

HOME NEWS REVIEWS INTERVIEWS ON THE PAGE DVD LINKS CREATURE-CORNER

06.11.03

Johnny Butane  
6:56am, est



**EIGHT NEW FRIDAYS?**

Paramount says hell yeah!

**WHAT'S NEXT FOR HELLBOY'S HELMER**

Del Toro discusses the future.

**THE CREEPER IN 3-D!**

Well, the toy at least...

**DOES HE NEED TO WEAR A SPACE SUIT?**

Another horror icon bound for the stars.

**MORE GORE ON CORPSES DVD**

Never-before-seen footage on the way.

**CHICAGO GETS A CON!**

Get yer details right here.

**EXCLUSIVE: DAWN OF THE DEAD DEVELOPMENTS**

Actors and new writer brought aboard.

**REVOLUTION MARKS ITS TERRITORY**

Find out when 'Hellboy' is coming out!

**NO END TO RING MANIA**

You've got the movie, the book, now get this...

**REVIEW:**

**SABRETOOTH**

Gimli drops search for the one ring, finds big cat.

**THE DEAD ARE ALL RIGHT**

Everyone gets a zombie.

**LOST KING**

Not anymore!

**CREATURE FEATURE: MEMORIAL CARDS**

Slater's tale of photography gone horribly wrong.

**BOOK REVIEW: RING**

The book that started the phenomenon...

**SLAYING TURTLES**

Tomorrow's impressive DVD lineup.

**999 GRINNING GHOSTS**

Ryan counts 'em all.

**GET YOUR SHATNER MASK READY...**

The full specs for the next AB dip.

**YOUR AD HERE.**  
CLICK HERE TO DISCUSS

**BOOK: RING**

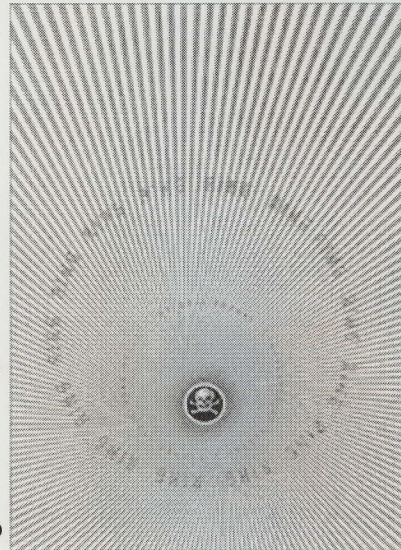
6.9.03

By Johnny Butane

*Written by Koji Suzuki*

*Published by Vertical, Inc.*

Maybe it's just because something gets lost in the translation, but I have to say I really didn't enjoy 'Ring' all that much. This is the book that sold over 3 million copies in Japan and inspired not only the original Japanese movies, but the immensely popular American remake as well. I felt like I had found the source of fear for millions of humans when I sat down to read this book...and it just didn't do much for me.



I'm going to begin basing merely on it's own merits, not compared to the movie. That will come later.

A journalist named Asakawa decides to take a cab home one day instead of the usual train, and is told a very strange tale by his cabdriver involving a young, healthy 19 year old boy that had collapsed and died against his cab about a month ago. This piques Asakawa's interest, because his wife's niece had died the exact same way, mysteriously and suddenly, at the exact same time on the exact same day. Could he be on to something?

He soon learns of two more teens that died in the same way, same time, and begins searching for a connection. Could it be a new virus? Perhaps a suicide pact between the four of them? Or could it be something...supernatural? He discovers they all stayed in a secluded cabin one week before they died, and they all watched an unmarked video tape that night...a tape that he eventually watches and realizes he also will die in the same way in exactly 7 days if he doesn't discover how to stop the curse. The instructions on what needs to be done to stay alive are on the tape...but of course they were recorded over. A race against time begins.

