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David J. Skal

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David J. Skal : Halloween: The History of America's Darkest Holiday before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Halloween: The History of America's Darkest Holiday:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Fun Guide to All Things HalloweenBy Sir RoderickFor those of us who are Halloween lovers, this book is magnificent. It contains wonderful information about Halloween past present as well as a treasure trove of Halloween information that is both informative and trivial.David does a great job of thoroughly covering information about classic Halloween movies. If I made any suggestion, it would be to include details about the great Halloween books such as "The Halloween Tree" and "The Legend of Decimus Croome: A Halloween Carol." Otherwise, Mr. Skal's book is a must-read for Halloween fanatics.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Skal gives us a fun and informative trip through all things HalloweenBy Tony CrumptonSkal gives us a fun and informative trip through all things Halloween. Not exactly the breakdown of the origin and history of Halloween I was expecting, but it's still worth a purchase if you're favorite time of year comes at the end of October.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy James A. MooreOne of the very best studies of the Halloween history that I have ever run across.

Wonderfully well-written, outrageous, and provocative." mdash; Booklist."Entertaining hellip; and scholarly hellip; Like a bag of Halloween candy, the book is a lot of fun." mdash; Boston Globe."Fans of cultural history will devour each chapter hellip; like a toothsome treat." mdash; Christian Science Monitor.Acclaimed cultural critic David J. Skal explores one of America's most perplexingly popular holidays in this original mix of personal anecdotes and social analysis. Skal traces Halloween's evolution from its dark Celtic history and quaint, small-scale celebrations to its emergence as mammoth seasonal marketing event.Skal takes readers on a cross-country survey that covers remarkably divergent perspectives, from the merchants who welcome a money-making opportunity that's second only to Christmas to fundamentalists who decry Halloween a form of blasphemy and practicing witches who embrace it as a holy day. He also profiles individuals who revel in this once-a-year occasion to participate in elaborate fantasies. Their narratives, combined with the author's cultural analysis, offer a revealing look at an intriguing aspect of our national psyche.

About the AuthorDavid J. Skal is the author of Hollywood Gothic and The Monster Show and co-editor of the Norton

Critical Edition of Bram Stoker's Dracula. A longtime New Yorker, he now lives in Los Angeles.

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