging work of historical fiction, a costume drama that vividly portrays the reality of the period. As this is true to historic fact, although romanticized and dramatized for the sake of a movie, it is still very suitable for a class that is teaching the period of the Civil War. Since it is so long, it's best to watch only highlights. However, for history buffs and for those who are interested in the Civil War in particular, this film is quite a treat. Patrick Swayzee oozes with charm and Southern gentility, as well as courage. James Read holds his own with his own sex appeal and his acting prowess. The women who are their love interests also do a good job. The industrialized, more modern and progressive North does come off as more humanitarian and idealistic, as historic accounts manage to give us the impression, whereas the rural South holds darker aspects- slavery and abuse, ironically amid the wealthy and leisure classes of the rich. We have come along way since the Civil War. Although we are far more united than we were then, there are still so many differences that tend to pull people apart- race, ethnic groups, culture, religion, gender, social status, political affiliations, sexuality, etc. We are a motley bunch that lives in the same country but seem to inhabit our separate own. Let us hope movies such as this teach us that this country is best loved for its freedom and equal rights for all its inhabitants.", "This mini series is the one of the best made. (the other being N&S book 2) Swayzee IS Orrie Main. This is Patrick Swayzee at his best. What women in her right mind wouldn't find him attractive in his southern attire!! :) His inner struggle to stay friends with George Hazard, makes the movie. All of the characters are wonderfully played. This series along with N&S book 2 hold a special place in my video collection. It is a MUST watch and a MUST own. Watch it today!! :)", 'NORTH AND SOUTH is one of those once in a decade television events that is so astonishing that once you see it, you never forget it (Actually, the producers of this miniseries did it again in 1986, with the even better miniseries NORTH AND SOUTH, BOOK 2. Sadly, they failed with HEAVEN AND HELL: NORTH AND SOUTH, BOOK 3). I was only one year old when the miniseries first came out. When I finally saw it, I was impressed by the superb acting by all of the actors, and the battle sequences were handled with the utmost care, making them look both exciting AND accurate. It takes you back to that time before the Civil War began, and shows us the many reasons why the bloodiest war on the face of the continent was fought. Great to use as both a tool for study AND great for those who love masterful storytelling. Grade: A+']

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['Jiri Menzel's 'Ostre Sledovane Vlaky' has been heralded as one of the definitive films of the 60's, a deliciously engrossing 'coming of age' story that mixes enough humor with drama to create a beautifully complete depiction of life. It reminds me somewhat of 'Lasky Jedne Plavovlasky' and the brilliant 'Le Souffle au Coeur' in that it uses natural adolescent curiosity to elaborate on even deeper and more mature revelations. In 'Ostre Sledovane Vlasky' we are introduced to young Milos. Milos is a young, naive virgin. I want to make something clear. One particular reviewer accused this movie of being nothing more than an exploitive message to viewers that promiscuity is acceptable

and expected. That is not the case. This film doesn't endorse this action (the character of Josef alone somewhat shows a condemning attitude towards this course) but it simply uses it as a way to explore the insecurities and very real fears of adolescence. Young men especially are raked with these very curiosities, and the feeling of inadequacy, especially in the intimacy department, can scare a man for life. 'Ostre Sledovane Vlasky' merely uses this avenue of life to serve as a foundation for deeper character development. I just felt the need to say that, since this reviewer's ignorance irritated me. So, back to the movie. Milos is young and questioning his ability to perform (as a man). The thing is, his insecurities run deeper than a mere intimacy problem, but he's not really aware of anything else at his young age. Taken under the wing of middle-aged rebel (and ladykiller) Hubicka, Milos gets a crash course in the ways of love, which he attempts to use on the beautiful Masa. Yes, there is a political turn in the film towards the end, which I won't elaborate on so as not to ruin anything for the viewer, but I will say that this point is one that the reviewer I mentioned failed to notice. This turn of events (which he claimed as pointless) is the crux of the film, for it shows how the director's use of intimacy was merely a mask for greater things. The acting here is astonishing, especially from the supporting players. That isn't to say that Vaclav Neckar isn't wonderful as young Milos, but Josef Somr and Jitka Scoffin are just brilliant. Somr especially takes a very despicable character and makes him likable and enjoyable. Despite the fact that the actions taken by Hubicka are at times reprehensible, the charismatic way in which he carries them out (that stamp scene is just marvelous) make him delightful almost. Scoffin is far more than a pretty face here (she is stunning), for she uses a mixture of restrained sensuality and naive awkwardness to flesh out the object of Milos' affections. With a cheeky humor that makes the more serious aspects of the film stand out, 'Ostre Sledovane Vlasky' is a must see for any fan of foreign film, coming of age stories or humorous splices of human drama. It is a beautiful and sincere film that lives up to the hype.", "This film adds a quirky resonance to the history of Neo-Freudian interpretation of human sexual psychology in film that rivals Bertolucci's 'The Conformist'. Gorgeously filmed in black and white, each frame by frame echoes of a past when life was still mired in concealment and innocence. The story centers around a train station in a Czech, German occupied small town and an apprentice train watcher, Milos Hirma, who is confused about his place in the world. He is a young man and is approaching an instance in his life when sexuality is flourishing all around him and yet he can not comprehend it. Scattered throughout the film are leitmotifs that represent sex: the train blowing steam, a horse with a woman riding it, a skinless rabbit being fondled by a woman cook, etc. He is under the tutelage of a train dispatcher who seems a zealot when it comes to seducing women. Although he notices that the train dispatcher is a sex fiend, he does little to elicit help from him. The general thought of the males is that a young man should be bestowed with the foreknowledge and insight at birth. Thus, his inability to perform when his girlfriend Masa is in bed during a bombing causes him great existential crisis and leads to his attempted suicide. In fact, the war was subliminally to blame for his impotence. This isn't a political film but uses subtle innuendos to trace the history of a young man into adulthood. Scattered throughout the film are affable characters such as a pigeon loving, crap covered Train master, a noble, aristocratic woman, a benign, slightly insane, photographer uncle of Masa, and a Nazi ideologue who refuses to believe that the Reich is in ruins. The sexual metaphors are spread in gusty humorous episodes such as when the train dispatcher 'stamps' a girl's buttocks in a moment of ecstasy. In the finale, the boy is finally cured of his 'impotence' by a big bang, I won't give it away, you'll have to see this delightful film.", 'A neat little comedy set during WW II at a Czech train station, where the generally bored station personnel have sex on the brain. Every now and then they have to listen to the inspector tell them how they're working for the Reich and the future of the world, but despite the pep talks, at the end they help blow up a munitions train anyway. The hero of the picture is a young man (played by Vaclav Neckar) who has taken the job as station employee to avoid work; he has trouble with his girlfriend (premature ejaculation) and gets "cured" by a saboteur. Neckar is the one who blows up the train - and is killed in the process. There is a funny ongoing scenario where a girl gets stamped on her rear end with Nazi rubber stamps - her mother complains to the authorities, but the girl is obviously pleased with the whole thing. It's this rather comic scene with the authorities that's taking place when the train blows up. It's a very engaging movie throughout - a very amusing combination

of sex and patriotism. (It took an Oscar for best foreign film.) The movie sticks with you long after viewing it - a sure sign of its worth.', "The most interesting aspect of Closely Watched Trains is the camera work behind it. The framing of this (black & white) film is most accomplished. For instance, you might see a distant frontal shot of something, then a medium shot---also head-on (and stationary), then an alternate side angle close-up of what the camera was drawing in on. Of course, the director does pan his camera at times & shots are tracked, but what's most noticable (and interesting) about this film are its multiple stilled shots at varying distances to convey space crossed. Likewise when characters talking to one another are filmed we aren't subjected to head shots of each in alternating succession---showing that only 2 camera were used, but are given a variety of responding shots which gives the impression of 3-5 cameras being employed (whether so many were actually or not, not being the point). In this sense it has the mood of an accomplished silent film, wherein the visuals convey most of the story by themselves (thanks to able direction). So, if you are a fan of filmmaking do give this film some of your time. Incidentally, the World War 2 aspect of this film is rather secondary to the human side of this story, which concerns the separate sex lives of a freshly recruited train station attendant named Milos Hrma & his superior; the latter being a ladies-man & the former rather clueless (being quite despondent about being so---which is effectively captured in stilled, varying angled, close-ups of this man). (05Dec) Cheers!", "A funny look at a dramatic world through the eyes of railway workers in a small town in wartime Czechoslovakia. I enjoyed watching this movie, it really is a hopeful and humorous story about human beings in times of turmoil. This is Czechoslovakia during World War II. The Nazis are officially in control, and actively imposing their bureaucracy on the nation. Our protagonist is young Milos Hrma, whose father is a retired railway man, spending his days sitting at home, looking at his watch, and telling everyone where each train is now. He encourages his son to find employment at the local village railway depot. Easily the youngest employee at the depot, Milos wants to fit in, be admired, be a man. He wears the uniform of a train dispatcher, but doesn't seem comfortable in it yet. While other reviewers have mentioned young Milos' talk of wanting to have sex, which is actually quite funny in its stark honesty, much can be lost in our descriptions. This is a comedy, not a prurient display. It seems that sex is simply the path Milos believes he must take to be a man. It is his naivety and honesty with his fellow railway employees that makes the whole deal such a riot. This self-created drama keeps his mind off of what is happening around him. Some may be offended by this, in which case I'd suggest you'd probably be happier buying a Thomas the Tank Engine DVD. Milos does show himself a man...and it has little to do with s-e-x. Very worth watching! Some of the scenes are terrific--I liked the scene where Milos goes up to kiss the female conductor as the train is about to pull away and then...oh, I won't ruin it for you! It really is a funny film set in a heartbreaking time. All the more interesting that it was shot in 1966. Recommended for comedy buffs and railway workers everywhere. I wish that sort of exitement happened on my train! :)", 'A morose and depressed young man (Vaclav Neckar) takes a job in a Czech railway station during the German occupation of Czechoslovakia. The boy (and everyone else for that matter) is preoccupied with sex as the world falls apart around them. Ultimately, this film left me unsatisfied. Neckar's performance, though it may be appropriate for the character, is deadly dull. I found no precedent for the decision by him and his lecherous older co-worker (Vladimir Valenta) to join the underground movement and the climax arrives rather abruptly and anticlimactically. Having little emotional investment in the characters, I was left unaffected.', 'The "Closely Watched Trains" are those that are carrying supplies to the German army in and through occupied Czechoslovakia during World War II. That is why they are closely watched--so that they run on time. But they are also closely watched by the people of Czechoslovakia, especially dispatcher Hubicka (Josef Somr) and his trainee Milos Hrma (Vaclav Neckar) for another reason, which will become apparent as the movie ends. Not that Milos and Hubicka are especially diligent workers. On the contrary. What Hubicka is especially adept at is seduction of females while Milos is distracted by his worries about becoming a man. He has what must be seen as a problem demanding comic relief (if you will). He has trouble pleasing his girl friend because of premature ejaculation. He is so consumed by this embarrassing failure that he seeks quietus in the warm bath of a bordello. Meanwhile Hubicka is able to please the pretty young telegraphist Virginia Svata

