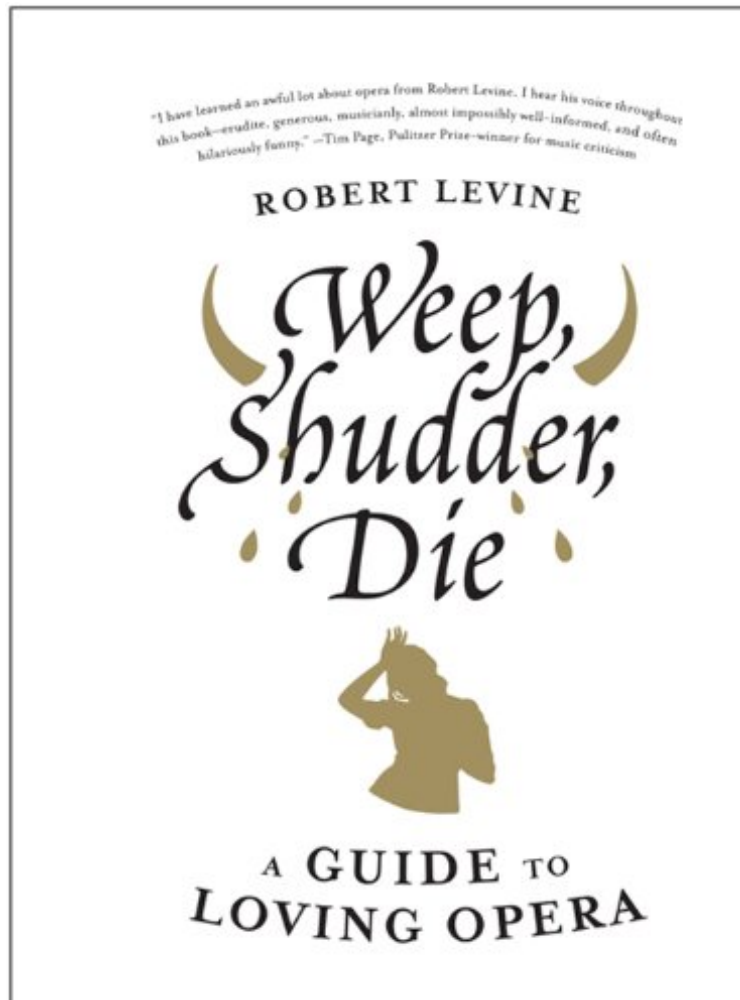


(Free pdf) Weep, Shudder, Die: A Guide to Loving Opera

Weep, Shudder, Die: A Guide to Loving Opera

Robert Levine

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Robert Levine : Weep, Shudder, Die: A Guide to Loving Opera before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Weep, Shudder, Die: A Guide to Loving Opera:

10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Learn, Laugh, Applaud--and sing By Susan Berenzweig Give this book to everyone you know who has ever sung you a song, or reminded you of one. I want to sing praises for Levine's contribution. It is not just for opera fans, but for fans of life and art. This is a short, immensely readable, sometimes irreverent, hysterically funny book for everyone. It will allow novices to enter the sometimes daunting field of High Culture feeling that they belong because they know enough to have a conversation about opera--and music and theater in general. It will give the experienced opera goer something to laugh over and to think about, e.g. "People love group crying". It made me search my memory files for past opera experiences to share with the author, e.g. Bjorling "made my body shake". I compared my memories of arias and productions and singers with Levine's. And of course, I learned about what I thought I knew and what I wanted to know about even more. There are so many operas and

singers out there. I'm happy Levine's book will be my guide as I take the opportunity to Shudder and Weep, but also to Exhale and Quell. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. this was a lot of fun. An incredible amount of information in a short ...By sophiethis was a lot of fun. An incredible amount of information in a short book, including great suggestions for arias in each opera to listen for. I read it straight through and now want to go back and listen to each opera he writes about, while reading his critiques and suggestions for what to listen for. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I Met master Levine in college. He is one ...By Brett AlexanderI Met master Levine in college. He is one of the funniest humans ever. His book is expectedly insightful and riotous. He gives opera. We are forever grateful.

"I couldn't imagine a finer or livelier guide through the world of opera. . . . [Levine] distills a lifetime of passion and insight into this immensely enjoyable survey, and with the right comic touch to make you wonder how opera ever seemed intimidating." —Thomas May, author of *Decoding Wagner* Despite the popular success of the Metropolitan Opera's "Live in HD" series, opera's grand world of soaring sopranos and breathtaking baritones—of tragic *Rigoletto*, triumphal *Sigmund*, and desperate *Orfeo*, of faithful *Figaro*, heartbroken *Pagliacci*, and lusty *Don Giovanni*—remains wrapped in an aura of impenetrable esotericism. Piercing this veil of opera's perceived inaccessibility, acclaimed classical music critic Robert Levine extends a witty and insightful invitation to enjoy opera in *Weep, Shudder, Die*, offering a new generation of aficionados a priceless way to access to music's greatest achievement.

Over the course of many animated conversations, I have learned an awful lot about opera from Robert Levine. I hear his voice throughout this book - erudite, generous, musicianly, almost impossibly well-informed and often hilariously funny. From the Back Cover *Weep, Shudder, Die* is an insightful and accessible guide to the grand art of opera for both new and longtime fans. For too long opera was relegated to high society and perceived as stuffy and remote. But now that has changed. A new generation of opera lovers has emerged, inviting a wave of extraordinary new productions and revivals the world over. Robert Levine has written an illuminating guide for this growing audience. With his signature wit, he examines the most famous composers and operas, from Wagner's *Der Ring des Nibelungen* to Mozart's *Le nozze di Figaro* and Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin*, giving a sense of each opera's history and celebrating its enduring greatness. *Weep, Shudder, Die* will inspire anyone who has ever been curious about opera but never knew where to start to discover one of the world's most entertaining and satisfying art forms. About the Author Robert Levine is a classical music and opera critic and senior editor at www.classicstoday.com. He is the author of *Maria Callas: A Musical Biography* and the children's book *The Story of the Orchestra*, among others.