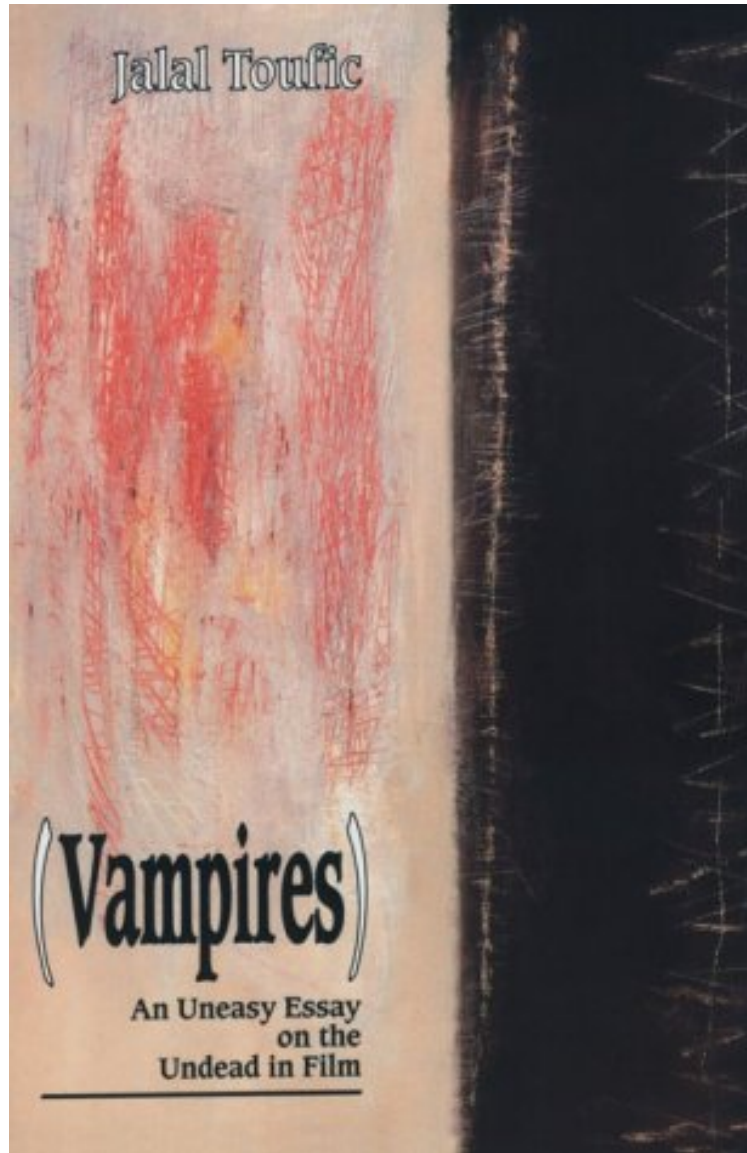


(Ebook pdf) Vampires: An Uneasy Essay on the Undead in Film

Vampires: An Uneasy Essay on the Undead in Film

Jalal Toufic

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Cultural Writing. Film history and criticism. "Jalal Toufic is an amazing writer. He documents the moves of consciousness in a way that leads the reader ever deeper, from impasse to illusion to new impasse--turning the trap of 'what can't be named' into a true paradise"--Richard Foreman. "Relentlessly uncompromising. Toufic's radical and visionary poetics gird the reader to forge ahead into uncharted territory"--Village Voice. "Jalal Toufic is one of the best writers in America today...and his first 2 books, *DISTRACTED* and (*VAMPIRES*), are some of the best writing of the past 20 years"--John Zorn, *Film Works IV*. Jalal Toufic is a teacher, film theorist, video artist, and author of several books. His films have been shown worldwide.

From the Author While the expanded and revised edition of my second book, (*Vampires*), is at one level an uneasy essay on the undead in film (the subtitle of the book), I consider it to be actually much more than that. Drawing on various altered states of consciousness I underwent, films and novels on the undead, psychiatric case studies and mystical reports, the book deals with many of the certainly dubious but also dubiously certain characteristics of the undead state, for example: over-turns that undo the dead's turn to answer an interpellation; doubles; frequent unworldly freezings still, ones that reveal the occasional worldly immobilization of the living as merely motion-lessness, i.e., a variety of movement; the implicit indefinite fall of/in the cadaver; the turning of the metaphorical into the literal; and an unreality that sometimes behaves in a filmic manner (e.g., the lapses in hypnosis, schizophrenia, and undead permit editing in reality), inducing the undead to wonder: "Am I in a film?" While my first book, *Distracted*, was written for the living, (*Vampires*) was written about and for those who are "mortals to death" (the title of a special issue I edited for the journal *Discourse*). It thus belongs--somewhat edgily given my reservations regarding the validity of guidebooks for the dead--on the same shelf as the *Bardo Thodol* and the *Egyptian Book of the Dead*.
About the Author Jalal Toufic is a writer, film theorist, and video artist who is currently Head of the MA program in Film/Video Studies at the Department of Visual and Performing Arts, Holy Spirit University, Lebanon.