

★★★★★ **AbsoluteWrite.com book reviewer Marie Jones states:**, August 10, 2005

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"I Liked It, Didn't Love It: Screenplay Development From the Inside Out"

Rona Edwards and Monika Skerbelis

Lone Eagle Publishing Company, 2005

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HIGHLY RECOMMEND

Whether your goal is to become a development executive, producer, director or screenwriter, knowing the inside scoop on how a script becomes a movie can make your career journey a much smoother one. "Development Hell" actually doesn't seem so hellish when you understand the reasons why a particular script succeeds, or fails, and how many varied factors contribute to the final product that is seen on the big screen.

That is why "I Liked It, Didn't Love It" is such a priceless book for any aspiring moviemaker or executive. Authors Rona Edwards and Monika Skerbelis have years and years of experience between them in the trenches of script development, and they share everything they know, and then some, in this must-have book that will no doubt help to open doors for those with enough drive and talent.

From the vast and various ways ideas are found and developed to the actual route a script takes from writer to agent to production company to studio, every step of development is explained, with plenty of examples of real films and inside stories that shed even more light on the somewhat mysterious process of the business of getting a movie made. The book is written for those interested in becoming development executives or story analysts, and offers tons of how-to on learning what to look for in a script, how coverage is done, where to find entry level opportunities, and what will be expected of you once you get your foot in the door. Having said that, as a writer, I found this book to be chock full of information that anyone even thinking about writing a script must know. Think about it. What better way for screenwriters to understand what Hollywood is buying than to get inside the heads of those who pick and choose the scripts that get developed in the first place?

The authors, both of whom have developed and sold screenplays for the past 15 years, really break down the entire process so much so that any intimidating factors melt in the light of knowledge, empowering writers and development executives-in-the-making with the kind of background info that can take years off their quest for success. By showing how it is done in the "real" world of production companies and studios, the outsider gets one giant step closer to being on the inside, where the action is. Now that's not to say developing a script from page to screen will be a piece of cake, but with books like this, it won't be quite as hellish when you understand why "they do the things they do."