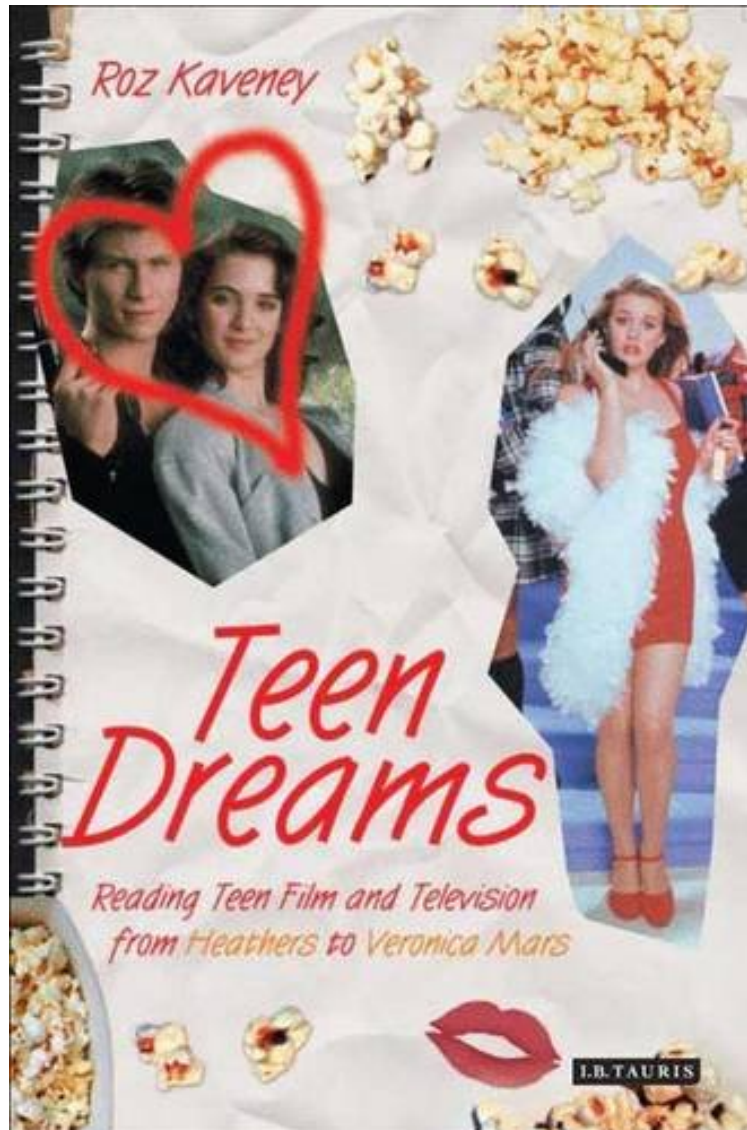


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# Teen Dreams: Reading Teen Film and Television from 'Heathers' to 'Veronica Mars'

Roz Kaveney

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**Roz Kaveney : Teen Dreams: Reading Teen Film and Television from 'Heathers' to 'Veronica Mars'** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Teen Dreams: Reading Teen Film and Television from 'Heathers' to 'Veronica Mars':

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. No author needs to be this arrogantBy W. HarrisI usually don't write reviews, but from the moment I picked this book up, I felt compelled to change that. While I'm sure the author had

good intentions, this book was not entirely what I expected. The author spent the first 1/3 of the book seemingly bashing John Hughes and his films describing their shortcomings in a way that suggested not only did she dislike JH and his movies, but they somehow just annoyed her to the point that she wanted to get rid of them all together. Honestly it was like she despised them and the entire concept of John Hughes as a creator was laughable and the films he produced were far beneath her. (As my own personal side note it also seemed as if her dislike of both was personal as if she had been rejected by JH and now was making it her personal mission to drag anything associated with him through the mud, which I'm sure isn't the case but that's just the sort of attitude that come off). Basically, it was very off-putting at times especially when she seemed overly arrogant in her analysis (not just in the John Hughes section, but throughout the book). She goes on to praise *The Heathers* and its creator(s) and spends the rest of the book summarizing various teen series/movies such as *Clueless*, *American Pie*, *Bring It On*, *Cruel Intentions*, *Popular*, *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, etc. sometimes paying way too much attention to name dropping actual episodes (No one should be that committed to *Popular* honestly). Some of her descriptions and analyses of movies were good (I especially liked her attention to *10 Things I Hate About You*, *Cruel Intentions*, the admittedly underrated *Girl Next Door* and *Bend It Like Beckham*), but unfortunately some of this was really clouded by her constant 'grasping at straws to seem profound' approach. She tired way too hard at times and seemed like she was doing more guess work at times than anything and looking for deeper meanings where there simply didn't seem to be any (and I say this as a person who has watched most, if not all, of these movies/tv shows countless times). Actually....I rolled my eyes a lot while reading this book. All in all I just hope her other writing is better than this one. It was good in the sense that it looked at movies and shows that sometimes get ignored but it left a lot to be desired. No one wants to read something where the author seems like a pompous ass for most of the book, at least in non-fiction anyway.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars  
By Veronica VGreat read.  
5 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Interesting analysis of Teen movies  
By CustomerThis book contains an interesting analysis of teen movies and television. It mentions 86 filmsshow, and of these the following get an in-depth treatment:  
10 things I Hate About You  
Adventures in Babysitting  
American Pie  
Bend It Like Beckham  
The Breakfast Club  
Bring It On  
Buffy the Vampire Slayer  
Clueless  
Cruel Intentions  
Ferris Bueller's Day Off  
The Girl Next Door  
Heathers  
Mean Girls  
Popular  
Pretty In Pink  
Saved! She's All That  
Sixteen Candles  
Some Kind of Wonderful  
Veronica Mars  
Weird Science  
There's an index, which considerably increases the books usefulness. Reading the book once from cover to cover gives an overview of the genre and made me decide to check out some movies I hadn't seen, while the index let's you find the analysis for a specific movie.

In this pioneering and entertaining book, Roz Kaveney examines the crucial films and television shows in the teen-driven genre and reveals the inner workings of their consistent themes. From John Hughes' early films, to the cheerleaders of *Bring It On*, the films and their characters deal with sex and gender relations, presenting a picture of the hidden life of teenagers. Hit teen films can also promote products, launch bestselling soundtrack albums, and be career-makers for young actors. Kaveney also shows how the teen genre has absorbed classic material in the case of *Clueless*, has made up gender etiquette manuals like *American Pie*, and how teen films and TV series deal with the tragic and comic undersides of the American dream.

'Kaveney is an inspired guide, blending academic rigour with journalistic accessibility. Her judgements are ultimately those of a fan, and all the better for it.' - Time Out  
'There is a lot of insight.' - Independent on Sunday  
About the Author  
Roz Kaveney is a freelance writer and editor. Her books include, as editor and chief contributor, *Reading the Vampire Slayer* (I.B.Tauris, 2002); as author, *From Alien to The Matrix: Reading Science Fiction Film* (I.B.Tauris, 2005).