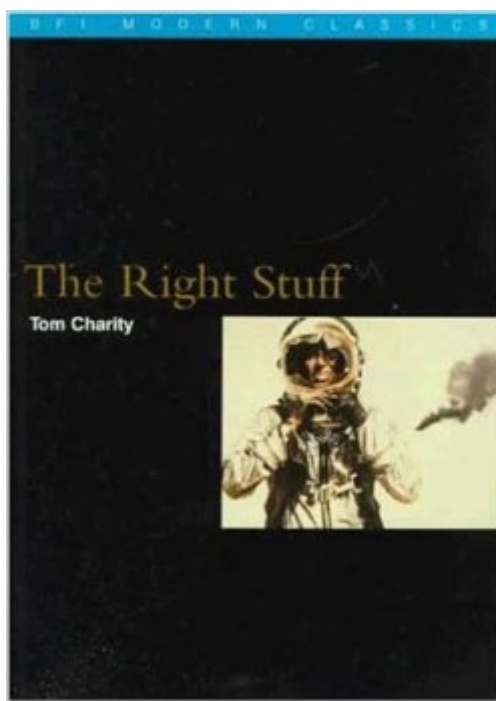


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The Right Stuff (BFI Modern Classics)



Synopsis

This study places *The Right Stuff* in the historical context of the political history of the Space Race. It explores director Philip Kaufman's subversive adventurism, his mastery of cinematic form, and the way in which the film combines the mythology of the Western with counter-cultural concerns.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is an excellent, indepth look at a vastly underrated and underappreciated film. I've always been a fan of "The Right Stuff" but have never been able to find any kind of information on it. Mr. Charity has certainly done his homework by writing a thorough account of the how the film was made, complete with access to director Philip Kaufman, and a top notch analysis of the film itself. There is some truly fascinating stuff in this book. For example, he examines the rather experimental techniques that went into creating the film's special effects. I love film books that talk about how the movie was made with anecdotes and interesting factoids. This book does not disappoint on this level. I enjoyed this book so much that I read it all the way through in one sitting. It's yet another great entry into this BFI series and well worth picking up if you're a fan of this particular film.

Includes a lot of fascinating behind-the-scenes information about a very entertaining and informative movie. This is a must-read book for anybody who is a fan of Tom Wolfe, the book, and/or the movie.

A decent, small handbook on an unjustly overlooked film, this follows the 'Terminator' mould of the

BFI books, in that it avoids undue analysis in favour of a few thousand words of well-penned facts and conjecture on the making and impact of, and background to, the epic film. Coming out at the turn of the 80's, it was unfortunately seen as being inappropriately jingoistic, and thirty years out of date (the title itself giving the unthinkable impression that there must also be a 'wrong stuff', too). That said, if it had been released a few years later, we would all associate it with the worst excesses of Rambo-ear Reagamerica. As with the other books, you'll probably finish it in half an hour, although once you have done so it's fun to flick through all the various footnotes and references - Tom Charity has obviously done his research.

If you enjoy "The Right Stuff," this book will add to your appreciation of the film. The author discusses how the film came to be made and the political context that surrounded the film, but the heart of the book is his discussion of the film itself. Charity's writing here is marvelous, pointing out where the scenes were shot, what was real and what was faked, how the film points back to Westerns and "Only Angels Have Wings," and how it differs from Wolfe's book. While reading "The Right Stuff," time will fly by. This is one of the best of the excellent BFI series. A real keeper and a joy to read.

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