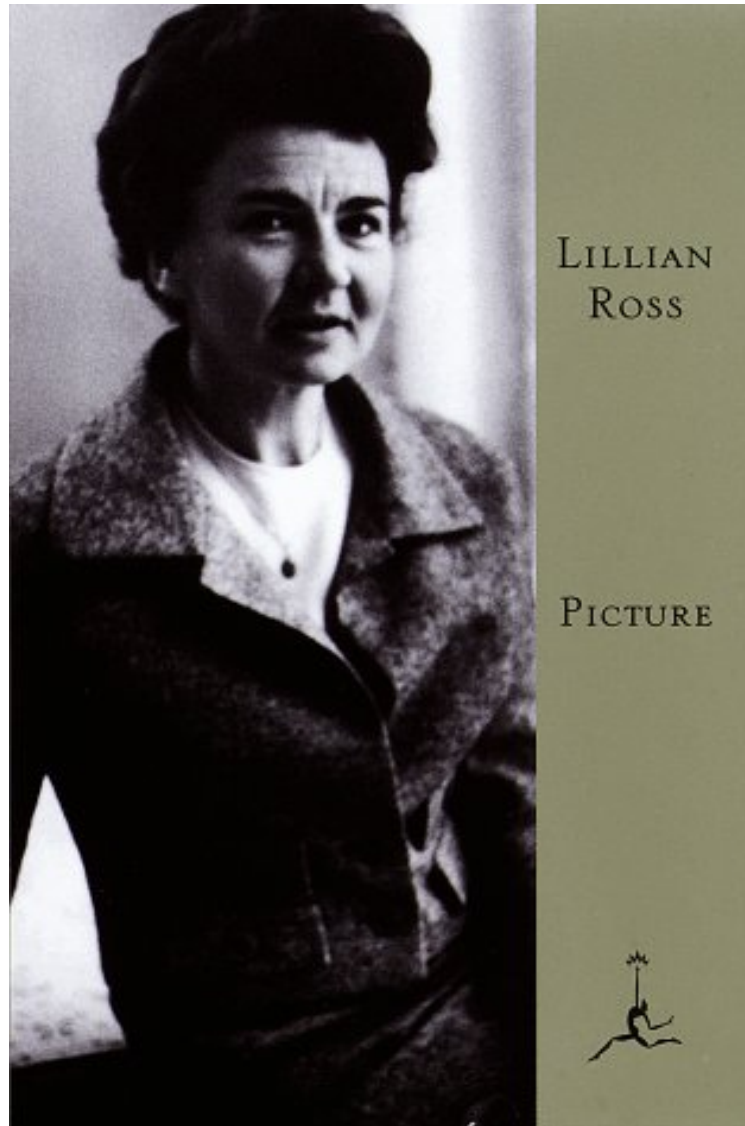


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Lillian Ross

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Lillian Ross : Picture (Modern Library) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Picture (Modern Library):

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Give Me that Old Time Religion By Paul Ehrmann Of the excess of books written about movie making, this is one of the very best. Lillian Ross' privileged proximity to the making of an off beat movie in the days when studios ruled all and were only interested in conventional entertainment is fascinating as a view of its time and tol hold up against the vastly different way films are made now. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A Masterpiece! By E. Hunter Hale I read PICTURE when it was first published as a young

man very interested in filmmaking. Returning to it more than fifty years later it still remains the best behind the scenes story of making a film. It follows director John Huston as he attempts to bring to film THE RED BADGE OF COURAGE to the screen in a masterful way. No other book has captured the process of making a major film at a Hollywood studio in the detail that this book does. The cover of the 50th Anniversary Edition has the critical quote from Newsweek: "The Best Book On Hollywood Ever Published". That it is! Lillian Ross has authored an insiders look that is both entertaining and amazingly informative. If I were teaching a class on filmmaking this would be required reading along with a viewing the Huston film on DVD. If you a love for great films then you own it to yourself to get a hold of this book. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Art meets business; business wins. By Dr Barry J King A definitive insider account of the twilight phase of the Hollywood studio system, as represented by MGM as the top studio for "quality" productions and a record of the insidious impact on the filmmaker's art, specifically John Huston's The Red Badge of Courage. Alongside recorded interviews and objectively reported accounts of key participants, there is close and dispassionate detailing of the MGM production budgetary controls and the underlying corporate in-fighting.

When New Yorker staff writer Lillian Ross heard that John Huston was planning to make a film of Stephen Crane's The Red Badge of Courage, she decided she would follow the movie's progress "in order to learn whatever I might learn about the American motion-picture industry." In the spring of 1950, Huston visited New York and called the young writer to say that progress was not smooth: "Come on over, kid, and I'll tell you all about the hassle." "the funniest tragedy that I have ever read." William Shawn, then managing editor of The New Yorker, described Picture for the jacket of the first hardcover edition, writing: "On the surface, Miss Ross has written a precise, marvelously detailed account of how one motion-picture, The Red Badge of Courage, was made. Beyond that, exuberant, she has presented everything any sane person should want to know about how a big film studio functions. And beyond that, she has written what must be called, for lack of a more appropriate word, the definitive book on the Hollywood community--its language, its manners, its preoccupations, its ideas. Last, she has told a dramatic story about some extraordinary people, and, in a triumph of interlineation, has written a treatise on human nature." Lillian Ross's marvelous description of John Huston's work and the film's subsequent fate at the hands of its studio bosses was first published as a serial in The New Yorker and was released in book form as Picture in 1952. It remains the best account of the inner workings of Hollywood. Picture received tremendous praise not only for the sheer quality of the writing but also for its technical innovation--the presentation of reporting as a novel. Picture received plaudits from the worlds of film and literature in equal measure. Charles Chaplin acclaimed it as "a brilliant and sagacious bit of reporting," and S. N. Behrman deemed it

NPR.org, 3/17/11 You will never forget this book. The Week, Kenneth Turan's The Book List, 7/4/14 A terrific piece of journalism and a landmark in the history of American nonfiction writing.