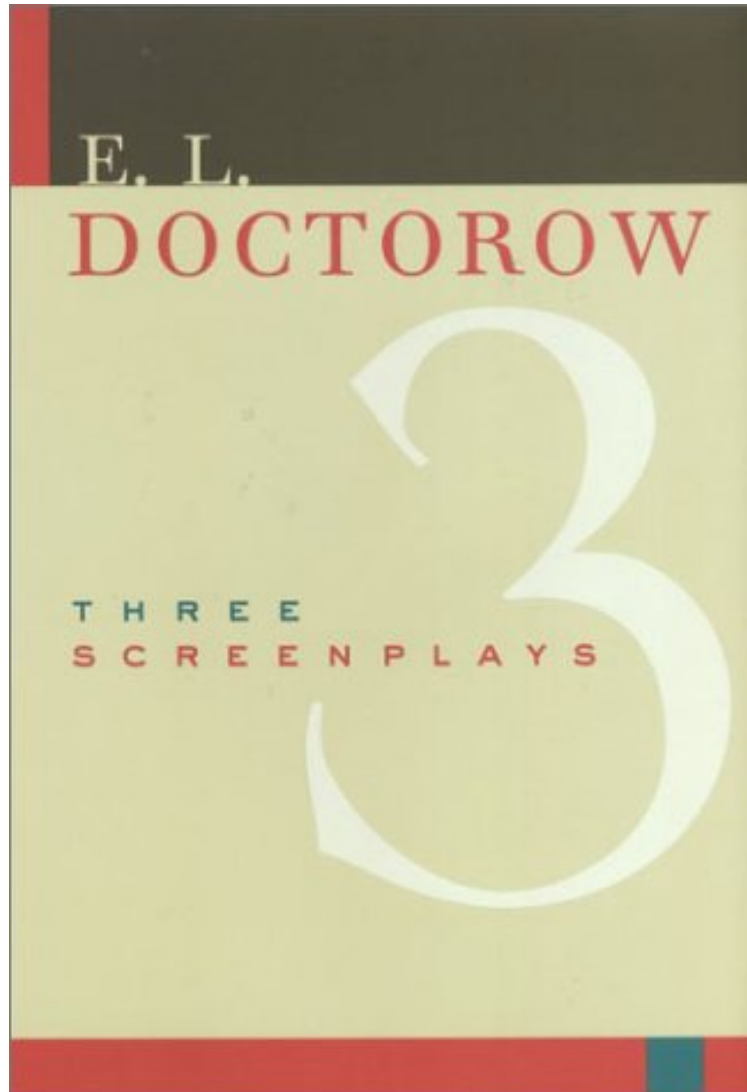


[Download] Three Screenplays

## Three Screenplays

*E. L. Doctorow*

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#3352769 in Books The Johns Hopkins University Press 2003-04-07 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.25 x 1.48 x 6.13l, 1.10 #File Name: 0801872014480 pages | File size: 45.Mb

**E. L. Doctorow : Three Screenplays** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Three Screenplays:

E. L. Doctorow is one of America's most accomplished and acclaimed living writers. Winner of the National Book Award, the National Book Critics Circle Award (twice), the PEN/Faulkner Award, and the National Humanities Medal, he is the author of nine novels that have explored the drama of American life from the late nineteenth century

to the present. Doctorow has also played an active role in transforming his novels into films, writing screenplay adaptations of three of his works *The Book of Daniel*, *Ragtime*, and *Loon Lake*. Published here for the first time, his scripts reveal a new aspect of this writer's remarkable talents and offer film students and other cineastes unique insight into the complex relationship of literature and motion pictures. Each of these screenplays has undergone a different fate. Doctorow's script for *Daniel* was made into a feature film by director Sidney Lumet in 1983. The monumental *Ragtime* screenplay he wrote for director Robert Altman was to have been filmed as either a six-hour feature film or a ten-hour television series. When Altman was replaced on the project by Milos Forman, a shorter, more conventional script was commissioned from another writer. In 1981, Doctorow adapted *Loon Lake*, but this challenging work has yet to be filmed. For this book, Doctorow has revised his dazzling *Ragtime* screenplay, making clear how different the film might have been, and has written a preface about the art of screenwriting. In addition, editor Paul Levine provides a general introduction to Doctorow's fiction and specific introductions to each screenplay; interviews Lumet about making *Daniel*; and talks with Doctorow about his abiding interest in the art and craft of cinema.

