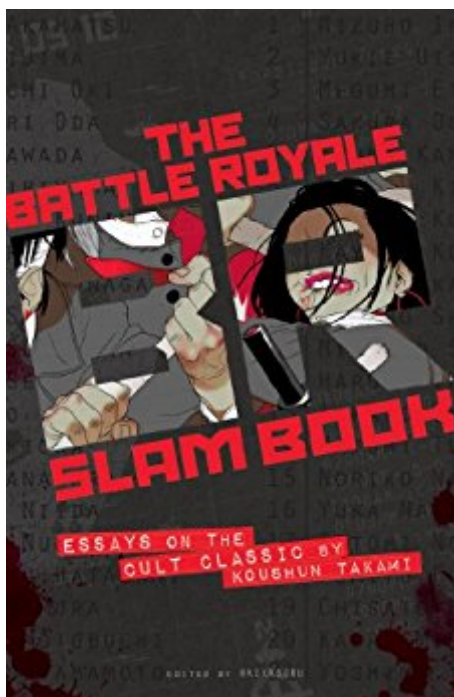


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Battle Royale Slam Book: Essays On The Cult Classic By Koushun Takami



Synopsis

Koushun Takami's Battle Royale is an international best seller, the basis of the cult film, and the inspiration for a popular manga. And fifteen years after its initial release, Battle Royale remains a controversial pop culture phenomenon. Join New York Times best-selling author John Skipp, Batman screenwriter Sam Hamm, Philip K. Dick Award-nominated novelist Toh EnJoe, and an array of writers, scholars, and fans in discussing girl power, firepower, professional wrestling, bad movies, the survival chances of Hollywood's leading teen icons in a battle royale, and so much more! About Haikasoru: With a small, elite list of award-winners, classics, and new work by the hottest young writers, Haikasoru is the first imprint dedicated to bringing Japanese science fiction to America and beyond. Featuring the action of anime and the thoughtfulness of the best speculative fiction, Haikasoru aims to truly be the "high castle" of science fiction and fantasy. For more information on Haikasoru please visit at www.haikasoru.com.

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Customer Reviews

I would say that there are three main categories for the essays in The Battle Royale Slam Book:

critical, historical, and personal. Not all of the essays fall into one of these categories, and some cross categories, but I believe these are the main three. All of the essays are well written and thought provoking. I'm not going to talk about every essay; just a few that made a real impression. The essays cover the original novel, the movie and it's sequel, as well as the manga. My favorite are the personal essays. The book starts with John Skipp, and while I don't want to give anything away, it is an emotional gut-punch. Brian Keene talks about growing up with guns. Isamu Fukui writes an interesting piece about how seeing the sequel first can change how critically one views that sequel. Next, we have the essays that take battle Royale, and it's author, and places it in an historical context. A few essays talk about post World War II Japan and how it informed Japanese literature, and Battle Royale in particular. Jason S. Ridler discusses professional wrestling in Japan, and it's influence on Koushun Takami (the author of the original novel). Kostas Paradias talks about the rise of youth gangs in Japan. Of course, all of this is tied in to Battle Royale. The critical essays are my least favorite. Anyone who has read or seen any of my other reviews knows that I don't delve too deeply into the underlying themes in fiction. I don't mind a story that makes me think, but I read and watch movies to be entertained. (Non-fiction excepted, of course.) These essays are as well written and informative as the rest, they just aren't my favorite. A few of those that don't quite fit into these three categories include Gregory Lamberson's essay about killer kids in movies, Steven R.

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