(Jitka Zelenohorska) by playing a kind of strip poker with her and rubber stamping her pretty legs and butt much to her delight and to the consternation of her mother when she finds out. The German Councilor Zednicek (Vlastimil Brodsky) who tolerates no hanky-panky when it comes to keeping the trains moving conducts an investigation and comes to the conclusion that Hubicka is guilty of misuse and abuse of the great German language because he stamped German words onto Virginia's body! This is the tone of the film, wryly ironic, irreverent and mildly comedic, employing in a sense a kind of off-center "theater of the absurd" treatment. Director Jiri Menzel, who appears briefly in the film as Dr. Brabec who diagnoses Milos's "affliction," spun this off from a novel by Bohumil Hrabal, but it could easily have come from a novel by Jaroslav Hasek, who wrote the celebrated Czech classic, "The Good Soldier Svejk," so alike in treatment and tone are they, and so very characteristic of the Czech national mind-set vis-a-vis all the horrors of the European wars. Menzel concentrates on the petty affairs of day-to-day peasant life, sex, the raising of pigeons and geese, the boredom of bureaucratic jobs as he works toward the culminating scene in which the heroics seem almost light-hearted and to come about more from happenstance than from careful planning. Some of the scenes in the movie are absolutely unique in the world of cinema and suggest a kind of cinematic genius. The creepy goose-stuffing (for foie gras pate) scene in which Milos seeks help with his "problem" from an older woman is riotous--or would be riotous if we were not so amazed as what she is doing while talking to him and what it LOOKS like she might be doing! The scene in which Stationmaster Lanska is torn between the prospect of seducing a voluptuous woman and the chance that he might miss supper reminded me of a little boy at play with his mother calling him home for dinner. The final scene in which it looks like Menzel may have employed a wind machine is just so perfectly presented, combining as it does the stark realism of the war and a delicious (but soon to be mixed) personal triumph of the resistance. This is one of the classic films of all time. But prepare to put aside ordinary viewing habits and to concentrate with an alert mind. The subtleties of Menzel's little masterpiece will be obscured by inattention, preconceptions and faulty expectations. (Or at least that is what they'll tell you at film school.) See this Oscar winner (Best Foreign Film, 1967) for Jiri Menzel who survived oppression and censorship by the Soviets and is still making movies.', "Based on the eponymous novella by Bohumil Hrabal, *Closely Watched Trains* wryly portrays the coming-of-age Milos Hrma a train-dispatcher-in-training at a Czech backwater railway station during the late stages of World War Two. The film deservedly won the Oscar for the best foreign language movie in 1967. Hrma is almost pathetically proud of his new position and the uniform he gets to wear. It soon becomes apparent, however, that the young man is increasingly obsessed with losing his virginity. His pursuit of sex lends comic and tragic aspects to the tale. Indeed, everyone in the station is quite horny. The film is also a hilarious send up of bureaucracy. When the train dispatcher uses the station's official seal to mark the legs and shapely derriere of another delightfully attractive young woman, her outraged mother complains first to the police and then to court. The mother diligently shows the highly interested officers and judges the offending markings. The court demurs; this is a railroad disciplinary matter. A disciplinary committee is convened. The girl happily testifies how she gladly let the dispatcher play his game on her backside. The committee members gulp and shift in their seats as they try not to betray their prurient interest. Meanwhile, Milos has learned that a German armament train is going through the station. A bomb is provided by a beautiful partisan, who also teaches him a thing or two. Milos is given the job of planting the bomb. Wonderfully acted, the movie is by turns sublimely sardonic, tragic, and erotic. Highest recommendation.", 'Director Jiri Menzel made this film during the middle 60's--when the Czech artists found themselves immersed in the joy of Prague Spring. This golden period (1965-68) has been called the Czech New Wave. One critic wrote, "Czech comedies--with their focus on the ordinary life of individuals--used an indirect approach to criticize the state of society." Czech humor is like the sadness of clowns--their smiles are painted on--and they found solid ways of delivering levity surreptitiously--poking fun at the bayonets and rifle butts aimed at their hearts. This film won the Oscar for Best Foreign Film (1966). Menzel was 27 when he made the film. He said, "We are quick to spot a paradox. We can always see Mr. Brezhnev in his underwear." Menzel was not allowed to direct films from 1969-1974. He collaborated with maverick poet, writer, and rabble rouser, Bohumil Hrabal--who wrote the novel this film is based on. The movie was shot in crisp B&W--giving; it the

look of a newsreel or documentary. Vaclav Neckar was wonderfully naive, gullible, and horny as the protagonist, Milos Hрма. He played a young man who was excited about doing nothing--who got to wear a uniform and got paid for it too. He was wide-eyed, shy, nervous, and randy. The scene where Milos tries to kiss his girl, Masa, just as the train is pulling out--and their lips never meet--became the poster for the film--signifying things yearned for but hard to achieve. I felt that the film never really seemed to be a service comedy--it was a thinly veiled sex comedy. Menzel's choice of keeping WWII at a distance--to concentrate on the human foibles never quite reached M.A.S.H. status. But it did point out that having sex while in a war zone must be a form of erotica second to none. This film may be flawed and less than perfect--but put in its proper perspective we find it to be a fragrant flower blossoming midst the turgid turds of totalitarianism.', "I remember seeing this film as a teenager when it first came out and have loved it ever since. I've also seen it about forty times and, like the wonderful book you read over and over, this film continues to be a revelation. It is darkly comic, wonderfully well drawn and has, to my mind probably the single sexiest scene ever put on film (the famous 'rubber stamp' sequence). The real tragedy of this film however, is the director Jiri Menzel, whose many films have never seen the light of day in this country. A victim of the Soviet crackdown on Czechoslovakia in 1968, Menzel's follow-up film, the absurd and outrageously funny 'Larks On A String' was banned until only a few years ago when it was briefly shown in the U.S. and had an even briefer run on VHS (hint-hint: a DVD please??). Clearly, Menzel was/is a genius whose gift was stopped in its tracks by the ugly spectre of politics. Menzel, like his fellow film makers Milos Forman, and Ivan Passar has a unique and important voice. 'Closely Watched Trains' is a masterpiece in its richness of character and observation on the human condition. There is not a single false moment, nor badly cast character in the entire film. It is a rewarding experience and one to savor over and over again. I don't know how many films can make that claim, but this is one film I will see for a very long time to come. I'm so glad the DVD has finally come out - I've worn out three VHS copies over the years.", 'When you live in an oppressive regime the human mind artist becomes a huge laboratory where the chemical reactions take place and one the most important ingredients frequently used is the irony , an intellectual poison which seems to work out to perfection levels in special cases . And this was one of the these ones .Once more in this special case and anticipating two years to the Russian tanks visit in Prague , Jiri Menzel made this brilliant jewel film about a young man on a first job in a small town station but eventually those twist of fate will become of him a tragic hero .Bitter, acid , joyous and satiric film .And please remember: There is not any serious issue which can not be told through a smile .', 'Unless you are seriously into coming of age movies you can skip this one. Critics love this film because it conforms to the modern liberal message that you should have sex with basically anyone. The attempt to make the protagonist Milos into a tragic hero as a resistance fighter fails because it is obviously unimportant addition to the main story, which is that a young man should have sex early and have sex often.', "This wonderful film from 1966 is one of the first black comedies, albiet with more pathos then you normally find in such fare. Director Jiri Mezel's film is set during the Second World War in a tiny Czech train when a young dispatcher (Vaclav Neckar) observes everything about life. Few black comedies cover so much, from the absurd to the erotic, with love and death thrown in, not to mention an ending that is still pretty shocking. 'Closely Watched Trains' is an audacious film, especially for the time and place. Eastern Europe is not where you normally expect to find a jewel, but then the 'Nazis' do not necessarily have to represent the Nazis, right? Again, this is one of the best black comedies you are going to come across in any language.", 'A young Czech man named Milos Hрма begins work in a train station in Nazi occupied Czechoslovakia. His father retired from the same job and is now on paid retirement. Milos is very pleased to have a job that doesn't require hard work, and his mom is very proud that her son has been given an attractive uniform, the envy of the neighborhood. At the station, the employees are more interested in romance than in work. There's a lot of sex going on during those slow hours in the night when few trains appear. But our poor hero Milos is not part of the sex play. He is a virgin, and a very funny and naive one. There is a beautiful, sweet girl interested in him, but she doesn't know that he is a virgin and she is in for a disappointment during his first attempt. He's really not ready for her. Meanwhile, his funny co-worker is having a ball. In one cute scene, the