From Booklist Doctorow is not only one of our most significant living novelists, he is also a highly creative screenplay writer. Adapting novels for movies is a tricky and often thankless endeavor, one many novelists haven't the stomach for. But because Doctorow is profoundly intrigued with film's seductiveness, a frequent motif in his fiction, he has performed this arduous task to fine effect. *Three Screenplays* presents the screenplays for *Daniel* (produced in 1983 under the direction of Sidney Lumet), *Ragtime*, a magnificent adaptation that perfectly mirrors the panoramic novel but which was never made (a shorter screenplay was commissioned for the Milos Forman film), and *Loon Lake*, which has yet to be produced. Doctorow's remarks, meticulous commentary by film and American literature professor Paul Levine, and interviews with Doctorow and Lumet coalesce to form a provocative inquiry into "the process of artistic alchemy" that attempts the nearly impossible, the translation of fiction into film. Donna Seaman Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved *Three Screenplays* is of interest as much for the stories of films that didn't get made (like the ten-hour-long script for *Ragtime*, commissioned by Robert Altman, but ditched by the producer Dino Di Laurentiis in favor of the version made by Milos Forman, which Doctorow clearly hates) as for any insight on the translation from novel to screenplay. There is a rueful, remarkably self-effacing interview with Sidney Lumet about where *Daniel* went wrong, and a lovely interview with the novelist in which he recalls the impact of Frances Farmer's movies. (D. D. Guttenplan *Times Literary Supplement*) Doctorow is not only one of our most significant living novelists, he is also a superbly illuminating essayist and highly creative screenwriter... Adapting novels for movies is a tricky and often thankless endeavor, one many novelists haven't the stomach for. But because Doctorow is profoundly intrigued with film's seductiveness, a frequent motif in his fiction, he has performed this arduous task to fine effect. *Three Screenplays* presents the screenplays for *Daniel* (produced in 1983 under the direction of Sidney Lumet), *Ragtime*, a magnificent adaptation that perfectly mirrors the panoramic novel but which was never made (a shorter screenplay was commissioned for the Milos Forman film), and *Loon Lake*, which has yet to be produced. Doctorow's remarks, meticulous commentary by film and American literature professor Paul Levine, and interviews with Doctorow and Lumet coalesce to form a provocative inquiry into 'the process of artistic alchemy' that attempts the nearly impossible, the translation of fiction into film. (Booklist) [Doctorow] is at once a radical historian, a cultural anthropologist, a troubadour, a private eye, and a cost-benefit analyst of assimilation and upward mobility in the great American multicultural. (New York of Books) The film adaptations will challenge students of Doctorow and film. (Choice) This book is a welcome addition to E. L. Doctorow's published works, one which shows him to be an innovative adaptor of his novels into new configurations for another medium. These screenplays are fascinating to read set against the original novels and afford us the opportunity to understand what happens to the author's vision in a collaborative medium: what must necessarily be altered, what is always lost, what is enhanced. (Chris Messenger, author of *The Godfather* and *American Culture*) From the Back Cover "Three Screenplays is of interest as much for the stories of films that didn't get made as for any insight on the translation from novel to screenplay." -*Times Literary Supplement* "A provocative inquiry into the process of artistic alchemy that attempts the nearly impossible, the translation of fiction into film." -*Booklist* One of America's most accomplished and acclaimed contemporary writers, E. L. Doctorow has played an active role in transforming his novels into films, writing screenplay adaptations of three works: *The Book of Daniel*, *Ragtime*, and *Loon Lake*. These scripts reveal a new aspect of Doctorow's remarkable talents and offer unique insight into the complex relationship between literature and motion pictures. Doctorow revised his *Ragtime* screenplay for this book and wrote a preface on the art of screenwriting. E. L. Doctorow's novels are *Welcome to Hard Times*, *The Book of Daniel*, *Ragtime*, *Loon Lake*, *Lives of the Poets*, *World's Fair*, *Billy Bathgate*, *The Waterworks*, and *City of God*. Among his honors are the National Book Award, two National Book Critics Circle awards, the PEN/Faulkner Award, the Edith Wharton Citation for Fiction, the William Dean Howells Medal of the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and the National Humanities Medal. Paul Levine is a professor of American literature at Copenhagen University.