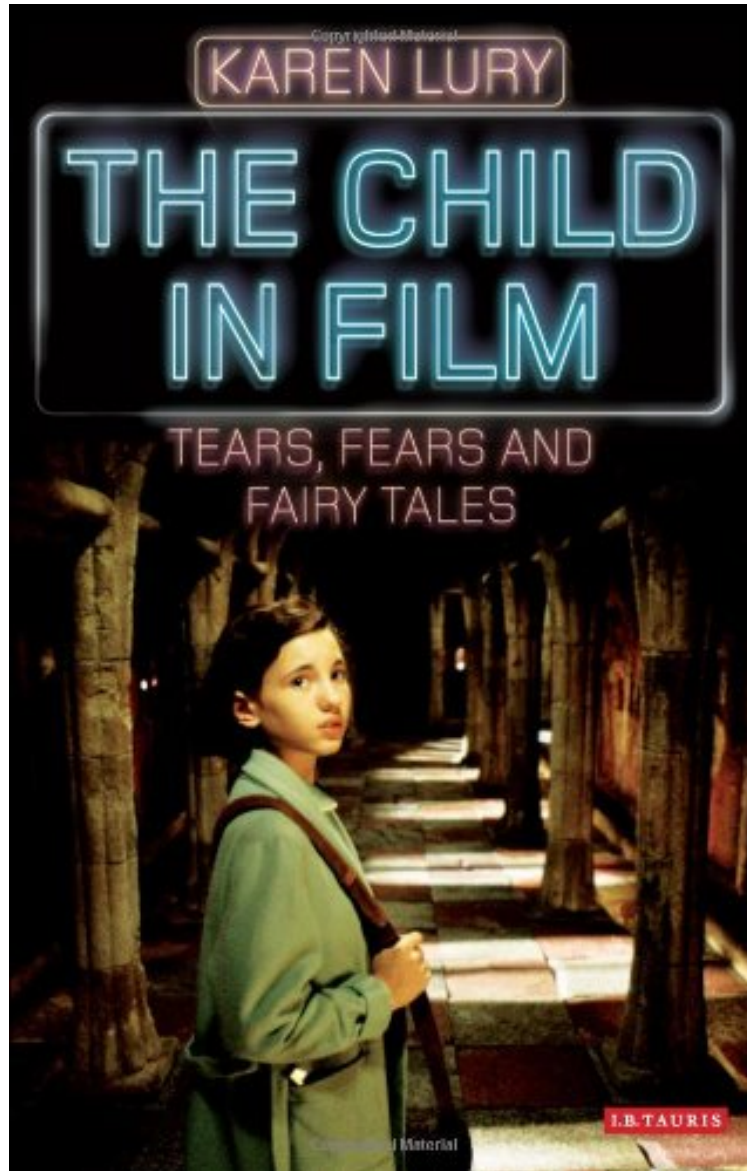


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## The Child in Film: Tears, Fears and Fairy Tales

*Karen Lury*

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**Karen Lury : The Child in Film: Tears, Fears and Fairy Tales** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Child in Film: Tears, Fears and Fairy Tales:

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Academic Look at Some Child StarsBy NYC Lap SwimmerThe author's theories about various child stars is a bit forced, and her selection of child stars is wanting, but there are so few books on this subject that it's worth reading if you are conducting research. Lury's writing too often goes off on

tangents and she loses the core of her argument--but this is a scholarly book not intended for the casual reader.

Ghastly and ghostly children, "dirty little white girls," and the child as witness and as victim have always played an important part in the history of cinema, as have child performers. Yet the disruptive power of the child in films made for an adult audience has been a neglected topic. *The Child in Film* examines popular films including *Taxi Driver*, *Man on Fire*, and contemporary Japanese horror, as well as "art house" productions such as *Mirror*, *La Jet*, and *Pan's Labyrinth*, and questions why the figure of the child has such a significant impact on the visual aspects and storytelling potential of cinema. Karen Lury argues that the child as a liminal yet powerful agent has allowed filmmakers to play adventurously with cinema's formal conventions, with far-reaching consequences. She reveals how a child's relationship to time allows it to disturb conventional master-narratives and explores how the concern for and investment in the child actor conceals the reality of film acting and the skills of the child performer. She addresses the expression of child sexuality, and questions existing assumptions as to who children "really are."

"Lury's insights are consistently brilliant. Highly recommended."