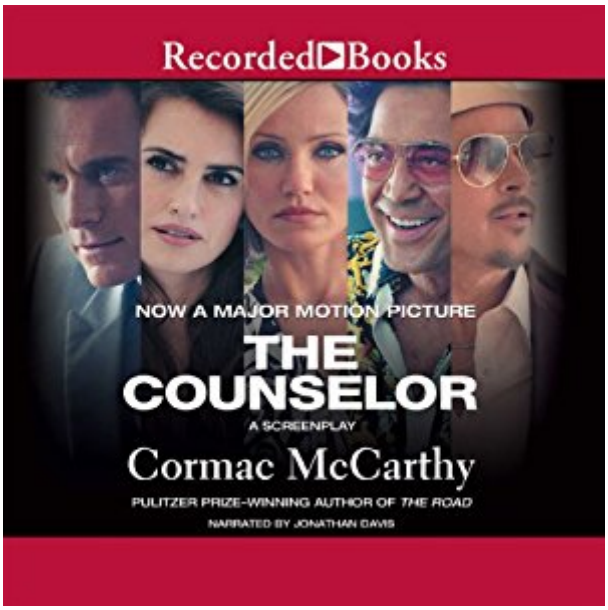
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The Counselor



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Synopsis

On the eve of becoming a married man, the Counselor makes a risky entrÃƒÆ'Ã Â©e into the drug trade - and gambles that the consequences won' t catch up to him. Along the gritty terrain of the Texas- Mexico border, a respected and recently engaged lawyer throws his stakes into a cocaine trade worth millions. His hope is that it will be a one-time deal and that, afterward, he can settle into life with his beloved fiancÃƒÆ'Ã Â©e. But instead, the Counselor finds himself mired in a brutal and dangerous game - one that threatens to destroy everything and everyone he loves. Deft, shocking, and unforgettable, McCarthy is at his finest in this gripping tale about risk, consequence, and the treacherous balance between the two.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition
Listening Length: 3 hoursÃ Â andÃ Â 41 minutes
Program Type: Audiobook
Version: Unabridged
Publisher: Recorded Books
Audible.com Release Date: October 31, 2013
Whispersync for Voice: Ready
Language: English
ASIN: B00GCI9NHK
Best Sellers Rank: #170 inÃ Â Books > Humor & Entertainment > Movies > Screenplays #406 inÃ Â Books > Audible Audiobooks > Arts & Entertainment > Performing Arts #2914 inÃ Â Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > TV, Movie, Video Game Adaptations

Customer Reviews

Once I started, I didn't put this down till It was finished. I'd say even if you are not a Cormac McCarthy fan, it is worth checking out. My only gripe (if it could be called that), is that I have a hard time imagining some of this dialogue in a movie. Parts of it are overly philosophical, in a way that reminds me of Sunset Limited (another good McCarthy Screenplay). Another minor one, is one major plot twist being predictable, though it still is enjoyable. What really pushed this story over the edge for me was that ending. It's twisted and it hits you hard.If you haven't read McCarthy before, I would say start with The Road or Blood Meridian. That being said, this is a quick read and I have a hard time not recommending this as an introduction to him either, as it did make me want to go get one of his books.I hope the movie turns out as good as this screenplay.

Yes, I would have preferred a new novel from McCarthy, as McCarthy's plays seem generally less successful than his full-on prose. For that matter, I'd have preferred a new older McCarthy novel to more recent work: for all the emotional wallop of The Road, Suttree is a deeper, more penetrating analysis of the human condition, filled with richer and more challenging language. But. I'll take even weak McCarthy over no McCarthy, and The Counselor is far from weak. I read it twice in rapid succession. It is complex and mysterious enough that the plot is difficult to decipher the first time through. But having read it again, I'm certain I will read it yet again in future. It is touched by all McCarthy's major themes, presented almost in a kind of shorthand. Yet, excitingly, it introduces new themes: never before has McCarthy dealt so forthrightly with gender issues, and never to this extent with sexuality. I can't imagine, by the way, that McCarthy has not encountered Roberto Bolano's 2666: the two works have a surprising amount in common. The apocalypse, it would seem, begins in Juarez.

This screenplay has the intricate plot and violent mysticism of some of McCarthy's older, denser fiction works like CHILD OF GOD and BLOOD MERIDIAN and the sleek, fast-moving violent action of his outwardly simpler, more accessible recent works like NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN. As such, it is an interesting intermediary work in. McCarthy's career--it is as if the older and the more recent McCarthys suddenly decided to join hands and work together.The dialogue veers between dense and beautiful philosophical musings and snappy, often profane and jargon-filled realistic dialogue. The mixture works beautifully, at least on paper. It is also interesting that this most deliberately philosophic and anachronistic of modern writers should, in this script, be so at home in the world of computers and wireless communication. He turns the jargon of those subjects into pure, if at times impenetrable, poetry.Bravo, Mr. McCarthy. Hopefully, you will have an Oscar and perhaps a richly-deserved Nobel in your near future.

I'm writing this review 3 days after reading the screenplay and 2 days post-viewing the movie. I like the movie's originality. This movie is a character study wrapped in a moralistic tale of how things simply cannot be even tangentially accounted for when embarking into the realm of quick money. It makes one greatly respect that though the drug industry, thanks in large part to Breaking Bad, might come across as a quick and easy way to obtain an impressive return on one's investment and as such can appear as a riskless one-time endeavor, to the Cartel it is their full-time world and is no game - it is business.This movie makes the viewer ponder the importance of pushing risks to the

edge and respect the gravity of the consequences if any one of a great number of things goes wrong.I think the domestic audience will not reward this movie with an impressive run at the box office; however, I believe the international audience will greatly appreciate the decisions made to keep this movie as original and unconventional as possible.

The Counsellor is about a man who is driven by greed and agrees to enter into a drug deal with a cartel run by viciously violent drug lords. The deal goes south and the counsellor's world crashes down around him.This is the first screenplay I've ever read and it was an interesting experience. It didn't feel as disjointed as I thought it would but I think this story would have been better told in the traditional novel format. I say this because the theme of the book is 'Choice' and with such a theme you need to delve deep into the characters' psyches and backgrounds in order to understand their motives. It's almost impossible to do this in a screenplay. Another problem with the format is that the consequences of the consellor's choice never feel as serious as they should because the characters' actions and happenings in the book are described as they would be in an instruction manual.Despite not enjoying this read I still am a big fan of McCarthy's work because he is very good at using his character's dialogue as commentary on the human condition. His spartan use of language never leaves you wanting more and gives his writing a beautiful and unique rhythm and feel.

McCarthy' s efficiency in story telling is ever more apparent in his screenplays. His research is sound and the esoteric knowledge exhibited is characteristic of this brilliant man's style. Clearly his most modern piece in terms of subject matter. A very fast read as it was intended to be. Very graphic in terms of dialogue, violence and description. If you are looking for hope or a traditional Hollywood ending to a heated story, go someplace else. The reality of the world's for McCarthy' s characters are stark, unsympathetic, and function off consequence or at the mercy of the agenda of the person holding the highest ground. Bleak. Gritty. Violent. Intelligent. I look forward to reading more of McCarthy' s work in the future. I'm on my fifth pass at the border trilogy.

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