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Hail To The Chin: Further Confessions Of A B Movie Actor



Synopsis

Introduction by New York Times bestselling author and famous minor television personality John Hodgman One of my dad's favorite jokes about getting older was: "I went out for coffee when I was twenty-one and when I got back I was fifty-eight!" I get what he meant now. Time flies. My first book, *If Chins Could Kill: Confessions of a "B" Movie Actor*, was published back in 2001 and it chronicles the adventures of a "mid-grade, kind of hammy actor" (my words), cutting his teeth on exploitation movies far removed from mainstream Hollywood. This next book, an "Act II" if you will, could be considered my "maturing years" in show business, when I began to say "no" more often and gravitated toward self-generated material. Taking stock in the overall quality of my life, I fled Los Angeles and moved to a remote part of Oregon to renew, regroup and reload. If that sounds tame, the journey from *Evil Dead* to *Spider-Man* to *Burn Notice* was long, with plenty of adventures/mishaps along the way. I never pictured myself hovering above Baghdad in a Blackhawk helicopter, facing a pack of wild dogs in Bulgaria, or playing an aging Elvis Presley with cancer on his penis - how can you predict this stuff? The sheer lunacy of show business is part of the fun for me and I hope you'll come along for the ride. Don't Call Me Ash Campbell

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Customer Reviews

"Campbell is an amusing raconteur, sharing stories about shooting the indie film *My Name Is Bruce* in his backyard, working on his old friend Sam Raimi's Spiderman movies, and spending seven seasons on *Burn Notice*. Whether he is describing dealing with torn hamstrings during the

Burn Notice shoot or crossing playing Santa Claus and Ronald Reagan off his bucket list, Campbell is always entertaining, and his smart-ass style makes for a groovy ride. He ends his book with his thoughts on both the Evil Dead movie remake and his current Ash vs. Evil Dead TV series. Fans will eagerly await a sequel." *— Publishers Weekly* "Whether recounting his life in the boondocks of south Oregon or the making of the dud The Man with the Screaming Brain in Bulgaria, Campbell, backed by co-author Sanborn, and his B-movie anecdotes, are thoroughly engaging and witty." *— Booklist* "Campbell sheds further light on the (decidedly unglamorous) existence of a B-list actor, and fans of his work will undoubtedly be excited to read more from the enigmatic movie star.... Chock-full of amusing anecdotes about the underappreciated B-list movie industry. Hand to admirers of Campbell's previous book and fans of the talkies." *— Library Journal* "A breezy read through a breezy life." *— Kirkus Reviews* "Much like his Campbell *—*, *—* on-screen presence, Hail to the Chin: Further Confessions of a B Movie Actor is wildly vivacious. As he explains in the book *—*, *—* prologue, Campbell sees his memoirs as a trilogy. If If Chins Could Kill was the hero *—*, *—* origin story, then Hail to the Chin represents the second act. It will likely be a while before the finale comes to fruition, as Campbell has plenty more movies, TV shows, conventions, life experiences, and silly anecdotes ahead of him, though it *—*, *—* impossible not to be eager at the thought of the effervescent author reflecting on his twilight years." *— Broken Horror Fan* Praise for If Chins Could Kill *—* "The book offers insights into the world of independent filmmaking and the life of a *—* "B *—* actor, but most importantly it succeeds as an evocative memoir that allows the reader to know Campbell. *—* " *—* School Library Journal *—* "An insightful and rant-filled guide to being almost famous. *—* " *—* "GQ *—* "Exceptionally literate yet conversational, wide-ranging but never wandering, and copiously, gleefully illustrated *—* " *—* " *—* Booklist "entertaining and witty... Forecast: While a boon to film cultists and to Campbell's many fans, this book also has enough insights and smarts to appeal to readers with a serious interest in popular culture." *— Publishers Weekly* "Campbell forgoes Hollywood anecdotes for more entertaining tales of struggling to break into the biz (even after Evil Dead II, he had to work security). With a quirky assortment of rants, as well as self-deprecating chapter titles like *—* "The Higher the Budget, the Lower the Part, *—* " he *—*, *—* like the dinner guest you wish would never leave." *— Entertainment Weekly* "This book is indispensable to anyone aspiring to a career as an actor, director, producer, or just about any other aspect of movie making... A fast, enjoyable read that is sure to garner Campbell even more of a following." *— Fangoria* Praise for Bruce Campbell Without Bruce Campbell as Ash, *—* "Evil Dead *—* " likely would have remained

one of the early-80s splatterhouse flicks that indie filmmakers revere as inspirational to their craft. But Campbell molded Ash into a hero for the average guy by tempering the story's adrenaline-spiking frights and nausea-inducing gore with a performance steeped in expressive slapstick. Demon vomit, hellish effluvia, barrels of limbs and spilled bowels, all of this and more were prominent in 1981's "Evil Dead" and its 1987 sequel, "Evil Dead II." In encouraging us to laugh at the disgusting effects, Campbell's Ash made the franchise's outrageous shocks manageable.
Salon

In 1979 with Sam Raimi and Rob Tapert, Campbell filmed the *Evil Dead*, in which he starred and co-executive produced. Stephen King dubbed it "the most ferociously original horror film of the year." Bruce has written back-to-back New York Times bestsellers, appeared in all three Sam Raimi's *Spider-Man* movies, and in 2013, he completed a seven-year run on *Burn Notice*, USA's #1 show on cable. In a return to his B-movie roots, he completed the second season of the *Ash Vs. Evil Dead* TV series on Starz in 2016.

