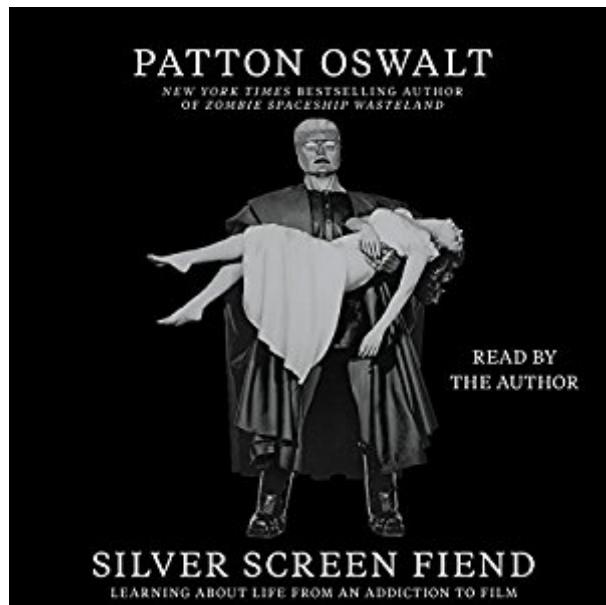


The book was found

# Silver Screen Fiend: Learning About Life From An Addiction To Film



## Synopsis

New York Times best-selling author, comedian, and actor Patton Oswalt shares his entertaining memoir about coming of age as a performer and writer in the late '90s while obsessively watching classic films at the legendary New Beverly Cinema in Los Angeles. Between 1995 and 1999, Patton Oswalt lived with an unshakeable addiction. It wasn't drugs, alcohol, or sex. It was film. After moving to L.A., Oswalt became a huge film buff, absorbing classics and new releases at least three nights a week at the New Beverly Cinema. Silver screen celluloid became Patton's life schoolbook, informing his notions of acting, writing, comedy, and relationships. Set in the nascent days of the alternative comedy scene, Oswalt's memoir chronicles his journey from fledgling stand-up comedian to self-assured sitcom actor, with the colorful New Beverly collective supporting him all along the way. Ideally timed for awards season, when everyone's mind is on Hollywood, *Silver Screen Fiend* follows up on the terrific reception of Oswalt's New York Times best-selling debut, *Zombie Spaceship Wasteland*. Already a beloved fixture on the comedy stage, on television, and in film - not to mention his 1.1 million Twitter followers - Oswalt announces, with this second book, that he's also here to stay on the page.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 4 hours and 7 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Simon & Schuster Audio

Audible.com Release Date: January 6, 2015

Language: English

ASIN: B00QVZA8QY

Best Sellers Rank: #46 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Movies > History & Criticism #58 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Arts & Entertainment > Performing Arts #61 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Humor > Comedy

## Customer Reviews

It is not unusual for a celebrity to produce a tell-all memoir about his or her embarrassing, crippling addictions, and in his new memoir actor-comedian Patton Oswalt has confessed his own. Not to drugs or alcohol. Oswalt's fine with those. No, his drug-of-choice was on 35mm film, projected on a 72-foot screen, night after night. In "Silver Screen Fiend: Learning About Life



to the harsh realities of the 90s L.A. comic scene, and how he and it developed over the next few years. You get great and funny stories about how he bombed, how he improved, how his friends did, and why Jerry Lewis hates him. The book careens around time and often lapses into a stream-of-consciousness riff, dropping you right into the frenetic mindset of a *Ã¢â€œsprocket* fiend. It's a faster read than you might think since the final sections are a list of imaginary movies that never were, part of his eulogy for New Beverly owner Sherman Torgan, who died in 2007, and the last 33 pages are the 250+ movies he watched during the course of the book. *Silver Screen Fiend* is half memoir, half cautionary tale and it's almost like hearing the current, self-deprecating Oswalt yell back over the years at his earlier, know-it-all persona.

