

Two Weeks in the Midday Sun: A Cannes Notebook

By Roger Ebert



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A paragon of cinema criticism for decades, Roger Ebert—with his humor, sagacity, and no-nonsense thumb—achieved a renown unlikely ever to be equaled. His tireless commentary has been greatly missed since his death, but, thankfully, in addition to his mountains of daily reviews, Ebert also left behind a legacy of lyrical long-form writing. And with *Two Weeks in the Midday Sun*, we get a glimpse not only into Ebert the man, but also behind the scenes of one of the most glamorous and peculiar of cinematic rituals: the Cannes Film Festival.

More about people than movies, this book is an intimate, quirky, and witty account of the parade of personalities attending the 1987 festival—Ebert's twelfth, and the fortieth anniversary of the event. A wonderful raconteur with an excellent sense of pacing, Ebert presents lighthearted ruminations on his daily routine and computer troubles alongside more serious reflection on directors such as Fellini and Coppola, screenwriters like Charles Bukowski, actors such as Isabella Rossellini and John Malkovich, the very American press agent and social maverick Billy "Silver Dollar" Baxter, and the stylishly plunging necklines of yore. He also comments on the trajectory of the festival itself and the "enormous happiness" of sitting, anonymous and quiet, in an ordinary French café. And, of course, he talks movies.

Illustrated with Ebert's charming sketches of the festival and featuring both a new foreword by Martin Scorsese and a new postscript by Ebert about an eventful 1997 dinner with Scorsese at Cannes, *Two Weeks in the Midday Sun* is a small treasure, a window onto the mind of this connoisseur of criticism and satire, a man always so funny, so un-phony, so completely, unabashedly himself.



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Editorial Review

Review

"Sharp, wry, and—for this Cannes veteran—right on the mark." (Diane Jacobs *New York Times*)

"Two Weeks in the Midday Sun feels timeless. The names of the films and the people who made them are different, but aside from the vendors hawking cheap movies on videotape and Ebert's difficulties getting his copy back to his editors in Chicago, it's hard to imagine that the festival going on now is significantly different from the one Ebert saw. No one else will ever see it or write about it the way Ebert did, though. He's been gone three years, but reading this makes me miss him all over again."

(Aimee Levitt Chicago Reader)

"A lighthearted trip through the 1987 festival, filled with celebrity interviews, casual encounters, and general commentary about the film and film-reviewing industry. The mood is lightened even further by his endearing quickie sketches of celebs and locals interspersed throughout the text. Ebert wasn't much of a draftsman—Princess Diana never looked more boxy and tanklike than in Ebert's hands. But he loved drawing, loved writing, and loved movies, and all of that is consistently, entertainingly present on the page. Here's the thing, though: Tucked amid all that lighthearted traipsing through a French film festival is also a fairly serious and deliberate study of brows high, low, and middle—and Ebert's appreciation of all three." (Mark Athitakis *Belt Magazine*)

"I stumbled upon this gem a few weeks ago while scouring the web for unique, Chicago-centric Father's Day gifts. The 'notebook,' which is a first-person account of Ebert's experience at the 1987 Cannes Film Festival, has recently been reissued with a new foreword from Martin Scorsese, and a new postscript from Ebert himself, which, coincidentally or not, revolves around a particularly memorable dinner the critic shared with Marty. The book hits a few sweet spots for me: travel writing; film criticism; observing people from quaint French cafés . . . I've already downloaded it on my Kindle, but wisely opted to save it for a trip I'm taking to the South of France next month. And hey, maybe I'll buy a hard copy for Dad, too. Unless he's reading this. In which case, I'm, uh, totally just kidding." (Sam Eichner *UrbanDaddy*)

"Witty and beautifully observed, embracing the absurdities of cinema's most famous festival amidst the chaotic, sleep-deprived parties and screenings. Many of the movies covered have been forgotten, but Ebert's journalistic joie de vivre transcends the topics discussed. If only we had more than two weeks to read about." (*American Microreviews & Interviews*)

"[A] delightful, dispatch-and-doodle notebook from Cannes '87." (A. A. Dowd A. V. Club)

"About as nourishing as a croissant, but like that airy pastry, it's fun to devour." (*Library Journal*)

"A charming little book. . . . Frenzies and all, Ebert brings it seductively back." (Charles Champlin *Los Angeles Times*)

"A lively blend of prose and pen-and-ink sketches. . . . With a sharper eye for gossip and more detours into philosophical speculation than his reviews and interviews tend to exhibit, the author talks to such stars as Barbara Hershey and John Malkovich, attends packed and frenzied premiers, and hangs out over espresso at sidewalk cafés watching the famous, the nearly famous, and the hangers-on stride gaudily past. . . . Ebert's prose style is fresh, his observations both witty and sharp."

(Booklist)

"Perhaps the best book ever written about experiencing the Cannes Film Festival." (*Bright Lights Film Journal*)

"An affectionate portrait of the French film festival and the city that hosts it." (*Chicago Tribune*)

"Ebert's pieces have the punch and precision of good short fiction." (*Denver Post*)

About the Author

Roger Ebert (1942-2013) was a film critic for the *Chicago Sun-Times* for more than forty years. In 1975 he became the first film critic to win the Pulitzer Prize. He is the author of numerous books on film including *Scorsese by Ebert, Awake in the Dark: The Best of Roger Ebert*, and *The Great Movies III*, all published by the University of Chicago Press, as well as a memoir, *Life Itself*.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Elaine Gold:

What do you regarding book? It is not important along with you? Or just adding material when you want something to explain what you problem? How about your spare time? Or are you busy man? If you don't have spare time to do others business, it is make one feel bored faster. And you have extra time? What did you do? All people has many questions above. The doctor has to answer that question because just their can do in which. It said that about book. Book is familiar in each person. Yes, it is appropriate. Because start from on kindergarten until university need this kind of Two Weeks in the Midday Sun: A Cannes Notebook to read.

Steven Craig:

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Virginia Laird:

A lot of people always spent their free time to vacation or even go to the outside with them friends and family or their friend. Were you aware? Many a lot of people spent they free time just watching TV, or maybe playing video games all day long. If you need to try to find a new activity here is look different you can read the book. It is really fun to suit your needs. If you enjoy the book that you just read you can spent all day long to reading a e-book. The book Two Weeks in the Midday Sun: A Cannes Notebook it is very good to read. There are a lot of individuals who recommended this book. We were holding enjoying reading this book. In case you did not have enough space to develop this book you can buy the particular e-book. You can m0ore simply to read this book out of your smart phone. The price is not to cover but this book possesses high quality.

Corey Watts:

The book untitled Two Weeks in the Midday Sun: A Cannes Notebook contain a lot of information on the idea. The writer explains her idea with easy approach. The language is very easy to understand all the people, so do not necessarily worry, you can easy to read this. The book was published by famous author. The author provides you in the new period of literary works. You can read this book because you can continue reading your smart phone, or model, so you can read the book in anywhere and anytime. In a situation you wish to purchase the e-book, you can available their official web-site and also order it. Have a nice learn.

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