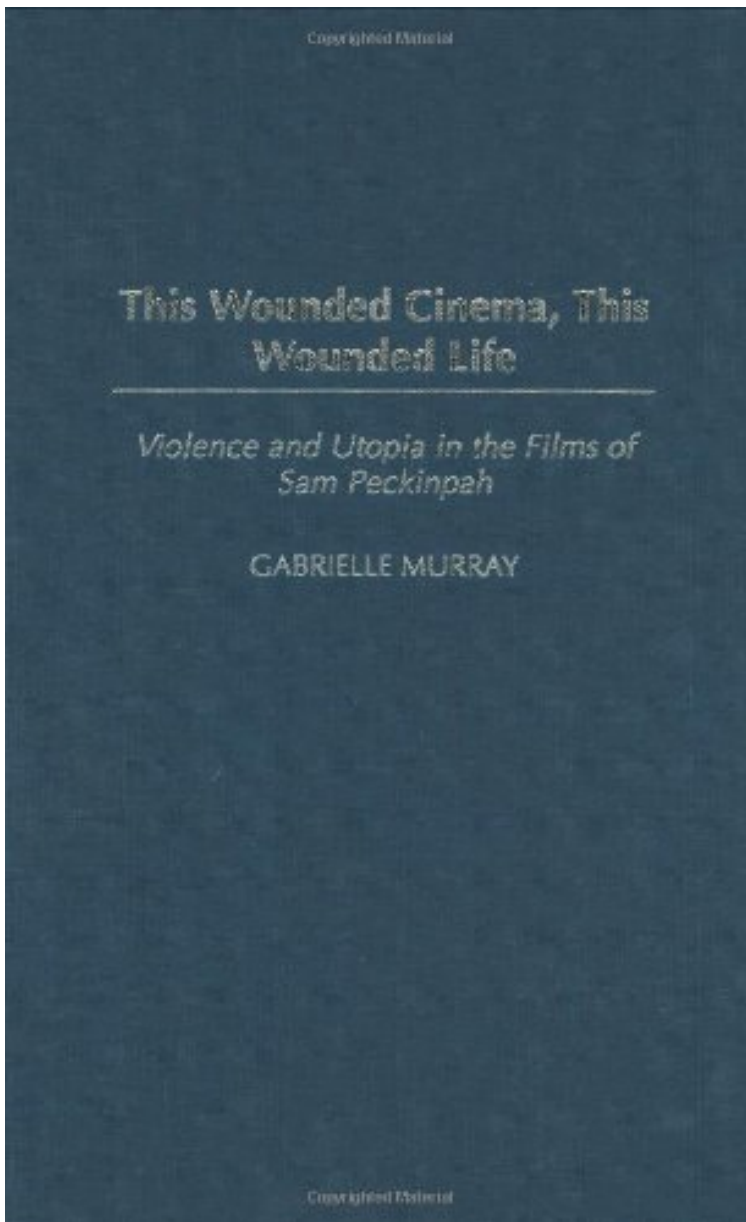


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# This Wounded Cinema, This Wounded Life: Violence and Utopia in the Films of Sam Peckinpah



*Par Gabrielle Murray*  
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Straw Dogs while ignoring the poetry and gentility of lesser-known pictures including *The Ballad of Cable Hogue* and *Junior Bonner*. Serving as a necessary corrective, Gabrielle Murray's *This Wounded Cinema, This Wounded Life: Violence and Utopia in the Films of Sam Peckinpah* offers a better understanding of the work of this landmark director through close readings of both his famous and less-famous works. Placing them in their proper context both aesthetically and mythologically, Murray eschews the usual debates about screen violence to discover the ways in which Peckinpah's films provide intense, kinetic explorations of life and death. Amid the often-discussed bloodshed, this bold new study comes to find the complicated utopian impulse that exists at the heart of even Peckinpah's most violent work.

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