

# HORROR for Weenies

The Outsider's Guide



Everything You Need to Know About  
the Films You're Too Scared to Watch

Emily C. Hughes

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272 Pages

Selected as one of NPR's 2024 Books We Love!

"If you're also a weenie who has extreme FOMO when everyone's talking about Jordan Peele's latest or have to watch even the gentlest Hitchcock with the lights on, this book is for you."—Lauren Migaki, NPR

## ABOUT THE BOOK

A smart, funny crash course in 25 iconic horror movies, from *Psycho* to *Hereditary*, for people who love getting the reference but hate being scared.

You don't have to miss out just because you don't like to be frightened! Stop trying to read nonsensical Wikipedia plot summaries (we know you're doing it), and let an expert tell you everything you need to know about the most influential horror films of the past 60 years—without a single jump scare or a drop of gore.

With a rundown of the history and significance of horror cinema, explanations of common tropes, and detailed entries on 25 important movies ranging from *Night of the Living Dead* to *The Blair Witch Project* to *Get Out*, *Horror for Weenies* will turn even the scariest of cats into a confident connoisseur.

Each entry includes:

- A detailed plot summary, with enough jokes that it won't freak you out
- Smart, illuminating analysis of the films's themes and cultural significance
- Descriptions of iconic scenes you definitely do not want to look at
- Talking points for impressing even the biggest scary-movie, buffs

Learn answers to the questions you never thought to ask, like:

- Is *Poltergeist* a commentary on gentrification?
- What did Mel Brooks have to do with *The Fly*?
- What's queer about *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre*?
- Why did the star of *Candyman* get a \$23,000 bonus?
- How did *Scream* subvert the Final Girl trope? For that matter, what is the Final Girl trope?
- And more!

*Horror for Weenies* is the first installment in the Outsider's Guide series, which offers highly readable crash courses in major cultural phenomena, so you can catch the references and understand the big deal. Never get left out of a conversation again!

“Reading this book is like hanging out at the movies sharing a bucket of popcorn with the smartest, coolest, funniest person you know. Incredibly insightful, laugh-out-loud funny, expertly curated, and executed with finesse. An immensely enjoyable journey through horror cinema. You’ll never feel better about being a weenie.”—Rachel Harrison, national best-selling author of *Black Sheep*



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Emily Hughes** is the former editor of Unbound Worlds and TorNightfire.com, and writes about horror at readjumpscares.com. She has written about horror, books, and culture for the *New York Times*, *Vulture*, *Reactor*, *Electric Literature*, *Thrillist*, and more. She lives in crunchy western Massachusetts with her husband and four idiot cats.

## MORE TO EXPLORE

- Dive into Hughes’s extensive and exciting collections of horror recommendations on [her site Jump Scares](#) and [companion Bookshop page](#), including:
  - Monthly new horror release round-ups
  - Horror fiction recs by sub genre: Gothic horror, Cosmic horror, fungal horror, zombie stories, and source material for *Horror for Weenies!*
- Browse [Hughes’s curated collection of Etsy favorites for spooky sideline item inspiration](#)—creepy cute bookmarks, horror movie inspired enamel pins, and more curious, cool and odd decor items.
- Want more to read ahead of *Horror for Weenies*? Check out some of Hughes’s best online pieces:
  - [Scary Books for Scaredy Cats](#) (*The New York Times*): A great sneak peek of what you’ll find in *Horror For Weenies!*
  - [Horror Recommendations for All Tolerance Levels](#) (*Reactor*): A precursor to the readalikes in *Horror For Weenies*—horror book recommendations classified by similarly scary movies.
  - [A Fitting — and Frightening — Homage to ‘The Haunting of Hill House’](#) (*The New York Times*)
  - [The Best Horror Novels of 2022](#) (*Vulture/New York Magazine*)
  - [Every Space Story is a Horror Story](#) (*Reactor*): Hughes examines space set fiction through the lens of horror and her take is energetic, funny, flippant—but still well-versed in the subject matter.



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