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Paul Schrader
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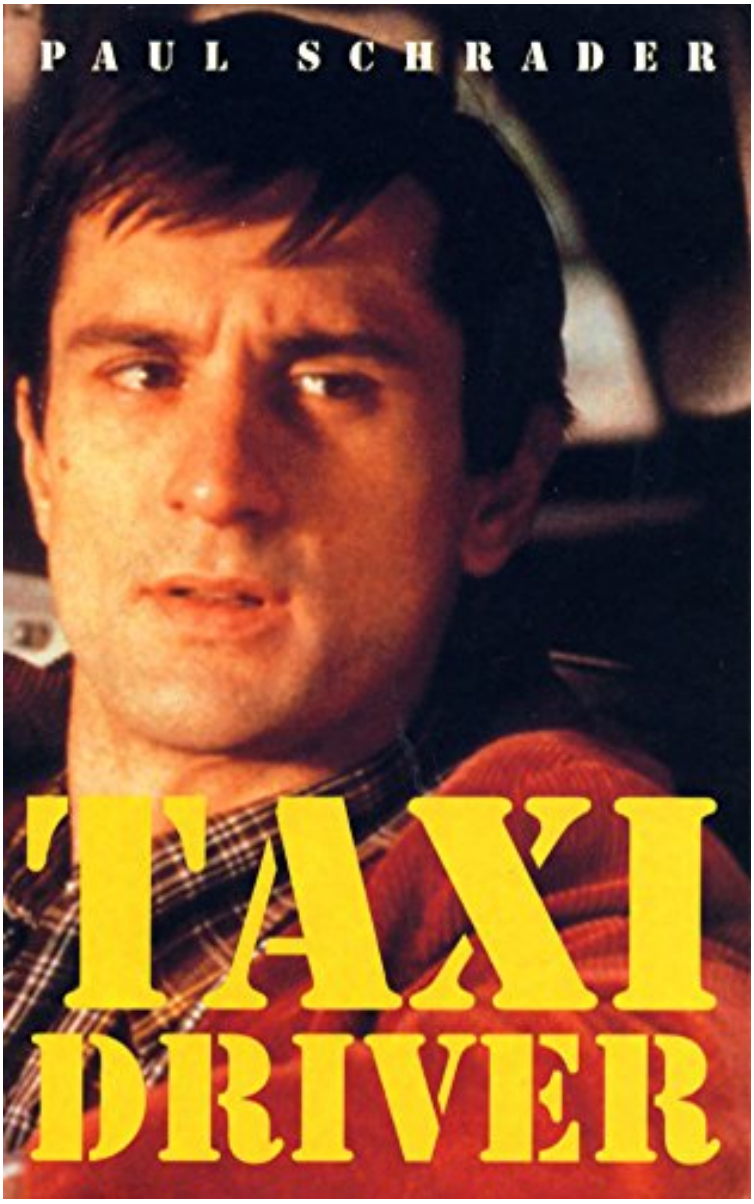

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Paul Schrader : Taxi Driver (Faber Reel Classics) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Taxi Driver (Faber Reel Classics):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Taxi Driver: A NovelizationBy Mike BMCI Got Some Bad Ideas in My Head. Travis Bickle(CONTAINS SPOILERS)The novelization (NOT THE SCREENPLAY) for Taxi Driver was

written as if it were Travis Bickles diary during the events that took place during the movie. Thats where his voice-over in the movie was coming from anyway, right? His diary. Well, here is that diary. Pretty cool, huh? Thats the one big difference between this book and some omnipresent novelization with weak filler. We all hate those books, don't we? Richard Elmans approach to writing it like Travis diary was a big plus and completely set it apart from the pack.In the beginning of the read, I noticed that the writing seemed bad. It had run-on sentences, strange wording and structure, no periods in many places, etc. But since this is in fact Travis diary that we are reading, this approach makes sense and adds an interesting layer to the novelization. It was kind of jarring at firstbut completely understandable. Even appropriate, considering he points out I should write more about this probably, though I have no talent for it. This made me like the book even more. It was an artistic gamble that paid off in spades.The scribblings in the book (his diary) are much like Travis sanity. They begin to fail to make sense and get worse as the story goes on. By the time of the infamous shoot-out scene at the end, he is just rambling in little blocks of memories about the event. The writing at this point in the story certainly doesn't flow, or make much sense for that matter, but how could it, especially given the state of mind that Travis was in at that point. What was even more interesting, after the shoot-out, his journal writing goes back to normal. Normal for him, anyway. He must have gotten on the right medication after the shoot-out. He never says, but I suspect he did while recovering in the hospital from his wounds.There are also certain spots in the book that really help explain the little things that the film just won't. Some might like this and some might not, but let's face it, the film is pretty vague in parts. It wont even explain to us where Travis comes from. All we really know about him from the film is that he has a Midwest accent, was in Vietnam, has a big scar across his back, takes pills, can't sleep, has no friends or social skills, and goes to porno moviesa lot. Not because he's a pervert, ya see, but because like he says to Betsy, There are other movies I can take you to. I don't know much about them, but I can take you to them. That's one isolated man right there. But why did Travis take Betsy to that particular movie on their first date? This is where the book shines. Him being strange is always the explanation we hear for taking her to an X-rated flick, but this wasn't just any porno movie. According to Travis diary (the book), it was a movie called Swedish Marriage Manual, just like it was in the film, and he wanted to show Betsy that he was serious about commitment and a possible marriage. Not just in this for fun as he put it. We knew he was weird but wow! And that is the other aspect of the book that I really loved. It filled in the blanks with the ultimate commentary from Bickle himself. Cant beat that if you are a fan of the movie.Novelizations are usually horrible. Just unreadable all around. This wasn't like that at all, and it kind of blew me away. I will be reading this one multiple times and taking notes. It won't be for everyone, but then again what is? Me? I loved it. A perfect companion piece to a film that I love more with each viewing. A new favorite.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Must ReadBy MedProfessorI loved the film, and loved reading the screenplay. Great photos of the characters also.If you've seen the movie, then read this script because it brings back all of the subtle nuances you may have forgotten.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. great movie good bookBy idurnerthis book is about a taxi driver who finds himself working nights... he becomes very lonely. he meets a girl that works for a man who is running for president... the girl blows him off after the first date and slowly he freaks out and seeks revenge... throught the book you can literally feel him slipping deeper into depression and psycosis. its well written and a neat little read.

A loner, Travis Bickle takes up driving a taxi in search of an escape from his sleeplessness and his disgust with the corruption he finds around him. His pent-up rage, fuelled by his doomed relationship with the political campaign worker Betsy, leads to an inevitable descent into psychosis and violence.This volume also contains an extended interview between Schrader and Martin Scorsese in which they discuss their unique relationship-one which stretches from Taxi Driver through Raging Bull to The Last Temptation of Christ.