Patton Oswalt is one of my top five all-time favorite stand-up comedians. That said, most of this book isn't funny, so don't expect this to be a few hours of belly laughs. However, all the things Patton is passionate about I am also passionate about. In that way, this was like listening to a monologue of someone I'd consider a friend because of our similar interests and because I respect his opinion and insight. Obviously, given the name of the book, he talks a lot about film, but also art – art in general and the kind hung on museum walls. And of course, comedy. I love reading about people who stick it out and ultimately make it in the arts. My favorite quote is from when he's describing a group who'd moved to LA to see if they could make it in TV and film: "We'd piss and moan ... pointing out how unfair and whimsical and chaotic the entertainment business was, how it rarely rewarded the truly talented. **NONE OF US COULD SEE HOW IT NEVER REWARDED THE INERT.**" (Emphasis mine.) I wish he wrote more about what he did to make it on the *King of Queens*. Was it just an audition? Had he met Kevin James doing stand-up before that? I love the stories of failures and successes. I wished he'd included more details in that area, but this is a quick, fun read. I have some classic movies added to my must-watch (or must-watch again) list after reading this!

Patton Oswalt's second book is much like his first -- the writing is fine, there's just not enough of it to really carry the day here. The memoir-style portions of the book are interesting, particularly those that really tie into the idea of cinematic addiction and Oswalt's feeding of that addiction. Even the diversions -- such as a lengthy explanation of his use of Van Gogh's *The Night Cafe* as a euphemism for life-altering moments -- have insight or narrative heft sufficient to warrant the read. But it grinds to a sudden halt and falls into what reads like padding to keep the book from being

relegated to Kindle single territory. There's a throwaway chapter of Oswalt inventing fictional movies he would want to see followed by an "appendix" that occupies approximately a quarter of the book that consists solely of a list of movies he saw during the years. While it's interesting to learn that such an interesting comedic mind thought "hey, Double Team, I'm going to see that," it's a disappointing finish.

Patton Oswalt's book on his movie addiction--a good portion of it is also a memoir of his early years as a stand-up and movie actor--is fascinating, erudite, never boring, sometimes maybe a little pretentious, but decidedly worth your time. I'd recommend the audiobook, so that you get his vocal performance as well as the text. If you've ever shared his moviegoing jones, you'll recognize this behavior all too well. Particular highlights include his wonderful appreciation of Clint Howard's performance in "Apollo 13" & of Peter Cushing snapping "Pack! We're leaving!" in "Frankenstein Must Be Destroyed"--when he quoted the latter, I said it out loud with him, and then found myself applauding.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Silver Screen Fiend: Learning About Life From an Addiction to Film Video Game Addiction: The Cure to The Game Addiction (Addiction Recovery, Addictions, Video Game Addiction, Online Gaming Addiction) Stack Silver, Buy Gold, For Beginners: How And Why To Invest In Physical Precious Metals And, Protect Your Wealth, When The, Money Bubble Pops (Silver, ... Silver, Gold Fever, Gold Wars, FED Book 1) The Gambling Addiction Cure: How to Overcome Gambling Addiction and Problem Gambling for Life Glow Kids: How Screen Addiction Is Hijacking Our Kids-and How to Break the Trance Weight Loss by Quitting Sugar and Carb - Learn How to Overcome Sugar Addiction - A Sugar Buster Super Detox Diet (Weight Loss, Addiction and Detox) Brian De Palma's Split-Screen: A Life in Film Time For Kids: Ronald Reagan: From Silver Screen to Oval Office (Time for Kids Biographies) Editing and Special/Visual Effects (Behind the Silver Screen Series) 75 Years of Marvel Comics: From the Golden Age to the Silver Screen Film Directing Shot by Shot: Visualizing from Concept to Screen (Michael Wiese Productions) Stack Silver Get Gold: How To Buy Gold And Silver Bullion Without Getting Ripped Off! Buy Gold and Silver Safely: The Only Book You Need to Learn How to Buy or Sell Gold and Silver Silver & Gold Guide Top Tips: Learn How to Quickly Invest - Build Your Wealth with Gold and Silver Bullion The Art of Pawn: Lessons on How to Open and Operate a Pawn Shop, Plus How to Buy Gold & Silver (Silver, Gold, Coins, Bullion, Pledge, Junk coins, Mint, Diamond, Precious metal, Stone) Screen-Free Crafts Kids Will Love: Fun Activities that Inspire Creativity, Problem-Solving and Lifelong Learning Music

Composition for Film and Television (Music Composition: Film Scoring) History on Film/Film on History (History: Concepts, Theories and Practice) Latino Images in Film: Stereotypes, Subversion, and Resistance (Texas Film and Media Studies Series) Woody Allen Film by Film

[Dmca](#)