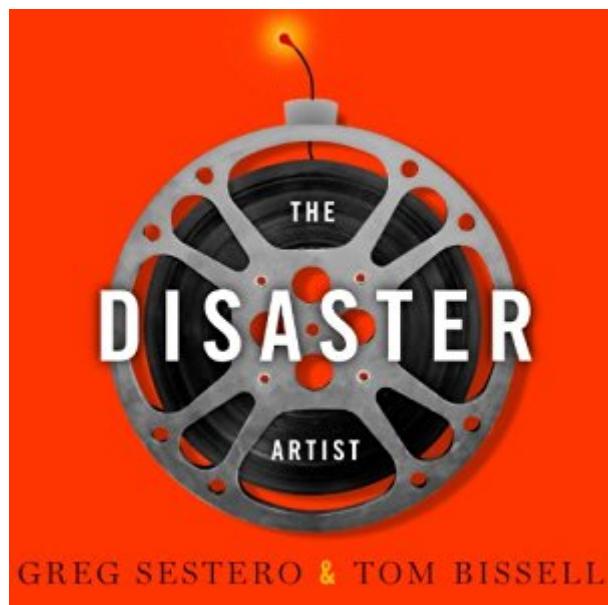


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# The Disaster Artist: My Life Inside 'The Room', The Greatest Bad Movie Ever Made



## Synopsis

Nineteen-year-old Greg Sestero met Tommy Wiseau at an acting school in San Francisco. Wiseau's scenes were rivetingly wrong, yet Sestero, hypnotized by such uninhibited acting, thought, "I have to do a scene with this guy." That impulse changed both of their lives. Wiseau seemed never to have read the rule book on interpersonal relationships (or the instructions on a bottle of black hair dye), yet he generously offered to put the aspiring actor up in his LA apartment. Sestero's nascent acting career first sizzled, then fizzled, resulting in Wiseau's last-second offer to Sestero of co-starring with him in *The Room*, a movie Wiseau wrote and planned to finance, produce, and direct - in the parking lot of a Hollywood equipment-rental shop. Wiseau spent \$6 million of his own money on his film, but despite the efforts of the disbelieving (and frequently fired) crew and embarrassed (and frequently fired) actors, the movie made no sense. Nevertheless, Wiseau rented a Hollywood billboard featuring his alarming headshot and staged a red carpet premiere. *The Room* made \$1,800 at the box office and closed after two weeks. One reviewer said that watching *The Room* was like "getting stabbed in the head". *The Disaster Artist* is Greg Sestero's laugh-out-loud funny account of how Tommy Wiseau defied every law of artistry, business, and friendship to make "the Citizen Kane of bad movies" (Entertainment Weekly), which is now an international phenomenon, with Wiseau himself beloved as an oddball celebrity. Written with award-winning journalist Tom Bissell, *The Disaster Artist* is an inspiring tour de force, an open-hearted portrait of an enigmatic man who will improbably capture your heart.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 11 hours and 38 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Tantor Audio

Audible.com Release Date: May 19, 2014

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B00K5SAH0U

Best Sellers Rank: #2 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Movies > History & Criticism #7 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Arts & Entertainment > Performing Arts #8 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Pop Culture > General

## Customer Reviews

You're probably interested in this book for the same reasons I was: You love/hate The Room, you want to read some funny behind-the-scenes stories about its making, and you're hoping to have some mysteries about the movie and its oddball director/writer/producer cleared up. Rest assured, you will get all that, and more, from reading this excellent book by Greg Sestero ("Mark"), and writer Tom Bissell. The Disaster Artist is part memoir of a struggling young actor, part "making of" of a cult classic, and part chronicle of the rise and fall of a bizarre friendship. Fans of The Room tend to have a lot of questions. Why is the dialogue so odd? How old was Denny supposed to be? What happened to Peter? Who was Steven? Why the football? Why a rooftop? Why the pictures of spoons? What's with that flower shop scene? Who is Tommy Wiseau, really, and where did he get the money to film this thing? Sestero does his best to answer these questions, though many things about Wiseau's past will probably forever remain a mystery. I don't wish to spoil the book for anyone, but I feel I must answer The Big Question in order to write a proper review and let the potential reader know what they are in for. Is Tommy Wiseau "in on the joke," so to speak? That is to say, is The Room intentionally funny? The answer is no. I've read a lot of funny books over the years, but I can't recall another that made me laugh out loud so often, or so hard, as The Disaster Artist. Sestero's insights into the making of "the Citizen Kane of bad movies" had me in childish fits of giggles, as did the glimpses into "Tommy's Planet." Wiseau, you see, always wanted a planet of his own.

I am a little bit obsessed with The Room. It's not a constant thing--I can go for months without watching it or talking about it or probably even thinking about it--but sooner or later, I find myself talking to a friend or acquaintance about my love of entertainingly bad movies, and I mention the The Room as being (in my opinion) the best bad movie ever made. Usually the person I'm speaking to will not have heard of The Room, or will have heard of it but not seen it, which immediately necessitates bringing up internet video footage and inevitably rekindles the obsession. Who is this Tommy Wiseau? Where did he get that crazy accent, how old is he, and how in the heck did he make enough money to pour six million dollars of his personal fortune into this movie, and what on earth was he trying to accomplish by doing so? If you have seen The Room, you probably already realize that the man behind the movie is a person who doesn't see things the way the rest of us see them. We see poorly-built sets, ill-fitting and unflattering costumes, stilted dialogue riddled with non sequiturs, rampant continuity issues, bad green screen special effects, nonsensical plotlines, and most of all, Tommy himself, who is probably the worst actor you've ever seen unless you attend a

lot of middle school theater productions...and maybe even then. But, as this book very eloquently explains, Tommy saw something else entirely. If you are looking for pee-your-pants funny anecdotes about what it was like for Greg Sestero to be first Tommy's friend and then, eventually, his employee on the set of *The Room*, they're here. (He had to write down the code to his apartment's gate because he could never remember it--it was 1234!!

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