

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910520004503321
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Titolo	Halloween / / Murray Leeder [[electronic resource]]
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Leighton Buzzard : , : Auteur, , 2021
ISBN	1-80034-214-4 1-80034-697-2 1-906733-86-4
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (113 p.)
Collana	Devil's advocates Liverpool scholarship online
Disciplina	791.436164
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Previously issued in print: 2014.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references.
Sommario/riassunto	The 1970s represented an unusually productive and innovative period for the horror film, & John Carpenter's Halloween (1978) is the film that capped that golden age - & some say ruined it, by ushering in the era of the slasher film. Considered a paradigm of low-budget ingenuity, its story of a seemingly unremarkable middle-American town becoming the site of violence on October 31 struck a chord within audiences. The film became a surprise hit that gave rise to a lucrative franchise. Much of its success stems from the simple but strong constructions of its three central characters: brainy, introverted teenager Laurie Strode, Dr Loomis, the driven, obsessive psychiatrist, & Michael Myers, the inexplicable, ghostlike masked killer. This text offers a bold & provocative study of Carpenter's film, which hopes to expose qualities that are sometime effaced by its sequels & remakes.