co-worker uses the official German stamp presses to decorate the body of a beautiful girl. In other words, he puts a few official stamp imprints on her butt and elsewhere. I like one of the characters, a German fool who explains the troop movements in World War Two to the boys on the job. He describes all of the military setbacks as strategic withdrawals, pretending that his side is winning the war, even as the Allies roll back the German defense in Europe. Near the end of the film, things get a bit political, yet still in a comedic way. There is a plan to sabotage an ammunition train, to blow up a trainload of German ammunition. The central characters in the plot are the Czech playboy with the stamper, our poor hero Milos (who is distressed at his inability to make love to a woman, to the point of suicide), and the other boys at the job. A stunning young woman comes by with a bomb. She represents the Czech underground. She hears of Milos's problem and decides to take action. Leave it to a Czech undergrounder to solve the problem. She makes a happy man of him. As a result, now that he is a man he is more than able to join the resistance to Nazi oppression. The film has a powerful ending. It is really a wonderful story. The only criticisms I have are that it starts a bit slow for me, not really picking up until the middle chapters, and that it is overly flattering to the Czech population, a bit self-serving, as if every Czech male was happy to lay down his life for the chance at fighting the Germans, as if all of the Czechs were as kind and innocent as the characters in this story, without a hint of racial hatred in them. We know that to be false. Czechoslovakia was caught up in the vicious antisemitism of most of Europe, so the people weren't as kind and funny and adorable as the characters in this film. I almost hear the director saying "This is who we were, we were wonderful, innocent, funny people", and it simply wasn't true. Europe of the 1930s and 40s was a cesspool of hatred and prejudice, a land that could only be described as hellish and demonic, because the people themselves were that way, partly as a result of economic difficulties. The strength of the movie is in its heart, and in its comedy. One of my favorite moments is when poor Milos, who has already tried to kill himself because he thinks he will never be able to have sex like a normal man, is instructed to find an older woman to help him learn, and he asks a co-worker "What about your wife?" I could have fallen on the floor laughing. All he meant was that the man's wife might know someone, but it was so funny. And to keep the joke going, he later asks another friend "What about your sister?" I happily give this film the highest rating of 5 stars. 'The Bottom Line: If you heard that *Closely-Watched Trains* was a Czechoslovak film released in 1968 you probably wouldn't think it was a coming-of-age sex comedy, but yet that's the genre Jiri Menzel's film falls into until it gets darker at the very end; much more enjoyable than I thought it would be when I sat down to watch it, CWT is probably not the masterpiece it's cracked up to be but you're likely to have a good time watching it. 3/4", 'Note to American viewers: "*Closely Watched Trains*" (1966) is one of them "foreign films". It has subtitles and is in black and white (actually a strength as it is superb film stock). The setting is German-occupied Czechoslovakia during WWII. The setting and the use of the Czech resistance movement (to the German occupation) as a plot element may confuse Americans; many of who believe that Czechoslovakia was an Axis country or have never given the subject any thought. But just prior to the start of the war, Britain and France sold out Czechoslovakia. They backed out of their treaties and allowed Hitler to break up the country; establishing the German Protectorates of Bohemia and Moravia and annexing the Sudetenland (which had a significant German population). Also useful in understanding the film was a revisionist trend by European countries in the 1960's to rehabilitate their images; suppressing any record of cooperation/assistance to Germany while proclaiming their resistance to the Nazi agenda. The film is a product of this trend which is why the resistance elements seem rather tenuously inserted into the story. The film revolves around young Milos Hrna (Vaclav Neckar) who follows his father's example and goes to work for the railroad; becoming an apprentice dispatcher at a rural station. The impressionable Milos becomes fascinated with Hubicka, a veteran train dispatcher who devotes most of his energy to various on-the-job seductions. The second act involves Hubicka's on-going conflict with their superior, the pigeon-raising and feather covered stationmaster. But "*Watched Trains*" is really Milos' coming of age story, complete with the requisite line: "you mean this is the first time you have been with a woman". Milos' first time proves a disaster and leads to an unsuccessful suicide attempt. Meanwhile, it turns out that Hubicka has more on his mind than girls. He is a member of this resistance and is planning to destroy a German munitions

train when it passes near the station. Unfortunately for Milos, Hubicka's recreational activities are reported to the authorities and he must attend an investigatory hearing inside the station, scheduled for the same time that the ammunition train is expected. Milos, who has finally demonstrated his manhood in bed, must now demonstrate it by climbing the signal tower and dropping an explosive device onto the train as it passes beneath. The film goes out with a bang and one is left to decide on the relative merits of the two methods young men have of proving their manhood. I forgot to mention that the film is actually a comedy. And for that matter the whole thing about the resistance movement is pretty much a side story to the coming of age stuff. And the female characters are all a little too good. As tends to happen with good little movies, the plot has very little to do with what the movie is about, and nothing to do with the effect it had on me. And as tends to happen with them "foreign" films there are allegorical elements. The characters are seen from Milos's innocent point of view, a nontraditional hero who is neither heroic nor particularly intelligent. But he does fall in love and that reshapes his destiny. All in all a very entertaining production. Especially good is Jitka Zelenohorská; as a female telegraph operator, who becomes the object of Hubicka's playful attentions. Then again, what do I know? I'm only a child.

'This film adds a quirky resonance to the history of Neo-Freudian interpretation of human sexual psychology in film that rivals Bertolucci's "The Conformist". Gorgeously filmed in black and white, each frame by frame echoes of a past when life was still mired in concealment and innocence. The story centers around a train station in a Czech, German occupied small town and an apprentice train watcher, Milos Hrbma, who is confused about his place in the world. He is a young man and is approaching an instance in his life when sexuality is flourishing all around him and yet he can not comprehend it. Scattered throughout the film are leitmotifs that represent sex: the train blowing steam, a horse with a woman riding it, a skinless rabbit being fondled by a woman cook, etc. He is under the tutelage of a train dispatcher who seems a zealot when it comes to seducing women. Although he notices that the train dispatcher is a sex fiend, he does little to elicit help from him. The general thought of the males is that a young man should be bestowed with the foreknowledge and insight at birth. Thus, his inability to perform when his girlfriend Masa is in bed during a bombing causes him great existential crisis and leads to his attempted suicide. In fact, the war was subliminally to blame for his impotence. This isn't a political film but uses subtle innuendos to trace the history of a young man into adulthood. Scattered throughout the film are affable characters such as a pigeon loving, crap covered Train master, a noble, aristocratic woman, a benign, slightly insane, photographer uncle of Masa, and a Nazi ideologue who refuses to believe that the Reich is in ruins. The sexual metaphors are spread in gusty humorous episodes such as when the train dispatcher 'stamps' a girl's buttocks in a moment of ecstasy. In the finale, the boy is finally cured of his 'impotence' by a big bang, I won't give it away, you'll have to see this delightful film.'

'Based on an outstanding short novel by the Czech writer Bohumil Hrabal, Closely Watched Trains is probably the finest film of the Czech New Wave. The New Wave resulted from a period of experimentation that resulted from the liberalization of the Communist Party that produced the Prague Spring and was terminated by the Soviet invasion. The wit and humor with which Closely Watched Trains approaches Czech life during WWII was undoubtedly a major departure from the conventional party ideology. As commented by other reviewers, Closely Watched Trains is a witty sex comedy and ironic coming of age story. It is also a deeply ironic allegorical account of Czech history during WWII. Superbly filmed and acted.'

'This is a fairly unusual movie that I first took notice of when it won the Best Foreign Language Oscar around 1967. I finally got to see it today and I was quite favorably impressed. The movie can best be described as a comedy (and a very good one at that). However, the ending doesn't quite fill the expectation of a comedy. As a matter of fact, I'm still trying to sort out the ending.

"Closely Watched Trains" is the story of a ne'er-do-well from a family of ne'er-do-wells in German occupied Czechoslovakia during WWII. He is excited about finding a job that will enable him to earn a good salary without having to break a sweat. His job is at the train station and is ridiculously simple (and there is a crew of four to do it). He works with some unusual characters including a real Don Juan who gives him misleading impressions about a man's role and function. When the time comes for him to show his manhood, he fails and, after near tragedy, the humor gets even better. There is a scene with an elderly woman stroking a geese's neck that has to be seen to be believed. Intrigue

enters the script and we go back and forth between our hero's sexual quest and a planned sabotage of a Nazi ammunition train. The movie ends somewhat awkwardly but I guess I understand it to mean that one ne'er-do-well in a long line of ne'er-do-wells finally broke the monotony and did something noble. I saw the movie in what I assumed was Czech although it sounded German to me. I was alright with the subtitles, especially after watching an Italian movie the night before that was dubbed in English. Foreign language movies dubbed in English might free a person to look away from the screen from time to time but there's a phoniness to it. It's as though the dubbing voice is more focussed on matching lip movements than to matching emotional expression. If you've never seen "Closely Watched Trains" before (and I gather that most people haven't), it's worth a look. It has some of the best "young man coming of age" sequences I've seen. At the same time, there is a strength to its purpose that is clear but hard to pinpoint. Let's just say that watching "Closely Watched Trains" is time well spent. 'Set in Czechoslovakia in the 40s during the German occupation, Jiri Menzel's "CLOSELY WATCHED TRAINS" is a wry satire that helped establish the Czech New Wave. Milos (Vaclav Neckar) is a virginal, naive, teenage apprentice railway depot platform guard in a village outside Prague. He is preoccupied with wishing for sex. He considers, and is even attracted to, joining the Resistance but that would require serious effort. So he spends his time doing as little as possible and flirting with the female conductor of a passing train. This dark comedy is also a wonderful coming of age story in which the loss of innocence naturally parallels the greater losses in the increasingly mad world Milos inhabits. Small town misadventures and petty rivalries are suddenly forced into a new perspective with the indomitable presence of the Germans and the surprising but inevitable hand of destiny. This is a comedy about Everyman enjoying his little realm of freedom and the System that eventually devoured it. In some ways, this film has renewed meaning in our rapidly shrinking world where we question old beliefs and increasingly welcome the surrender of cherished Freedoms for the illusion of greater Security. Difficult issues that great films can clarify -- and obfuscate.", 'This is a highly acclaimed 60's new wave movie that won the Oscar for best foreign language film. It established the reputation of film director, Jiri Menzel, and is considered to be one of the very best Czech films ever made. However, embracing the possibility that this may ruin my status as a reviewer for ever, I believe its undeserved reputation significantly underestimates Czech cinema. The film has a dreamlike quality which emphasises the bumbling sexual innocence of the main character, the Railway Despatcher's Apprentice, Milo, and which gives the unexpected dramatic ending real force. However, it is only then that the grim reality of the Nazi dominated world in which the film is set is really acknowledged. Milo is also an apprentice in the important matter of life and on one level this is a coming of age film. However, the visual sexual innuendo now seems very obvious and the comedy cliché'd. None of its cardboard characters are really developed and Closely Observed Trains seems very much like a slow paced version of a British "Carry On" film. Like them it feels very dated. My partner was so bored she walked out half way through it. If you want to see a really good Czech film check out the short but superb, "Most", 'A very simple story about a young boy called Milos who is on the verge of breaking into adulthood and living through the usual adolescent problems. He lands a job at a small train station in rural Czechoslovakia. The station is manned by a middle aged station master who spends his time feeding his flock of pigeons and wistfully helping his wife weave woolen sweaters. The station master's main train dispatcher Josef, who is a smart, but flirty Josef. Josef is a silent rebel, with a nonchalant air of defiance around him. Josef takes Milos under his wings educating him about dispatching trains and the art of impressing girlfriends effortlessly. The story meanders around slowly. Josef disobeying the station master, romancing the countess and other women in the station (to the chagrin of the station master). Milos on the other hand is struggling with the usual adolescent problems whilst learning to send telegraph messages, dispatching trains and timidly attempting to date Jitka (a train conductress). His first date and first kiss doesn't go too well, so he attempts suicide and is then counseled by a rather stern area commander who believes that the Nazi forces (occupying and ruling Czechoslovakia at the time) will salvage them and show them the way. Amidst and beneath this rather simple story is another subtle, undercurrent story of Nazi occupation, their ideals and brutalities. Josef's nonchalance is a metaphor for the subterfuge & rebellion against the occupation.

