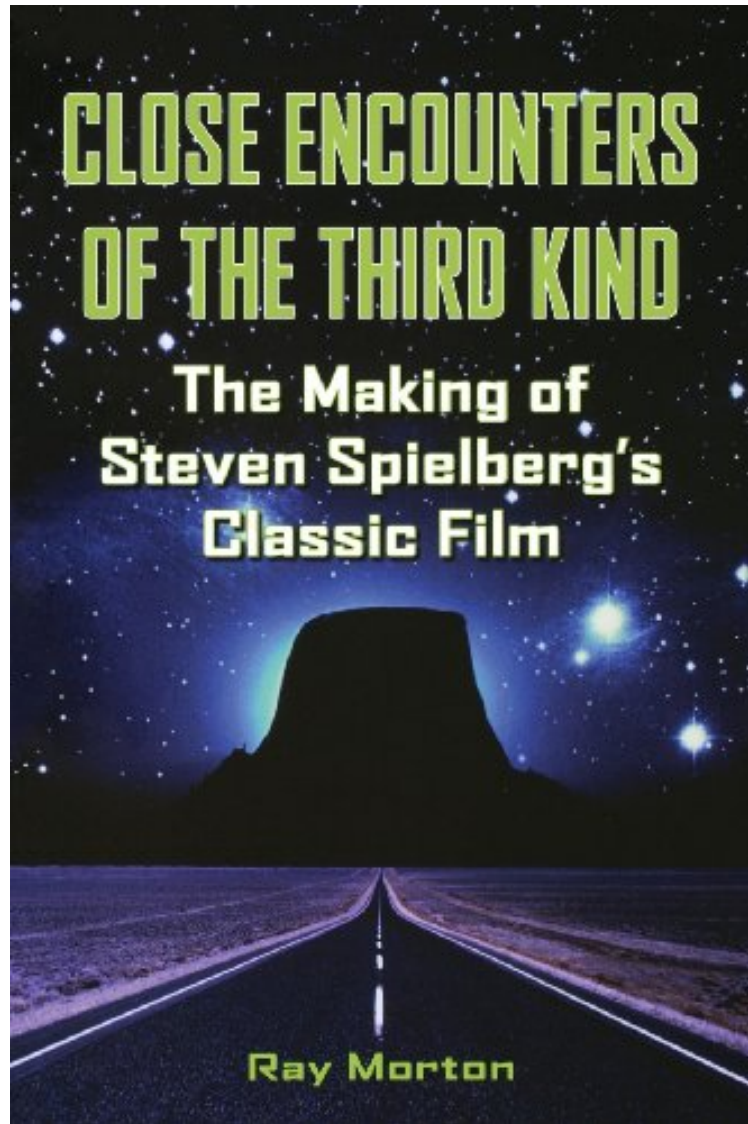


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Close Encounters of the Third Kind: The Making of Steven Spielberg's Classic Film

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Ray Morton : Close Encounters of the Third Kind: The Making of Steven Spielberg's Classic Film before
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1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A dissapointing book for those interested in how movies are made and this movie in particular...By CustomerThis book is hard to quantify. The first section, dealing with the writing of the movie, is long, drawn out and yet doesn't have much more information in it then who wrote what. He also has a habit throughout the book of giving needless and page wasting bio information on virtually every person mentioned. A typical section might be "The second assistant art director, Paul smith, born in 1922 to Mr and Mrs smith who emigrated from Columbia during WWII, was a graduate of Norman Davis, who was born in Poland in 1918 and was a friend of Sigmund Freud". While I suppose it's nice to know when these people were born etc, it has literally nothing to do with the making of this movie. The section of the writing and the approvals process goes on for quite a while, but once it gets to the actual filming of the movie, those sections are weirdly brief. It's strange to go from so much detailed information to what amounts to very cursory chapters once the filming starts. From there, it goes into special effects, and once again, this gets extremely detailed. So detailed in fact that it would have helped enormously if there had been illustrations or photographs to show what's being talked about, as it gets pretty technical and confusing pretty quickly. There is also an extremely long and fairly pointless section that talks about all the alien and extraterrestrial based movies that have come out since, implying that they all owe their existence solely to CE3K. The best section is one that goes through the movie scene by scene and tells short anecdotes or trivia about that scene, the people in it, things that happened while filming, etc. I wish more of the book had been like that section, especially as it glosses over a few scenes. All in all, a bit of a disappointment. I got the sense that while he very much wanted to tell this story, he just didn't have enough material and so felt the need to pad the book out by quite a lot. There is not much in the actual making of section that you won't find in the bonus features of the DVD. Frankly, if you want a good book on making this movie, look for Bob Balaban's Close Encounters Diary. It's out of print now but can be found, and it gives a good account of the day to day filming through the eyes of one of the actors in the film.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Essential Book for the CE3K-phileBy Bob MackAs it did for many others, Close Encounters sparked my young imagination in a way that no other film has ever done and it remains a favorite film to this day. Aside from the film itself, Bob Balaban's book had long intrigued me as a personal glimpse inside movie making and into the process of creating CE3K itself and this book comes in a close second to that.It comes in second merely because it cannot replicate the personal experience that Balaban relates in his version. However, this book delves into the production of CE3K in almost excruciating detail and covers many topics and details that Bob Balaban's did not.If you're interested in the politics of film-making, there's plenty here from the triumph-to-tragedy story of Julia Philips to the jockeying for credit on the CE3K screenplay and the gamesmanship between producer, director and movie studio in getting this epic and expensive film made by a studio in deep financial troubles. If you're curious about the special effects and special photographic effects (I know now that there is a difference!), this book is also for you.I could have done without the early and lengthy retelling of the CE3K film plot. We know those details or we wouldn't be reading the book! But otherwise, the attention to detail and interest of the author in some seemingly small elements and topics was much appreciated.After reading this book, you'll enjoy and appreciate many elements of the film like never before, knowing both why and how they were created.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Thanks to the author for this work of love.By Oleg DormanAbsolutely fascinating. Thanks to the author for this work of love.

(Applause Books). "Morton has written the definitive book on this innovative movie by Steven Spielberg...Meticulous research of this caliber is not found in other books on Close Encounters . Fans will find Morton's take informative and fascinating." Library Journal . Steven Spielberg's 1977 masterpiece used all of the power and magic of cinema to tell a story of man's first meeting with extraterrestrial beings. Renouncing the fear and pessimism of the day, writer/director Spielberg boldly envisioned this as a peaceful, spiritual event full of hope and possibility. This awe-inspiring message made a powerful impact on audiences desperate for something to believe in. The film was a massive box-office hit and revolutionized the movie industry; along with Star Wars , it helped to create the modern blockbuster and ushered in a new era of hi-tech effects. Based on in-depth research and the recollections of many of the film's principal creators, Close Encounters is the first book to chronicle the making of this classic film from its inception through its tumultuous production to its many releases in "special" editions. The book features new interviews with star Teri Garr, producer Michael Phillips, photographic effects supervisor Douglas Trumbull, production designer Joe Alves, and several cinematographers, screenwriters, and special-effects legends. John Hill, Jerry Belson, Hal Barwood, and Matthew Robbins; and special effects legends Richard Yuricich, Robert Swarthe, Dennis Muren, Scott Squires, Greg Jein, and Rocco Gioffre.