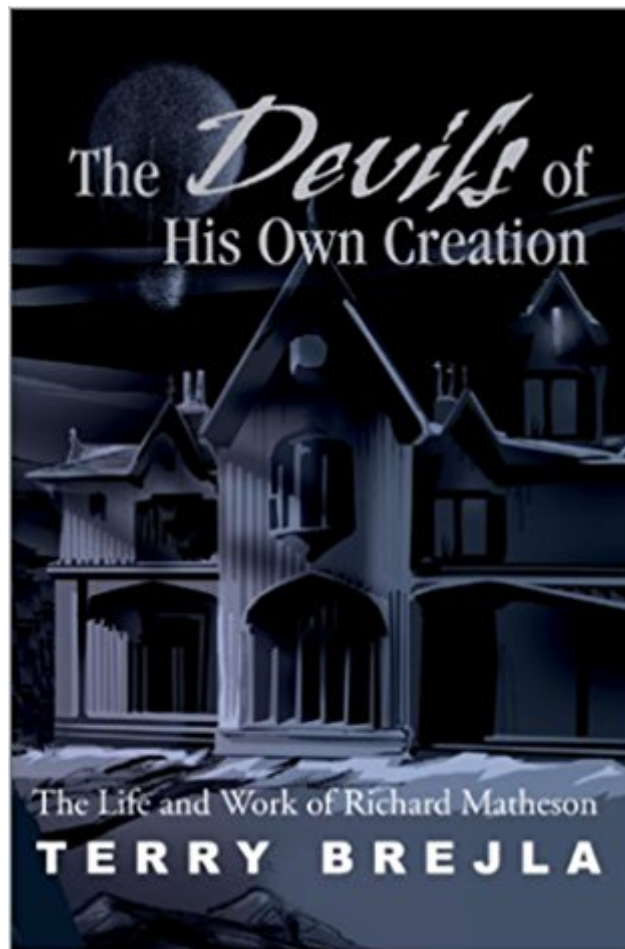




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The Devils Of His Own Creation: The Life And Work Of Richard Matheson



Synopsis

"Just as Bessie Smith was Elvis Presley's mother, Richard Matheson is my father." -Stephen King

Richard Matheson is the father of modern horror and fantasy, having influenced everyone from Stephen King to Dean Koontz. He was a prolific contributor to Twilight Zone and has written some of the classics of the genre, including I Am Legend, The Legend of Hell House, The Shrinking Man, and Somewhere in Time. This book is a celebration of his life and work.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Terry Brejla is a Bay Area Marketing Executive and Professor at San Jose State University. He lives on the beach with his wife, Janet, and their Siberian Husky, Kiva. They have two grown children. Richard Matheson has been his favorite author since he was twelve.

...The opening pages of Terry Brejla's biography make it clear that the book was written with Matheson's full cooperation, so it seemed an exciting prospect to finally read this long-delayed, first-ever study of a writer so central to much of 20th century genre fiction. And the book begins interestingly, if oddly: placing himself at center-stage, Brejla describes his meetings with two of Matheson's friends, fellow writers William F. Nolan and George Clayton Johnson. This is an unorthodox approach, but it works--at least for a few pages. Alas, the book begins to fall apart when it gets to the actual biography. There is never more than a superficial skimming of the facts of Matheson's life; instead, the reader is treated to a series of short chapters, each like a

self-contained brief magazine article, on various aspects of Matheson's career. The problem with this is that all this information is already widely available through innumerable previous articles about Matheson. The writing never develops a consistent approach or tone: on one page we are reading a (pointless) summary of Matheson's "Twilight Zone" episodes, on another a (pointless) discussion of Matheson's son's career. The chapters generally grow briefer and briefer as the book lurches forward, with Brejla completely unable to bring any kind of flow or, at times, even coherence to his writing. It doesn't help matters that the proofreading of this volume is so poor that Matheson's friend Ray Russell is once referred to as "Ken Russell" and that Matheson's own son, R.C. Matheson, is once called "R.C. Johnson"! There are dozens of such errors in this book, some so obvious and egregious that the reader cannot help but laugh. The book deserves more than a rock-bottom rating, however, for the intriguing opening, as well as the final chapter, which brings us back to the first-person narrator meeting with Matheson and his old friends. This material might have been solid enough to make a publishable magazine article. Unfortunately, the rest of the book is hopeless...

Boring, makes no sense, and so horribly written. This was a self published piece. Someone tell this guy, he needs an editor. Misspelled words, everywhere. Does Mr. Matheson even know what Brejla has done here, I tend to doubt it. From my point, this information is widely known, yet another piece of "blah" to add to his collection of "the worst material on .com". Don't waste your money... I hear this guy is a quack.

I've read the book, and agree that it is terrible. The clear errors show Brejla's clear lack of care for his subject matter. If Matheson is such an important figure in Brejla's life, you would think he would care enough to get the information correct. I also find it interesting that the reviewer "Meredith from Boulder, CO" was able to post a review, as she is the author's daughter. I wonder if there is any bias in her review? I also wonder why Meredith from Co, Terry Brejla's daughter, wrote such a glowing review AFTER another (real) review trashed the book.

I read the first review posted and am amazed. This is a great, albeit rather short bio. It's well-researched and is a great read. The beginning and end are brilliant. I'm sorry. It sounds like the other guy has it in for the author. Tell your friends what a great book this is!!

Whew!! What a great book! My Dad sent it to me, and I read it in one sitting. Matheson's God in my

book!Buy this book!! read this Book!!

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