One day, the area commander visits the small station and tells them about an explosives-laden "closely watched train" that will pass by the station the following day. Josef immediately hatches plan to blow it up. Gorgeous Victoria brings a neatly packaged time-bomb (hinting at the efficient undercover rebel movement) and the unsuspecting Milos volunteers to plant it on the "closely watched train" with childlike innocence. The next day, the area commander arrives at the station just minutes before the train is supposed to and threatens to sabotage Josef's plan, but young Milos acts smartly, sneaks with the time-bomb, changes the train's track, scampers up the signal post and drops it on one of the train bogies. But, he loses his balance and falls on the train. Minutes later, bomb explodes with ferocious intensity & shaking everybody with a powerful shockwave. Josef relishes the stirred air, fellow villagers & townspeople seem contend and the area commander is stunned. Milos has (in his usual unsuspecting ways) become a martyr and graduated into adulthood. The movie has been directed wonderfully. Two very different stories have been mixed with effortless ease. It is essentially a comedy movie with serious patriotic underpinnings. The cinematography is perfect. Here are some salient points: 1. Milos running after a slowly moving train whilst Jitka is waving at him from the last compartment. Milos can't keep up and fades into the distance. 2. Numerous shots of a passing train blow dust & sand as Milos gives it salute with full attention and the nonchalant Josef whispering something into his air with his cap sideways cap and disheveled hair. 3. Josef and others being swept away by the shockwave of the train explosion, holding onto their caps and smiling with utter content.', "Sometimes I don't know what to say about a film because a plot summary would give too much away. This coming-of-age story seems fairly standard at first but has enough novel twists to be original. Good performances and cinematography are icing on the cake. My only complaint is the usual subtitle one: reading and watching a scene is not fun. The movie isn't rated but is probably PG-13 for adult situations and sexual themes but almost no nudity.", 'This review is for the Criterion Collection DVD edition of the film. Closely Watched Trains, known as "Ostre sledované vlaky" in the Czech language, is another Oscar winner for best foreign language film. It remains popular and has some famous scenes in it. Plot Summary: During the German occupation in WWII, a young man starts working at a railway station and is determined to lose his virginity. He meets a young woman and pursues a relationship with her. He later is involved in a plot to destroy a German train carrying ammo. The film has one of the most original love scenes I know where Milos uses rubber stamps on his girlfriend's bare buttocks. The love scenes are tame and probably would not go past a PG-13 rating. The Criterion Collection only has a theatrical trailer as a special feature']

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[nice boobs but i cheesy now want to to see as porn then get but if hope for action story then dont get the cover looks like normal movie but it just porn great girl on girl scenes though', 'Fun, cute, silly to say the least, but it is entertaining and there is T&A for those who need some eye candy.', 'I thought this would be a funny movie then I realized it was a cheesy soft core porn flix ,awful', 'I did like this movie and would recommend it to any fan of the actresses of the movie. This is a Skin Flick ladies and gentlemen don't forget that when you watch it. not for the younger audience though without question. if your a fan of Flash Gordon you might like this too.', "Cute, but it's really short on any type of plot. Lot of TNA and not much else. The film is good for a laugh and not much else.", "Oh boy! Another bikini movie from Retromedia. And it's a good one. It reuses a classic B movie plot that never gets old. A planet populated entirely with women sends two cute, scantily clad girls to Earth to find virile men that can be brought back and used to insure the survival of their race. There are seven sex scenes. Four are boy/girl. One is girl/girl. One is boy/girl/girl/girl. And one is boy/girl/boy/girl. The women are all hot and include veteran bikini girls Nicole Sheridan and Beverly Lynn, as well as some new faces: Christine Nguyen, Syren, Michelle Lay, and Rebecca Love. All the women do a great job during their sex scenes. Unfortunately, Rebecca doesn't have a sex scene in this movie, she just stands around topless. Extras include some bloopers and trailers for other Retromedia bikini movies. I recommend this one.", 'Fans of the Bikini series will have plenty of nasty

stuff on their menu with this entry. Nichole Sheridan plays a student bod who is screwing with her professor to change her grades. Christine Nguyen is an alien from the lesbian planet who (for reviewers who keep score tabs on the scenes) is in a two boys with two girls while girl kisses girl!', 'I am a movie buff but b movies are my thing this one is a supreme version of that genre that entertains in all the worst ways', "I don't know why I bought this movie. just wanted to check it out. not what I really expected, but just a cheap B movie.", 'This whole series of films from Retromedia, of which "Bikini Girls from the Lost Planet" is one, are actually great fun to watch and much better than I expected out of this type of movie. They are soft-core porn films, so there are all the expected nude scenes with beautiful women, love scenes, fake sex scenes, and so forth. Nothing new there. They are very much soft core, so they have none of the explicit hard core type shots, which makes them more viewable by a general audience (these are movies that my girlfriend would sit and watch with me and enjoy). But what makes them interesting is that they actually have a great tongue-in-cheek sense of humor about them. The films don't take themselves too seriously or try to be something other than what they are; which is refreshing. In many of these types of movies, the "movie" is usually some really bad filler that tries to just fill in the gap between sex scenes. Not so in this series of movies from Retromedia. The "filler" in these movies is actually fun to watch just on it's own merit. The cast in this series of films, which for the most part carries over from film to film, such as Nicole Sheridan and Evan Stone, are obviously having fun doing what they're doing. I was immensely surprised and impressed by Evan Stone, who is a hard core veteran, and the sense of humor and Jim Carrey-ish physical comedy that he brings to these films; who knew?. He's just great fun to watch. Nicole Sheridan, as well as being just beautiful to look at, also is clearly having fun playing some of the silly roles that she plays in the series, such as Jeannie, the ghost in the teeny bikini, and so on. I would highly recommend this whole series of films. "The Erotic Dreams of Jeannie," "The Bikini Chain Gang," "The Good, the Bad, and the Beautiful," "Bikini Girls from the Lost Planet," "Ghost in a Teeny Bikini," are all part of this series with much of the same core cast (a few actors differ from film to film). When watched as a group of films together, with the core cast moving from one silly premise to another, you can see the great sense of humor of the cast that comes through time after time.', 'Some of these movies suck, some are pretty good, this one in on the suck side!', 'This film is as close as you're gonna get as an Amazon sold porn flick. I mean, it's not XXX, but what it lacks as "in your face" explicit sex, it makes up for in expressing passion, and sensual pleasuring, and moaning, of each other in many of the scenes. The story is simple, even a little lame, but it works for what you're gonna watch. and why you bought this to watch in the first place. You have this lesbian planet from outer space. The queen lesbian says that they need to breed with a man to keep their existence alive, so since there are no men on their planet, they have to send two very attractive but somewhat dimwitted and naive girls to earth to have sex to impregnate themselves and then return to the planet and give birth to re-populate the diminishing population of the lesbian planet. All the girls in this film are not only beautiful, but how their naive innocence is played out as actually believable. Who'da thought that emotions could be acted out so well in a racy sex film? Anyway, I enjoy this film. It's fun to have on while you're listening to music or something.', 'Several full frontal sexual scenes. Good looking actresses. Its the usual B-movie skin flick plot. Some hot aliens come down from another planet... lots of sex... etc.', "A humorous light-hearted adult film that I watched with the wife. Recommended for one of those casual adult rentals, but don't expect a heavy-hitting plot (of course).", "This was a fun movie. Not Oscar quality, but you can tell the actors and actresses are having fun with their parts. They don't take themselves too seriously and for a B movie it was alright.", "What waste of money and my time. They can't act and the plot was stupid. I want my money back"]