So where were did my issues lie? The narrative voice. That's really the only way I can describe it, but that voice that you get in your head as you read a book for a period of time, that voice that you associate with the storyline when you hear it again...it just seemed distant. I understand that it does probably have a lot to do with the translation, since this was in Japanese originally something's bound to be lost when it's converted to English, but I really didn't think it'd be this much.

**ENGLUND'S NEXT TEAM UP**

Rob talks of raising Kane.

**ARTISAN HAS ISSUES**

Not all of them involve witches, either.

**ZOMBIES IN THE CINEPLEX**

Looks like they'll eat us after all.

**HELL SELLS OUT**

In a good way.

**FRANK DANCES IN THE BLUE**

First humans on 'Van Helsing'.

**APTED USHERS IN A BLACK AUTUMN**

We sense a bit of deja vu.

**THE SWEET SOUNDS OF CONTAMINATION**

'28 Days Later' score sans annoying rock.

**BEYOND DTV**

West hits the big screen.

**FOX IN THE FALL**

New horror releases announced, but don't get too excited.

**DVD REVIEW: JUNK**

Love zombies? Check this out.

**ONE SHOT AT UNDERWORLD**

IDW jumps into the fray.

**CREEPIN' FOR YOUR CASH**

Creepier is further immortalized in merchandise.

**HANGING ON THE HELSING SET**

Um, where's security?

**EVIL INVADES THE UK**

AB to continue the madness.

**ZOMBIES IN THE MOTHER COUNTRY**

To be followed by annoying nu-metal.

**DVD REVIEW: THEY**

Nope, not any better at home.

**DEVIL MAY GO HOLLYWOOD**

Did you see this coming? We did.

**THE CREEPER GOES GLOBAL**

Impress your friends with a...throwing star!

**ORDERING UP MORE TACTICS**

Fools beware.

**WHAT YOU COULD'VE HAD**

It's probably best not to look.

**INTERVIEW:****ANTHONY MASI**

All the info you need on the 'Halloween' 25th

Another problem I had was the main character, Asakawa. He seems like a man that would never really get anything done in the real world. He spends most of the book worrying, going off on mental tangents about how his wife and daughter (who he claims to love very much but basically treats like shit...must be a cultural thing) are going to survive without him, or how short his life has been, and he most certainly would've died seven days after watching the cursed tape if it weren't for his friend, Ryuji, whom enlists to help him find the "charm" he needs to break the curse. Ryuji is a philosophy professor part time, and the rest of the time he's living some form of high life, waiting for the end of the world. He's really the only one that gets anything done during their investigation which is quite sad when you're supposed to be rooting for the the main character to live, and at about page 150 you realize you really don't care if he does.

So the prose is a bit weak and the characters need some work, what about the tension, the overwhelming feeling of dread that is omnipresent in both movie adaptations? It's there, I suppose, but it's not nearly as effective as one would like. There are a few thrilling moments here and there, and for a time towards the end I was stuck not being able to put it down, but overall it just seemed like it was moving along too slowly, loosing it's focus too often, and taking too long to get where it was trying to go.

Now, as far as the differences between this and the movies. First off, the main character in the book is male, in the films it's female. That's a pretty big one. The tape they watch in the book has origins, just like the movie, but they delve into them a lot deeper in the book which is something I think the movies would've benefited from. Most people don't get why or how the images were committed to a VCR tape when they see the Japanese original, but the book is very clear on this and it sure makes a helluva lot more sense.

Damn. I don't want to get too much further since the rest of the differences would involve some spoilerage, suffice it to say that the book and the movie the same tale told different ways, and they both have their merits. The films' merits, sadly, outweigh those of the book (at least the translated one...and I should say that they did an excellent job translating, which makes me wonder if the source was just weak to begin with) but if you're a 'Ring' completist, I recommend checking this out to complete you cycle.



2 1/2 out of a possible 5 Dracs

Get the book through **EVILSHOP**

Read the **MESSAGE BOARDS**.