The Greatest Movies You'll Never See: Unseen Masterpieces By The World's Greatest Directors

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From Hitchcock and Dali to Peckinpah and Lynch, cinema history is littered with masterpieces that have never seen the light of day. Now, The Greatest Movies You'll Never See unveils the fascinating - and frequently heart-breaking - stories of these projects' faltering steps from green light to movie graveyard. Opening at the dawn of contemporary cinema with Charlie Chaplin’s Return from St. Helena, and closing with the collapse of Tony Scott's Potsdamer Platz, following the director’s suicide in 2012, this riveting compendium of celluloid ‘what ifs’ goes behind the scenes of more than fifty 'lost' films to explain exactly why they never made it to the final cut. Discover the meticulous preparations behind Ray Harryhausen’s War of the Worlds and Stanley Kubrick’s Napoleon; learn why Brazzaville, a sequel to Casablanca, and Night Skies, a science-fiction horror story by Steven Spielberg, fell by the wayside; and read about the unrealized dreams of sometimes ill-fated auteurs Tim Burton and the Coen Brothers. The Greatest Movies You’ll Never See details all the obstacles encountered, from unsympathetic studios and preposterous plots to the untimely deaths of stars. Alongside these compelling tales from development hell are script extracts, storyboards, concept artwork and frames of surviving footage. In addition, all the unmade movies are accompanied by original posters from acclaimed modern designers, including Åkiko Stehrenberger (Funny Games, Kiss of the Damned) and Heath Killen (Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind, Never Let Me Go). An endlessly absorbing alternative history of the silver screen, The Greatest Movies You'll Never See is an essential read for all true cineastes. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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Whittier told us, “For of all sad words of tongue or pen, the saddest are these: ‘It might have been!’ • But it is only half true. What if one of the things that might have been was a movie with Jerry Lewis as a clown in a Nazi concentration camp? What if there had been a movie sequel to _Casablanca_? These are âœmight have beenâœ • about which we can be anything but sad. These two examples are anomalies, though, included in _The Greatest Movies Youâ™ll Never See: Unseen Masterpieces by the Worldâ™s Greatest Directors_ (Cassell Illustrated), edited by Simon Braund. All of these movies were proposed, planned, and may even have been in production, but they are movies that we can only dream about seeing. Some of them had the potential to have been masterworks, and so there is a Whittier-tinged regret over most of the chapters, but the stories of what was proposed and what went wrong are often amusing and surprising. Letâ™s clear up that Jerry Lewis movie first. Unlike the other films described here, _The Day the Clown Cried_ isnâ™t imaginary. It exists. It was made in 1972, and a few people have been shown the rough cut, but it is supposed to be worse than you can imagine. The sequel to _Casablanca_ was written and even casted, and it would have turned the original on its head, revealing that Rick had been a secret agent all along. But letâ™s get serious. What movie fan wouldnâ™t want to see the thriller _No Bail for the Judge_ starring Audrey Hepburn and Laurence Harvey, directed by Alfred Hitchcock? It had a dark, humorous script, and was set in Britain, to which the director wanted to return when the film was being contemplated in 1958.

Imagine going to the DVD section of your local library and seeing…”*Sequels to _Casablanca_ • and _Gladiator_. • _War of the Worlds_ • with FX by stop-motion master Ray Harryhausen.*_The Marx Brothers_ doing a movie with Salvador Dali.*_Stanley Kubrick_ directing a biography of Napoleon.*_Legendary animator Hayao Miyazaki_ adapting Pippi Longstocking.*_Nicolas Cage_ as Superman.*_Alejandro Jodorowsky_ adapting _Dune_. • _Ridley Scott_ directing real-life thriller _The Hot Zone_. • _Batman Year One_ • instead of _Batman Begins_. • _A story of the 300 Spartans_ starring Bruce Willis and directed by Michael Mann.*An adaptation of video game _Halo_ by the director of _District 9_. • All these and so many more are covered in this fantastic book. Itâ™s amazing to read of the various projects Terry Gilliam and Orson Welles were unable to get off the ground despite hard work and also the original idea for the revival of _Star Trek_ • in motion pictures and an unused James Bond starring Sean Connery. In some cases, the decision to shoot these down could be disastrous such as Carloco passing on the Arnold Schwarzenegger epic _Crusade_ • in favor of the mega-bomb _Cutthroat Island_ • which put
them out of business. It even goes into movies that were actually mostly made like Marilyn Monroe’s final film; Jerry Lewis’s infamous Holocaust drama The Day the Clown Cried; and David O. Russell’s Nailed that folded just two days before production was complete with just one key scene barring it from being released. In each case, it’s pointed out that these films could have been hits and truly amazing but remain unused and unmade. If there’s a complaint, it’s that the book is too short as any of these could be grounds for a major volume for much more detail.

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