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["I've had this DVD for some time. Originally, I also thought it was slow and not very challenging, but when I got it out again recently, I went as heavy as I could handle and got a fantastic workout. The first workout goes through all the moves and you can perfect your form. The second one has

combined kettlebell moves with short cardio intervals (this one is similar to Amy's other kettlebell DVD but not quite as demanding). It is a fantastic DVD. Well done instruction where you don't get hurt as a beginner, but grows with you beyond that. It really gives you a chance to go heavy without dread factor.", "This is a good absolute beginners kettlebell workout. VERY slow if you have any experience with kettlebells- but she did say that in the title, didn't she. And, duh, I ordered it anyway. For an absolute beginner, it is a great introduction with much attention to form (critical working with kettlebells) and a very well balanced mix of moves.", 'Great for beginners, easy to follow with good instruction and proper technique. I give it 5 stars. Easy to follow.', 'I have been looking for a good kettle bell workout after getting into kettle bell\n with Amy Dixon\'s "Give Me 10" workout video where she introduced kettle bells in her extra section. It was so much fun and so different than my other in-home workouts. Okay, first off, you need to make sure to get a heavy enough kettle bell. For women, the recommended weight is 20 lbs!!! If you use a 5 or 10 lb kettle bell, you won't get the true benefits of the exercise routine. I am a 40+ women and I'm starting this workout with a 15 lb. kettle bell. This is the MINIMUM weight I would recommend. I'm a little wimpy on upper-body strength, although the real workout is lower body. The whole concept of the workout is swinging the heavy kettle bell around. Don't start with anything less than 15 lbs. 20-30 lbs. which will give you the ultimate challenge and you will build tremendous strength. The video is excellent. It is made up of 3 sections. The first section is a tutorial on how to swing and handle the heavy weight. There are six exercises you will learn and are used throughout sections 2 and 3. Amy Bento demonstrates and explains each swing very well and this section gives you the opportunity to practice each of the exercises and prepare you for the 2 other sections. The second section is for beginners, yet is quite challenging. You will feel like you really worked your muscles and it gets your heart rate going too. Even though she leads by herself (there are no other students), she makes it fun, challenging, and interesting. You basically move from each of the 6 exercises in a fast paced manner. The routine is 30 minutes and will work out all your muscles and get cardio work too. The third section uses the same set on exercises, but she combines them into a series of swings for an even more challenging workout. In between each portion of kettle bell exercises, Amy adds cardio moves to keep your heart rate high. This is definitely a challenging workout!!! My only grip on the workout is the stretching section. At the end of each section there is a very brief stretch that is unique for each workout. Then there is a section added to the end that is identical in each workout. This may be a style of Tammie Lee Webb who produced this video and also does this stretch repeat on her video. It would be better if they added a unique and longer stretch routine to complete the workout. Overall, this is an excellent video for the beginner and will turn you into an intermediate kettle beller in no time if you stick to it!!!', 'I consider myself a beginner, as I am brand new to kettlebell, but not new to fitness workouts. I work out daily with many types of workouts (pilates, yoga, dance, cardio, step, etc). I felt Absolute Beginner would give me what I needed to learn the basics and was interested because it also included an intermediate workout as well. The cuing is good, she lets you know what you should and should not be doing so that you know proper form, so for that I felt it was worth it. The tutorial section instructed 6 basic moves and took about 10 minutes. The beginner portion was about 20 minutes and you practice moves you learned in the tutorial section. The intermediate portion was also about 20 minutes and I thought might have a bit more moves, but the main difference seemed to be that she added in a bit of extra cardio between the toning moves (such as simulating a jump rope, etc). Maybe I expected a little more, or maybe I am not quite as beginner as I think I am. Both workouts end with a two minute stretch that basically stretches the glutes and hip flexors. I was a little surprised that there wasn't a bit more, but then again, the workout is only 20 minutes, so maybe that is about right. I started with a 7 lb. weight and felt the moves were very easy to follow and I could build up later with a heavier kettlebell as I feel the need. As far as the instructor, she absolutely knows her stuff, but I can't say I am a huge fan, she is a bit too chatty for my tastes and a little bit over the top on the motivational, "you can do it" stuff. The music was not my idea of great workout music-which unless I'm doing a dance workout should basically just be a little background, not an urban kind of sound with sirens in some spots. So, musicwise, also, a little over the top. So, who is this workout for? I would say those that are fitness beginners (not just kettlebell, but fitness in general), older exercisers (I'm middle aged, so I

mean older than that...) or those that have lifted no weights and are starting from the ground, ground floor. I borrowed this one from the library, and I have decided I would outgrow this much too soon, so will not be purchasing, but if you fall into one of the categories above, this may be just the ticket to start a fitness regime that will work your body, and give you a little cardio from someone who knows the ropes.', 'I'm new to kettlebell. I found a "bell" really cheap and decided to give it a try. There is some good stuff on the internet/UTube, but prefer having a DVD for quick reference. I like it. The intermediate is cool and little more cardio and only a some sequence changes using the basic exercise. That's good for me since I'm rather spastic and this helps me pay attention and it's good for overall coordination.', "This workout is brief, about 20 minutes. It raised the heart rate, works the muscles, and doesn't have complicated moves. The instructor isn't chatty, but gives the correct amount of instruction. I like it a great deal.", 'I ordered this because the Absolute Beginners Step workout with Nekea Brown had a great tutorial and helped us get going with step. This also has a VERY good tutorial. Ms. Bento covers the six basic moves with lots of GOOD comments to keep in mind for developing correct technique then uses the moves in a 20 minute beginners workout. Believe me, as a beginner with kettlebells, 20 minutes is LONG time so we have remained with that one for a while. The intermediate workout has more cardio added to it. Both workouts are ones to return to if you have had a layoff on your workouts. Straight forward presentation and Ms. Bento gets down to business from the get-go with a solid warm-up. This DVD is a good one to review and a wonderful cardio workout.', 'Easy to follow and keeps a good pace. The exercises are made to help you see results in just one week. At least, it did for me.', 'I just received it. Seems real basic and solid foundation to start with. Got it for my sister in law whom has never done kettlebells (or much of anything else either) and has motivated her. Great DVD to start with for sure.', 'This is great. The exercises are thoroughly explained and demonstrated. Ms. Bento is energetic and upbeat. As a beginner I highly recommend this DVD.', '** Kettle bells work! ** Revised 05/12/11, I still hate my kettle bell. I hate it when I realize it's kettle bell workout day. I'm sore not for days now but just a day after using my kettle bell in places I didn't even know that I had muscles! Going up stairs is torture after using your KB. So, after that rousing endorsement, let me say this is my second DVD as the first one, the Go Fit workout, is far too hard. Amy's style is easy, clear and has enough breaks in the action to let you catch your breath. I now like to switch off between the beginning and intermediate workout. Some days, I find the "easier" program harder if I haven't done it in a couple of weeks. One thing I've noticed is that one really gets better at the moves, which are simple but you can feel your hip snaps and thrusts really working. ** I've taken off an inch from my mama belly **', "I bought this because I have fibromyalgia and osteo-arthritis in all my joints, and I heard this is a no impact work out. When I did it the first time, it may have been low to no impact, but it made me VERY sore the next day. Although this is a great video, I would take it slow, especially if you're disabled, and not push it too hard. With these kettlebells it's easy to keep going and not realize how hard you're working. But other than that, these are great, and there really is little to no impact. I'm glad I got this, and I'll keep trying to use it, but at a slower pace.", 'I took up kettle bells to shake up my routine & enjoy the "swing" involved. This video is easy to follow & has some great moves, I look forward to picking up the bells & feel energized after watching. A great workout, the video production is top-notch & Amy is easy to take.']

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['This book is so well done. I liked everything about it. The story and the colorful illustrations were excellent. I definitely recommend this to all.', "What a lovely book! The drawings were vivid and beautifully, and the book itself had a clear message of being gratitude that I think will resonate with audiences of all ages. I especially loved Boris's expressions. The ticket to drawing animals is to remember it's not just the face that conveys emotion but the entire body as well. The illustrator really succeeds in doing this, making Boris and his friends literally jump off the page! Truly a great read!", "Boris the donkey has become complacent with what he does, and doesn't realize what a wonder it is to work with children and bring happiness into their lives, until he leaves behind what he thought

was a boring job. He finds out the hard way, that his life was pretty easy, and even though it might not be glamorous, there was a lot that he gave up leaving it behind. Boris is a memorable character brought to life masterfully in this timeless tale that will enchant children and adults as well.", "This is a beautifully illustrated children's book, which really delivers a very important message about 'the grass isn't always greener on the other side of the fence'. The illustrations show up really well on a black and white Kindle, however on a colour screen, like an iPad, they really come to life. And Boris is so loveable, this could be one of those bedtime books that hangs around for a long long time! Loved it.", "A sweet book with lovely illustrations and a solid lesson. It will give a child pause to ponder the next time Mommy or Daddy asks them to do something they may not want to do. Boris was miserable in his job. He rebelled and quit. It didn't take long for Boris to find out his job was a really good one. It was easy and he made children happy. Luckily, his boss gave him another chance and Boris appreciated the opportunity and became a very happy donkey.", 'First of all I loved the quality of the illustrations. Kids love illustrations and it keeps their interest. The story line was very good and it is a fitting moral for kids of all ages The 'grass is greener' is something we all have experienced at sometime or another. Great job.', 'Lovey story, beautiful illustrations with a great message about being thankful for what you have! I appreciate that it was written by a father!', "A fun little story about a donkey who learns to be careful what he asks for. A classic tale of 'the grass always seeming greener on the other side' and 'you don't know what you have until it's gone.' A delightful tale for young readers.", 'Boris the Donkey is a wonderful story for little children. There is a life learning lesson. Not only for your little child, but also for some adults. In this day and age. We need more stories to nurture the minds of our little children. Well done Mr. Siegel. Highly recommended', "The wonderful illustration help this lovely story move forward at a perfect pace, as Boris the Donkey walks away from a wonderful job he deems boring. It doesn't take long for Boris to regret his actions, as from a distance he realizes that he took for granted a wonderful job that was not all the physically demanding one the on hand, while on the other it provided him with the opportunity to bring cheer and joy to many kids. Children are bound to love this story and learn about gratitude and appreciation for the good things in their own lives. Recommended.Review by MazorBooks Publisher of A Bully In Monkeyville (Children's Books with Good Values)I Want to Pet the Ducks / Abey Goes to Washington. (Children's Books with Good Values: Bedtime Stories)", 'Boris the Donkey - I Want Something Better by George Siegal is such a wonderful little book for children.My grandchildren just loved this story. The pictures are brilliant in color and fit the story perfectly. The words are just perfect for children to understand the moral of the story also.I highly recommend this charming book for a great little bedtime story or to read any time of the day. All children love animals and my grandchildren loved Boris the donkey in this book and the thought of riding a donkey at the circus is very exciting to them.5 stars for a very creative read', "A quick little bedtime story with beautiful illustrations. My children loved it and can't wait to hear about Boris tomorrow night.", "While Boris The Donkey is very entertaining, that is certainly not all this fascinating children's story does. It teaches kids that things may not always be as bad as they seem at home. The illustrations are just perfect, and make the different parts of the story come alive. I loved it, my grandchildren loved it, and our Boxer even had a good time as we read the book together. Thanks for a beautiful bedtime story book George Siegal. We can't wait to read more of your children's books."]

