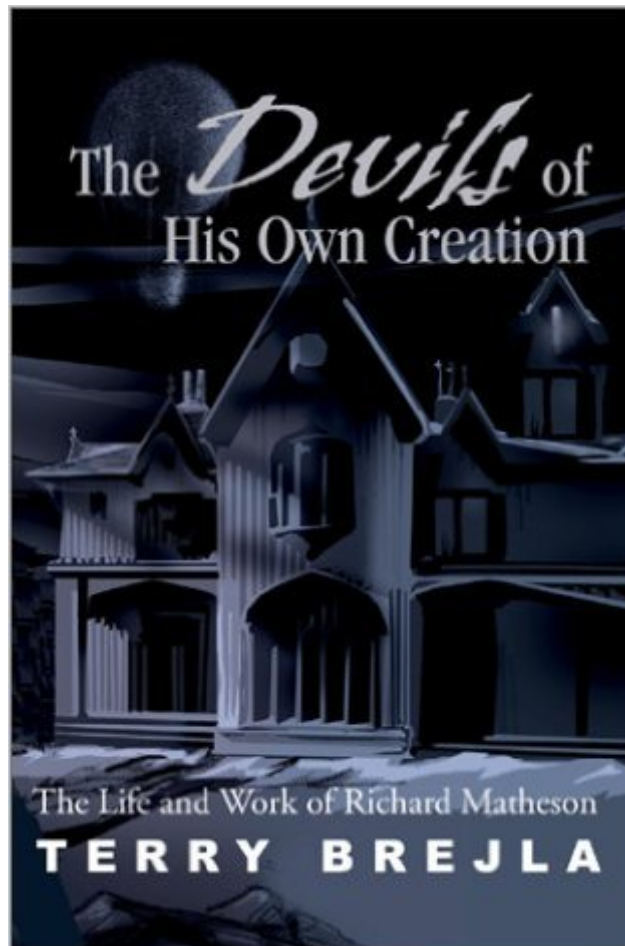


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The Devils Of His Own Creation: The Life And Work Of Richard Matheson



Synopsis

"Just as Bessie Smith was Elvis Presley's mother, Richard Matheson is my father." -Stephen King

Richard Matheson is the father of modern horror and fantasy, having influenced everyone from Stephen King to Dean Koontz. He was a prolific contributor to Twilight Zone and has written some of the classics of the genre, including I Am Legend, The Legend of Hell House, The Shrinking Man, and Somewhere in Time. This book is a celebration of his life and work.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

...The opening pages of Terry Brejla's biography make it clear that the book was written with Matheson's full cooperation, so it seemed an exciting prospect to finally read this long-delayed, first-ever study of a writer so central to much of 20th century genre fiction. And the book begins interestingly, if oddly: placing himself at center-stage, Brejla describes his meetings with two of Matheson's friends, fellow writers William F. Nolan and George Clayton Johnson. This is an unorthodox approach, but it works--at least for a few pages. Alas, the book begins to fall apart when it gets to the actual biography. There is never more than a superficial skimming of the facts of Matheson's life; instead, the reader is treated to a series of short chapters, each like a self-contained brief magazine article, on various aspects of Matheson's career. The problem with this is that all this information is already widely available through innumerable previous articles about Matheson. The writing never develops a consistent approach or tone: on one page we are reading a (pointless) summary of Matheson's "Twilight Zone" episodes, on another a (pointless)

discussion of Matheson's son's career. The chapters generally grow briefer and briefer as the book lurches forward, with Brejla completely unable to bring any kind of flow or, at times, even coherence to his writing. It doesn't help matters that the proofreading of this volume is so poor that Matheson's friend Ray Russell is once referred to as "Ken Russell" and that Matheson's own son, R.C. Matheson, is once called "R.C. Johnson"! There are dozens of such errors in this book, some so obvious and egregious that the reader cannot help but laugh.

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