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Joan Howard Maurer

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Joan Howard Maurer : The Three Stooges Book of Scripts (Vol. 2) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Three Stooges Book of Scripts (Vol. 2):

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'Drunks' is included as a screenplay treatment because it was the only script that the boys wrote themselves. We also see the abovementioned synopsis and subsequent comic book treatment of 'Gents Without Cents.' In addition to the main parts of the book, there are also a ton of great pictures (both blow-ups of frames and actual still photographs), the most precious of which are the family pictures. It's really an interesting, and even touching, contrast to see these inept violent guys transformed into caring loving family men off-camera, not to mention how normal they looked when they were out of character. Mrs. Maurer also wrote chapters on what was going on in their lives in the years of these shorts (1934, 1940, and 1944), as well as a brief section on their careers pre-1934 and a great chapter providing brief biographies of the people who worked with them in the 5 selected shorts (actors, directors, writers, producers, etc.). Additionally, there's a three-page section meant to be Xeroxed and then cut up and put together as a flip-book, featuring a scene from 'You Nazy Spy!' Even more great features are reproductions of vintage letters of thanks from theatres where they entertained the troops during WWII and newspaper clippings talking about personal appearances they made, one of which is a very touching story about how they personally came to the hospital bed of a 14 year old boy who'd had his leg amputated following a "hit-and-skip" car accident and couldn't see them in person while they were performing in his town. The final chapter is about the evolution of respect and critical acclaim the Stooges have experienced over the years, going from outright disdain to lukewarm acceptance to finally out-and-out mass love and serious respect. Mrs. Maurer also talks about her own path to loving and accepting what her father did. She says for a long time she couldn't bring herself to watch her normally staid father acting so unlike himself and smacking around her Uncle Curly and their close family friend Larry. However, this chapter could use some major updating if this book ever comes back into print, since things being referred to as "current" or "recent" are now anything but, and some of these television shows, personalities, and comic strips are going to cause blank stares because they're no longer around. Also, many of the people who worked with the boys have now passed on. A lot has changed since 1984, and an updated version of this book would have to include an expanded final chapter to cover everything that's gone on in this subject in the past 20-plus years. This is a great resource, if a bit dated in spots, and should be a valuable addition to any fan's library.

Realizing that the contents of her attic, filled with Stoooge memorabilia, should be shared with Stoooge fans everywhere, Joan Howard Maurer, daughter of Moe Howard, put all of her creative projects on hold and has written her fourth book about her favorite comedy team, the Three Stooges. Joan presents three more vintage film scripts with all the original, written dialogue intact.