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["Mark Hatmaker is one of the best technicians of NHB I have ever seen. This book is one of the best books written on the subject of NHB. Hatmaker's approach is easily understood and can be readily applied in the ring or on the street. I would definitely recommend his material to both beginners and seasoned fighters alike. This book has something to offer everyone", 'I take my hat off to Mr. Hatmaker. He has compiled a great reference of strikes for NHB, as well as any conflict that might arise. What makes this book even better is that it is not only a great representation of the strikes, it is a reference on the opportunities to use them and use them effectively.I was impressed

with the great detail for each strike. Highly recommended for anyone interested in NHB or self defense. I also recommend his books on submissions as well. Well Done.', 'Mark Hatmaker has truly made the martial arts his lifelong passion and now proves he has the background and technical knowledge to teach it effectively!', 'This is a good book for elbow and insert strikes. eg.. what to do on a missed jab or hook. For the price I thought it was worth it but there is probably nothing new for intermediate or advanced strikers in MMA.', 'I have read dozens of books about martial arts and self-defense, and this one totally stands out in its complete lack of BS and filler! Not just for the NHB student, but for anyone interested in realistic self-defense tactics. The photos and instructions are wonderfully concise and practical, telling you exactly what you need to know---nothing more, nothing less. No self-aggrandizing, overbearing machismo like that commonly found in most allegedly "reality-based" self defense books such as Marc McYoung's (I like his books overall, but sometimes his verbal swagger gets a bit annoying), just straight, to the point, economical and efficient writing...ah, the sweetness of SIMPLICITY! In all seriousness, you still need a competent instructor or at least a training partner if you want to really pick up these techniques, of course. But if you absolutely can't have either, this book is the next best thing and simply wipes the floor with all other books on this subject. Ten stars!!!', 'The first part of the book deals with basic boxing skills. Then, the author emphasizes the technique of "shutting the door" for gaining power. Of course, with power comes both accuracy and speed. The rest of the book combines these skills with wrestling techniques for what amounts to a treatise on "ultimate fighting." The black and white pictures are easy to follow. Moreover, his videos on youtube also make some of this concrete. The book is not at all hard to follow, especially if you have enthusiasm for the subject and have gotten in the ring at all or got in a good fight. If you lack the experience, I highly recommend practicing on a liberal man or woman. Simply get them to spout out their politics and then proceed to apply all the contents of this book. It will be rewarding for your own increase in experience, as well as doing your patriotic duty.', 'This is all the book you will ever need for striking. It covers everything from basics punches, to advanced combos. If you want to know how to fight on the street then get this book and a jiu-jitsu book. Practice these moves on a heavybag, get about a thousand reps on each technique and you're on your way. I've used most of these in real life and they are good stuff.', 'This book is really geared toward MMA sport fighters, and my only complaint is that the self-defense section was a bit lacking compared to the boxing stuff, as well as I would have liked to see some diversity with hand strikes, for example palm strikes, finger jabs and such. However, great section on combinations in the back that made up for anything that was slightly off with the rest. Lots of ideas you can put to work in your training.', 'I have read and reviewed many of Mark Hatmaker's books and videos. Like all his material, there is no B.S. involved in his approach to fighting. Having been involved in numerous martial art and combative systems, I found the material in this volume most relevant for beginners; however, even experienced people involved in combative systems need to review the basics. In my opinion, the real value of this book can best be appreciated when used in conjunction with actual hands-on training with a competent boxing and/or martial arts instructor. One thing the author and I can agree on is the fact, that in most cases, boxing has the most effective punching techniques of any other martial art. In conclusion, this is a book that one must actually study and practice the techniques in order to learn the material. Rating: 4 Stars. Joseph J. Truncale (Monadnock Defensive Tactics System, MDTs)", "Once again, Mark Hatmaker has put together a book that focuses on the most essential techniques for No Holds Barred fighting, providing the reader with expert advice. His 21-page preface may be the most concise, useful, and insightful one ever written on the striking arts. Alone, it covers which side to put forward in a fighting stance, how to get maximum power into the punches, some tips on timing and how to take a punch, and how the 80/20 rule applies to the fight game... and he explains all of it clearly and thoroughly. Amazing. His first actual chapter lays the groundwork, on a physical level, for a good NHB striker. He explains how to roll a proper fist and which knuckles you REALLY want to hit with; assuming the proper stance, including some common errors to avoid; upper body mobility, including the pull, the duck, the slip, and why the bob and weave is a poor choice for NHB fights; and foot work, such as the pivot, slide-shuffle, shift, and mistakes to avoid. The second chapter is on the basic boxing arsenal, covering hooks, uppercuts, straight punches, and the overhand. Following that is a chapter on

inserts, which are little hammering and forearm blows that can be done off a missed punch. His section on elbow shots is much the same. By the end of the fifth chapter, we've seen elbows both on their own and as inserts, as well as a sample combination using forearms, elbows, and punches in concert. The next two chapters diverge a bit, showing low blows and then "self-defense strikes", which consist of shots to the eyes and throat. Next is a chapter on headbutts, including the proper striking surface and how to sneak one in from the clinch. Then he goes over "clinch inserts", including basic stomps, some more forearm shots, shoulder shots, and how to cut off a guy's air while in the clinch. Following that is how to break a clinch, a necessary tactic for those who feel more comfortable striking. His chapter on leg work is all strikes to the shins and thighs, which include the rear "purring kick". The next two chapters are on free and clinching knees, respectively, which can be very damaging blows. Chapter fourteen starts his section on defense, beginning with basic boxing defensive blocks. Next is a chapter on elbow defense, which includes several drills. A short headbutt defense chapter follows, after which is a very good chapter on knee defense (including foiling clinched knees), leading into a chapter on kicking defense, which blends well with the punching 'd' chapter. After that is a chapter on 'pick offs', also called weapons distractions, which is essentially how to make someone pay for throwing a punch or kick at you. The chapter on "Ground and Pound" is very good, showing strikes from the mount, side control, and guard (do you know how to use heel kicks? There's a better target than the kidneys!). The chapter on combinations shows how to combine all the various tools, from kicks to punches to clinching, and show 24 different combos, ranging from two to seven moves. Mr. Hatmaker concludes the book with a chapter on drilling with pads, mitts, the heavy bag, and shadow boxing. At the end of the book is a list of various books, videos, and websites with which to augment one's training. Overall, a very detailed book, showing great, high-percentage techniques. I'd recommend it to anyone who wants to learn how to strike, whether it's for sport or self-defense.", "This is truly an excellent book. I've purchased all of Mark Hatmaker books and think he is truly an excellent instructor. His explanations and teaching skills make it very easy to learn and understand all his techniques. I encourage all serious Martial Artists Students & Instructors to buy all of Mark Hatmaker books. I've learnt a lot of new tactics and my skills have improved a 100 percent. Buy the book!", "I bought this book after my last street fight. My game had deteriorated a lot over the years, and it showed in this fight. I pretty much got jumped and hit in the head with a bunch of key-loaded haymakers (though it surprised me; it didn't hurt at all because I remembered enough to close distance and let him hit my hard skull with his soft hands). I actually ended the fight by picking the guy up and throwing him. Effective, but not very stylish. I was unprepared, and wanted to think about how to end such things with science rather than going back to my rote martial arts training. This was one of the books I picked up to remind myself of how to mix it up with proper manly panache. The book is very much coming from a boxing mentality. This is good, as boxing is the most effective form of fist fighting. This is bad in that a lot of stuff is illegal in boxing, and insanely street effective. And a lot of those "illegal in boxing" things are missing from this book. It's not all missing, and he gives a lot of excellent "dirty punches" (the Louisville slugger is indispensable, as are hammer fists) but there are a few obvious ones missing. As an example of something missing; the straight back fist is a hugely effective technique. It's extremely quick and whip like; faster than a straight jab, and if you do it with a good foot shuffle, you can lay your opponents out flat with it. Another example is the uppercut elbow, which is a total show stopper. MIA in this book. Oh, he has some "up elbows," but they're all very boxing-like, and not what I'm talking about. Another weakness is the lack of transitions from striking moves to locks or a ground game. There are a lot of positions shown in the photos which were obvious lead ins to arm bars, guillotine chokes or just plain take downs. Since this is a striking book, he never points this out, though he does have an excellent section on ground and pound (sans takedown: I guess you need the author's other book to learn how to get him on the ground). Man, I'd be embarrassed if I tried one of his clinches and got my elbow broke by an arm bar. Some of the defense drills strike me as silly also; the elbow defenses for example. Maybe I just think they're silly because I never tried them. Just my call on that one. Now, there are also some excellent things here, taken from boxing. My favorite, which justified the price of the book, is the section on head butting. I was never taught to head butt by a

real fighter; only clowns from high school. Clown head butts are done with the forehead. Fighters use the top of the skull. This is extremely effective. I've done it by accident; it's the type of thing that comes natural in a boxing situation. Doing it on purpose would rule. The photos and explanations are all excellent, top notch stuff. You're not going to learn to fight from reading the book, but his observations are valuable, and they can serve as a quite memory refresher on the subject of striking game. Just reading the section on how to throw a solid blow ... excellent stuff. I really can't think of a better book on striking (haven't read Beaumont's books yet either), but I can see a few ways in which it could be improved.', "Pros --There is good information and lots of pictures. The book is very inexpensive. The approach Hatmaker takes is fundamentally sound -- he is looking for what really works in real situations. Cons --Advanced strikers will find little new to them. The pictures are grainy. In most cases, this is just an aesthetic consideration, but in some it makes it harder to discern what he is trying to show. There are a few errors in the text (but if you look at the pictures and think it through you will figure them out, and there are not many.) The text is not always well-correlated with the pictures. That is, as you read along, you can't always tell which part of the information is being shown by a given picture. I think the book would be much more user friendly if the text included picture numbers for reference. Unless you are already well-versed in this area, worth more than the low price."]

