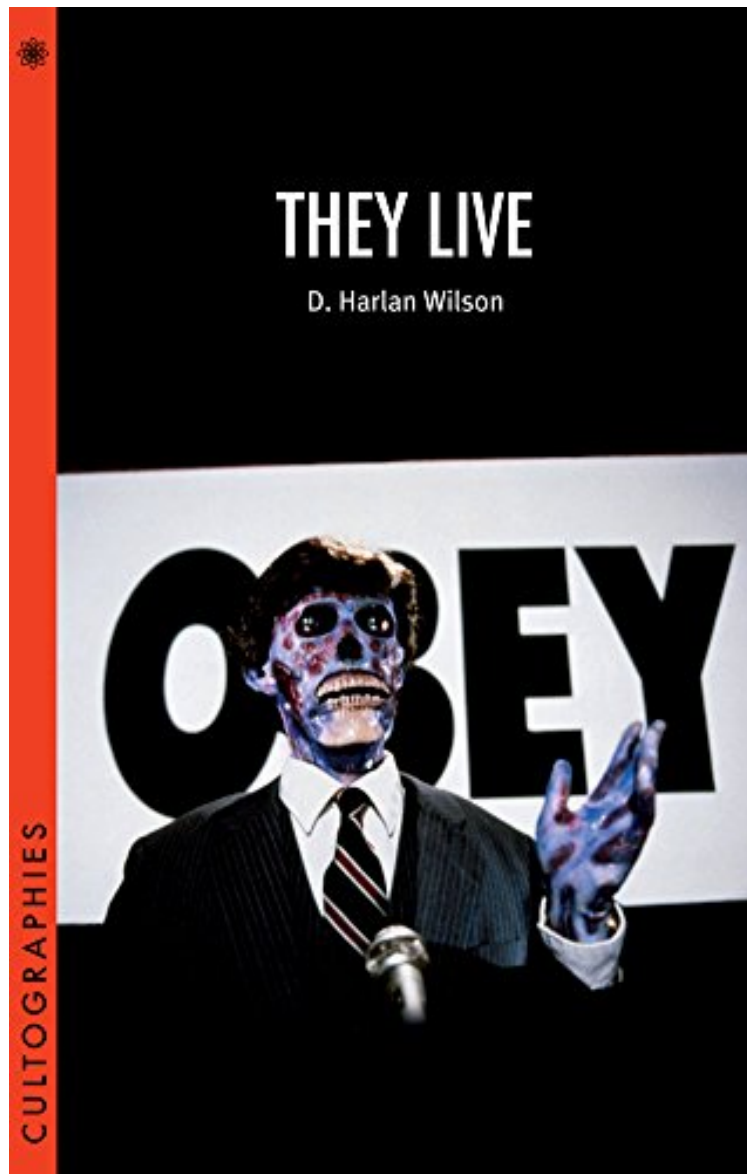


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They Live (Cultographies)

D. Harlan Wilson

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D. Harlan Wilson : They Live (Cultographies) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised They Live (Cultographies):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Informative Take On They LiveBy Brian GagnonReading the author bio and introduction, it would make D. Harlan Wilson would write about a sci-fi film as iconic as They Live. After all, there are many hidden themes and Take That moments against the Reagan administration and its worshippers that

deserve a fine going over. From the beginnings as a short story and a comic based on that short story to John Carpenter's attempts to blend old with new in this 2nd adaptation of the short story, the information never remains obvious or bores. This was made as part of a production deal which sadly got cancelled over its box office. Heck, this film is even 3rd in Rotten Tomatoes' list of highest critical ranking of John Carpenter's films. Worth reading for all fans of John Carpenter and sci-fi itself.² of 2 people found the following review helpful. Great dissection of a great 80's movie By Brian Tasler An excellent addition to the Cultographies library. Wilson's critique of *They Live* is both academic and entertaining. Drawing on the obvious connections of the consumer-era Reagan 80's along with Carpenter's love of Pro wrestling Wilson makes a strong case for taking another look at this overlooked 80's cult classic. While I doubt most people that remember or love this movie will put as much thought as the author does into critiquing Carpenter's true intentions of making the film the book does a great job of analysis on the hidden meanings within the film. Some of the analysis that I enjoyed most included Wilson's notion of "Becoming-Piper" within the film whereby the protagonist (Rowdy Roddy Piper for those who have not seen the film) goes into action mode and essentially becomes a parody of other 80's action heroes such as Stallone or Arnold. Wilson also does a good job of analysis on the extended fight scene of the film which is what most people will remember most from the film. All in all this book is a good, quick read that is both well-reasoned and entertaining.¹ of 1 people found the following review helpful. D. Harlan Wilson's 'They Live Cultography' goes deeper than ... By Bill Stratford D. Harlan Wilson's 'They Live Cultography' goes deeper than Lethem's 'Deep Focus' take on the same film. It's a pleasure to read.

Born out of the cultural flamboyance and anxiety of the 1980s, *They Live* (1988) is a hallmark of John Carpenter's singular canon, combining the aesthetics of multiple genres and leveling an attack against the politics of Reaganism and the Cold War. The decision to cast the professional wrestler "Rowdy" Roddy Piper as his protagonist gave Carpenter the additional means to comment on the hypermasculine attitudes and codes indicative of the era. This study traces the development of *They Live* from its comic book roots to its legacy as a cult masterpiece while evaluating the film in light of the paranoid/postmodern theory that matured in the decidedly "Big 80s." Directed by a reluctant auteur, the film is examined as a complex work of metafiction that calls attention to the nature of cinematic production and reception as well as the dynamics of the cult landscape.

The book *They Live* reframes the film "They Live" through creative, compelling critique. It makes an elegant case, time after time, for taking this film seriously as well as science fiction cult cinema more broadly. (Extrapolation) This book... [allows] the reader to delve beyond the surface of this cult classic and explore the film's deeper message. (San Francisco Book) About the Author D. Harlan Wilson is a professor of English at Wright State University.