I have been a fan from the start, with *Evil Dead*, and have thoroughly enjoyed his work, film or type, whenever I found it. Thankfully, with ebooks and streaming services, I can revisit as much as I like. This is one of those books that I will be adding to that list. The history of his craft is spellbinding to me, as a fellow actor. This motivates me to do more and to keep a chin up when I get edited out of a film or my lines cut (which isn't too bad), or I don't get the job. Thanks to the King for sharing the continuation (Act Three in the works, Bruce?) of his story and artcraft. All hail the mighty Chin!

I have always liked Bruce Campbell. After loving the original *If Chins Could Kill*, this gave even more information on BC's personal life and continuing career as an actor. It also made me realize that while the lifestyle seems intriguing, I am glad I didn't go in that direction post High School Drama.

I have been a long time fan of Mr Campbells work. Honestly I've watched shows that aren't my "cup of tea" just because he was in them. This and the other "Chin" book are very much what I expected and a little bit more. Self-deprecating humor, honesty and just great story telling. Bruce, you and your posse keep up the good work so shmo's like me (and my little shmo's) have something truly entertaining to

A must read, a masterpiece from the King of the B Movies!

I own the previous Bruce Campbell autobiography and loved it. "Make Love the Bruce Campbell Way," not so much. I've been lucky enough to see him live three times. Once at a book taping and twice at events for "Bubba-Ho-Tep" and "The Man With the Screaming Brain." Although neither were movies that I would add to my dvd/blue-ray/digital collection, I went to see Campbell because I enjoy his stories and wit. He's fantastic live, similar to Henry Rollins spoken word bits. You might not appreciate their primary line of work, but they are fantastic to see live just jibber-jabbering and you should definitely do it for the experience. "Hail to the Chin" starts off where "If Chins Could Kill" leaves off, covering the past 15 or so years of Mr. Campbell's career. Although you might wonder why he needs two biographies, the truth is a lot has happened since the original was written and it's not something you can just throw an addendum chapter onto the paperback version like so many get. No, Bruce has had a full life in the past decade and a half and it shows. Besides, Chris Jericho has FOUR biographies out, so I think Ash can have two, am I right. (I just MADE THE LIST, didn't I?) In this biography Bruce touches on all the things he has done since the first book. He covers moving to Oregon, a ton of low budget sci-fi films he's made, the entire "My Name is Bruce" production, seven years on "Burn Notice," visiting the troops in Iraq, cameo rolls in a lot of bigger budget movies, the "Evil Dead" remake and finally, the beginning and completion of the first "Ash Vs. Evil Dead" season (look for Season Three this fall!). The latter is just barely touched on and I wish they had covered it more in depth, but the book was already at 300 pages, so I guess Bruce just wanted to get it wrapped up. It's a shame as this should have been the climax with his career coming full circle, not the tail end of the story. Honestly though, that's my single minor complaint throughout the entire book. "Hail to the Chin" was a wonderful read from beginning to end. The narrative voice is smooth and easy to follow, even when the book jumps back and forth across time. It's funny, informative and even a bit poignant when Bruce touches on death, fears, car accidents and his first and only DUI. I can't recommend the book highly enough and it's actual made me track down a few of his pieces from this time range that I haven't seen yet. If you're even remotely a fan of his work, pre-order this book now. If you're not, I still suggest you attend one of the book signings, so you can hear the guy speak live. It's really worth it. Who knows, you might even walk away with a new book or three in hand.

Bruce Campbell has a charming way with self-deprecating humor that makes one appreciate all that "B" actors go through. I've been a fan of his even before "Brisco County, Jr." With HAIL TO THE

CHIN, he has a great follow-up to IF CHINS COULD KILL from 15 years ago, taking the reader through his successes with the "Evil Dead" chainsaw movies, "Burn Notice," and even his misadventures, that are filled with "There, but for the Grace of God, Could Have Gone I" moments. What I've always appreciated about Bruce Campbell is his honesty, and his genuine niceness. He may not make it to heaven in "First Class," but at the end of his life, he sure ain't going to that other place. In HAIL TO THE CHIN, he shows how to get by in Hollywood, one learns how one has to be ever so vigilant and resourceful. If you have ever thought you could be a movie/television actor, or know someone who harbors those aspirations, HAIL TO THE CHIN should be required reading. Say you aren't dreaming of Hollywood, HAIL TO THE CHIN makes for a great escape read.

This is a follow-on to "If Chins Could Kill" from fifteen years ago now. Bruce is the king of B-movies and B-television (if the latter can be called a thing). It's a fun, rollicking tale for those who like his movies and television work, though honestly the other folks in my household rolled their eyes at the concept. I am a casual enough fan that I knew virtually nothing about the backstories, and had seen only a bit of the shows that he has worked on more recently. Brisco County, Jr. and Evil Dead are the two touchstones that I have for Mr. Campbell.

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