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['Whoa, this book was addicting!!! I could not put it down, because of the heat between the main characters and I had to know how their relationship ended up. This was my first Joan Reeves book. I finished it late last night and woke early this morning to buy another of her Texas One Night Stands book. As a South Texan myself, I love the setting of the book. My favorite author is Nora Roberts, but I will definitely be buying more Joan Reeves ebooks. Best wishes, Joan!!!', "Having read and greatly enjoyed Ms. Reeves' novel, Just One Look, I was looking forward to picking up a copy of her newest book. I was not disappointed. Although The Trouble With Love is laced with humor and sensuality, it's also a poignant tale of forgiveness and redemption and knowing when to let go. Our heroine finds her happily ever after, but not before she faces the ghosts of her past and accepts the future that can be hers. Do yourself a favor; download a copy. You won't be disappointed either.", "I love Joan Reeves' writing and The Trouble With Love is pure page turning escapism. Susannah Quinn and Hogan make quite the undercover team - undercover on assignment and undercover in bed! Joan has created a wonderful, fun group of secondary characters who are just as 'real' as Susannah and Hogan. This is a sensual, funny, battle-of-the-sexes read that is pure joy!", "This is the third book I read from Ms Reeves and I'll have to say I enjoy her writing. Her books are humorous, romantic and sensual. This book was very enjoyable. Story is about Hogan, a FBI agent on vacation trying to help his family recover some stolen jewels, and Susannah, a young Deputy with aspirations of becoming big in law enforcement. Hogan and Susannah met once in Houston and since then, they have been attracted to each other. Only later, she realizes that they have to work together in an undercover operation to recover some stolen jewelry. Susannah's character is a complex one due to her tough childhood and things surrounding her family. They have pushed her to alienate relationships and given her a skewed view on love and marriage. Hogan has always been a man on the move, he lives for his job and has a weakness for his family. He didn't hesitate when his uncle asked him for help. The banter between the characters was hilarious, you can feel the sexual tension and attraction between them. It was very entertaining to see them work together. Working so close was difficult for both of them for many reasons, but unfortunately, there were too many secrets among them to make something work. There are lots of secondary characters that add to this story. I only wish the ending would include an Epilogue so you can follow up with everyone and see what happened with their lives.... But overall, great read for an excellent price!", 'An enjoyable read. The characters were well done and interesting. The story kept my interest the whole time. There were a few times I rolled my eyes at a corny description or response but overall.... Well done and worth the time and money.', "It's wonderful to find a new author and so

enjoy the first book of hers you read. Loved the way she does sexual tension, especially loved the orange bikini!!! Characters had real problems to resolve. Reeves is really good with secondary characters and subplots. I've already downloaded several more of her ebooks, as she hooked me on this one. Of course, I adore Texas settings. Oh, the cover is awesome.", "I did finish reading this book, but the whole time i questioned the story line.* If Susannah was so smart why keep her behaving like a dumbass* Why would a FBI agent not even have the street smarts of a dumb cop???* Susannah was so against love & didnt even believe in it yet fell head over heels in love within 1/2 a page and still went on about it like it wasn't in existence.* Susannah knew she was being lied to yet did nothing about it the whole book,* the word trust kept coming up!! Yet Hogan did nothing to prove reason to be trusted, or anyone else for that matter.* The mothers love affair was the highlight of the book until they came the resort.....WHY if everyone else was undercover....???* What was the whole point of the undercover assignment again?? Really!!It was like there was 5 stories somehow blended into one(& not in a good way)!!* for start to finish it was one contradiction after the other!", "A thoroughly delightful romance. The story of not one but three separate and equally lovely couples.The first is Suzannah and Hogan. An FBI agent and a beautiful Deputy Sheriff enbroiled in a little drama, that daffly introduces the second pair.Rory, Suzannah's mother, a recluse from a bad young marriage and Walter a long time widower and Mayor, Hogan's step uncle.They in turn bring in the third grouping Yvonne, Hogan's step-mother and an aging Jewel thief, of English/Scottish orgins called McConnell.What a merry chase this story is. I absolved loved how it all wove together to create a satifying and lovely romance.Buy and Enjoy.", "All of her books are great fun. I thoroughly enjoyed every one of them and can't wait for MORE. The right amount of misunderstandings, energy, sexual tension and naughty action to go around. I loved the fast read of it. Yes, you will definitely want to stay up to finish them. What are you waiting for? Click on Buy Now! you won't be sorry. :)PS: don't be put off by the editting-I've heard she's waiting for Amazon to update her changes.", 'I'm sorry, I don't get how just about everyone has give this book 5 stars. First of all, the name is misleading. There never was a one-night stand. The story keeps alluding to an "almost" one-night stand the month before. When I started reading this book, it was as if I came in during the middle of a conversation. It should have started two chapters back or at least contained a prologue. The woman in the story (Quinn) mentioned a conversation she had with her father regarding his abandonment. Supposedly, after this conversation, she met the hero (Hogan) who offered her comfort and the "almost" one-night stand. He shows up as a consultant at the sheriff's office where she works a month later. Blah, blah, blah.To me, the romance between the secondary characters, Rory and Walt, was much more interesting. It was very sexy and straight-forward. It was mature and had none of the frustrating "mis-understandings" that plague 90% of the romance books.', "If you like your heroes hot you'll love FBI agent Hogan, who's caught up in a family conundrum during his vacation. Together with deputy sheriff Susannah they manage to get themselves into all sorts of trouble. Sparks fly between them with both determined not to fall in love and of course failing. Lovely secondary romance as well for Susannah's mother. Lots of fun and laughs in the Texas sun!", 'Cute romance. Very light reading, a weak plot, but as usual the boy gets the girl. Handsome leading man, beautiful woman.', "Kind of like a harlequin Romance. I read at the pool since it didn't require much concentration. I really just like the guy on the cover", 'Very cute, very fun. Interesting build up of sexual tension.... a little slow in some places, but ended well. Will definitely read more by Joan Reeves.']

B00FKAGNGK

["I'm having a serious case of cover love on this one. Twas the Night Before Mischief wasn't quite as exciting as the blurb makes it out to be but it still made for a nice Christmasy afternoon read as Penelope decides she's ready for some adventure in her life and not only ends up getting way more than she bargained for but finds an unexpected hero in her mists as well.So, in a stand of independence and in search of adventure Penelope elopes with an oh so unsuitable man who leaves her in dire straights and alone in a foreign country. Egads! Thankfully Darius Hall--who she's

known most her life--comes in in all his geeked out glory to bring her safely home. I liked these two. They've got their flaws but under it all they were easy to relate to because, really, who hasn't wanted something...more from their lives at some point? I totally got where Penelope was coming from with that. And Darius. He's a glasses wearing, dictionary writing man of science that many look at as being boring or passionless but it's far from who he really is inside. ****quote*****"Can I touch you?" she asked. He gave a hoarse laugh. "You can do anything you want with me."*****I enjoyed Penelope and Darius' journey as they made their way from Scotland back to London and got to really know each other. It was fun seeing them realize that while they may have known each other for most of their lives they really didn't know everything about the other and what was important to them. While it didn't completely wow me it was a pleasant Christmas read with just a tinge of heat and has me interested in seeing how Rowan handles a full length novel. Will definitely check out the rest of the series.", "***Originally written for Book Bliss book blog. I received a copy of this book in exchange for an unbiased and honest review**Review: 5 starsGeneral: I loved everything about this novella. Nina Rowan created the perfect historical Christmas novella. This book drew me in from the beginning when I was first trying to guess little Penelope's problem. From then on I was completely drawn in. From the beginning it was clear their was playfulness with Christmas- the creation of the popper and the news of a tree- that added the right amount of Christmas. I thought the pacing of the novella was wonderful and minus feeling a bit cheated at the very end (I wanted more lol) it did what a lot of novella's can't and made sure every detail was there and nothing felt rushed, unexplained or left out. The plot was short and to the point, leaving the real work to the characters and the love story. The chemistry between Darius and Penelope was apparent immediately and I absolutely loved the unconventionality of the personality of the two leads. I can't wait to read the next book and see the characters that were only mentioned on the side take a new life.Characters: Penelope- Penelope was an adorable heroine. She had the right mix of feisty and ladylike characteristics required. She wasn't overly spunky or butch as some heroines are now being made left and right. Instead she was a respectful girl with a dream for excitement. She was very real to read and I immediately connected with her and the pain she felt in her family and the love and immediate attraction to adult Darius.Darius- Darius is the male I wish more authors wrote! He was the whole package minus too much of the stuffy alpha male, that while I find totally sexy, gets a touch boring book after book. Instead Darius was a nerdy boy with passion dying to come out and good looks too. I'd love to find a Darius under my christmas tree...or any other book!", 'At a first glance, this might sound like a predictable story, but the further you go into it, the more you realize that not to be the case. It is one of those love stories that involves two people who have a total misconception of one another, yet both are attracted to the other. I thoroughly enjoyed the journey they took to come, finally, together. I can’t recommend this one enough for the simple reason that this hero may as well have been my husband. It made me chuckle all the way through. It really is true that opposites attract, and I can vouch for that! *Melanie for b2b*Books provided by the publishers through NetGalley.', 'Have you ever known someone who was always the perfect daughter, but beneath the calm and bland exterior, all the hidden emotion and desires lay buried? How about the “nice” guy, smart, successful, reliable, predictable to the point of mistaking him with plain vanilla pudding? Meet Penelope and Darius, who have known each other forever, have dismissed each other as too bland for their own hidden “self.”’Twas the Night Before Mischievous by Nina Rowan is definitely an historical romance, filled with the confines of the times, a heroine bursting to break the mold she is expected to fill and the most dangerous kind of hero, the one who comes across as quiet, a bit too brainy, until all of that quiet strength is unleashed, with total confidence. Nina Rowan could have made a longer story of this novella, but, hey, it’s a Holiday read, who has the time? This was perfect, short, sweet, with some amazing swoon-worthy heat! It wasn’t the ending that was the big surprise, it was the journey, a little off the beaten path with some great dialogue, both mental and verbal between these two characters. Ms Rowan has done a marvelous job of celebrating the Holidays with love and learning to give! I received a copy from Forever (Grand Central Publishing) in exchange for my honest review.', 'Penelope was always the dutiful daughter who longed for adventure. So she eloped with Simon Wilkie to his castle in the Orkneys but Simon was a

Mama's boy and Mama did not want a shop keepers daughter for a daughter-in-law. So Simon sent Penelope on her way. The trouble was Penelope's bag was lost and she was stranded. Darius came to find her at the bidding of her father and he rescued the damsel in distress. But Darius would have come after her even if not sent by her father for Darius was smitten with Penelope. Convincing Penelope might prove a problem. This is a predictable but oh so sweet and sexy story. It is one of those to which you can drink your cocoa and eat your cookies while playing Christmas music softly in the background. There is a moment of confusion when we jump from the ball to the elopement but only a moment. There is much talk of sweet confections and sugarplums that may have you reaching for the candy dish.', "A sweet holiday romance, 'Twas the Night Before Mischief was a wonderful historical romance novella. I really enjoyed reading this. It was absolutely lovely. Penelope was a good heroine, for the most part. I liked that she was fiercely independent, though that got her into trouble. My one complaint was that she was so judgmental of Darius. She bemoaned the fact that society judged her to certain standards, but she was doing just that to Darius, which I thought was unfair. But, for the most part, I liked her. Darius was just wonderful. He was a very intelligent, reserved kind of man. But, underneath that, he definitely had a lot of passion. And he was so sweet. I thought he was just perfect and I adored him. The romance was good. Penelope and Darius were very sweet together and perfectly matched. Not to mention the sparks between them. It got very hot between these two. I thought they were a lovely couple. The plot was fast paced. I was hooked the entire way through. I really enjoyed the story and I thought the ending was lovely. 'Twas the Night Before Mischief was a fantastic historical romance novella. I really liked this lovely book. Lovers of romance, if you want a great holiday read, then you have to read this book. *I received a free copy from the publisher in exchange for an honest review", "Oh this one was so much fun. I adored Darius' use of the English language -- he was a walking, talking thesaurus, and the way it's woven into the story was sublime. Penelope's ill-fated elopement was both funny and sad at the same time, and I really enjoyed all of the angst that motivated her to run away in the first place. The chemistry between Darius and Penelope was scrumptious, and I actually enjoyed that they didn't fully consummate the relationship, yet rounded a few bases nonetheless. My only real qualm about this novella was that there was no solid Happily Ever After. It's implied, but I think an epilogue could have gone a long way. Since this is Book 2.5 in the series, however, I'm hoping that we will perhaps see Penelope and Darius again in future novels. Perfect for a quick Christmas read, I loved this one. 4/5 Stars {This title was provided free of charge by the publisher in exchange for an honest review.}", "I did not realize until after I finished this story that it is a part of a series. I am curious to go back and read the first two books because this was caught my attention. Who people who seemly could not be more different find they way together in the most unusual of ways. Not once but twice in 10 years. The story opens when Penelope's father announces that he has married again after her mother's death and she takes off. Darius, ten year her senior, find her in a church and tries to relate to the situation. Flash forward, ten years and Penelope has taken off in the middle of the night with a man she plans on marrying. What she doesn't realize is that his mother does not approve and she is quickly sent on her way back to beg her father's forgiveness. Along the way, her luggage fails to make it to her and she is hoping that she can make it in the small town since she cannot pay for her room or food. Suddenly, Darius shows up like a knight in shining armor. The question is what will happen between these two when the sparks start to fly. This is a great short read. Nice for a snowy afternoon in. The story captures you and it is hard to put down. Great holiday read with just a touch of holidays. Received for free from Netgalley for honest review", "I'm not usually into novellas unless it's part of a series I follow. But I picked up 'Twas the Night Before Mischief after reading Reading With Analysis's thoughts on it. (Awesome site, check it out!) Plus I hadn't already read a Christmas book this year and I was feeling like I wanted to. Penelope Darlington falls for the wrong guy, a rake with a bad reputation. She runs off with him, only to be abandoned when his mother won't let him marry her. Staying at an inn with hardly any money left, Penelope isn't sure what is going to happen next. In walks Darius Hall, the earl's son and also her childhood family friend. Darius is to bring Penelope back home, per her father, but love will be found between the two along the way. Darius was a bit too serious for me. He was incredibly smart and a bit odd in his way of thinking. He was awkward and couldn't always project his thoughts the right

way, causing friction between himself and Penelope. Penelope was decent, nothing about her bothered me. But then again, nothing about her really stood out to me either. I did enjoy the story, but it just didn't stick with me. So if you're looking for a quick read, it is a good book, just not great. My Rating: 3 out of 5 stars~Pam*****I received this book free from NetGalley, in exchange for an honest review.*****', 'I really enjoyed this novella. Penelope is so prim and proper for so long she just had to BREAK OUT and do something crazy. Darius is a man of WORDS, machines and intellectual. He is writing a new dictionary to update 1852 England. Penelope and Darius kiss under the mistletoe and Darius is hooked. Penelope runs off to Scotland and Darius comes to bring her home. Darius shares his kisses and Penelope shares hers. Mistletoe, Christmas, Scotland and 2 crazy people is a recipe for ONE HILARIOUS ADVENTURE!! I give this book 4 fingers up and 6 toes!!', 'My first time reading anything by Nina Rowan. I completely enjoyed this novella. I read it in one sitting. Such a charming book. I received a copy of this novella in exchange for an honest review.', 'This was a magical story about two people opposite ends of the spectrum in terms of personality or so it would seem. It opens up with Penelope a young girl and Darius a young man trying to comfort the young girl the only way he knows how through his extensive vocabulary. Well, any woman knows that sometimes you just need a guy to agree with you. It was a sweet opening and set up the short story nicely. I loved how Penelope needed Darius to see what she was searching for and Darius needed Penelope to open him up. It was powerful short read. Having it set around the holidays is perfect. I have enjoyed the series from the start and look forward to the next book in it.*ARC provided by NetGalley*']

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['How dumb can one female be. Michelle was a complete fool for Jake. I understand the whole thing about snitches but they went about it the wrong way. Michelle should have listen to Robin. Now that she is gone this fool still dont have enough sense to stop.', 'It started it off slow but was well worth it... this Bonnie and Clyde of today is the truth cant wait part 2', 'Michelle was true to Gangsta Jake for real even when she knew he was just taking advantage of her. I was kind of disappointed how things went down but I do want to know what part 2 has in store.', "Straight pager turner....this book will not disappoint you. Nyerere walks you through the lives of Jake and Michelle. The things these couples did to proves there love to each other will have you in awe....Can't wait for part 2", "This book had drama, suspense and love. It captured your heart when things went bad and it also made you think of the things women do for love. Read it and you'll understand!!", 'This was a good read. The main character was a voice for his fellow soilders on lock. I hate rats too, not jus the four legged ones, but he took it to another level. The female lead, was blinded by love. She allowed it to control her completely. Thoughts as well as actions. Was she right? No one can judge her. Jus goes to show with actions there are consequence. This book took you on a rollercoaster ride, with ups and downs, highs, and lows. One click this and see if you would do it for a Gangsta or not. Big up to the author, good job.', "This novel was kina sad, I didn't want her to die but she was too stupid to know when to stop. He really had this girl gone and their is a limited of how much wrong a woman can do for her lover. He kind of pushed her to do too much. Liked it. Would recommend most women to read this that is in love with a gangsta.", "I enjoyed this book and am definitely looking forward to the second part coming out. I've read G Street Chronicles books before but this is my first from this writer, who is pretty good so I'll b looking for more!!", "Don't mean to upset any one but as a mature adult and mature reader this book did nothing for me and I literally skipped through most of it. Psycho dude (gang related no less) and a silly female following behind him with no real plot or storyline that I could see. It could haven so much more! I love a good read and this was not one", "I don't believe in detailing an author's book in the review but I appreciated that the story was told in a relatable monotone. The premise wasn't too much to handle on the language end and I loved that. I think the read was refreshing as a urban lit romance. I can't wait for the sequel. Kudos to the author!", "Loving a Gangsa is hard in and of itself, but, when itz a Gangsta like Jake, not only is it hard, it can be down right DEADLY! So there it is, you've been warned.", 'This is my first read by this

author and I must say I was not disappointed it held my attention from beginning to the end it took me a while to read it cause its longer story but this book is more than a five star read Michelle was down for her man and gangsta Jake was nothing to play with I would highly recommend this story keep up the good work hope to read more books from you!!', "I was hooked from the beginning to end. The love of Michelle and Gangsta Jake is epic and hood love at its peak. You'll feel every emotion while they are on their journey for hood justice. I'll be impatiently waiting for part 2.I would have given it more stars but 5 is the max. :)Jessyca", "Man Michelle was crazy to be messing jake, dude just didn't give a damn and I still can't understand his cause I doubt that those homies would have do the same for him smh,can't wait to see what happen in part two, poor Michelle though all that for nothing.", 'Page turner, good ole hood drama.Gotta be from the streets of Los Angeles to visualize the neighborhoods and the characters. Waiting patiently for the next part .', 'The story was good from beginning to end. The female character did to much for her gangsta boo not thinking of herself. There was alot of action', "Oh my god I couldn't put this book down it drew me in from the beginning. If you are looking for a good read this is it. This will not be my last read by this author."]