

## Fango Flashback: "ILSA, HAREM KEEPER OF THE OIL SHEIKS"

Written by Mister Smith

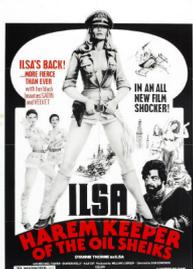
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When I was asked to write an article on a long-forgotten genre gem, there were several that came to mind, but one stood out as a sequel that never got the respect it deserved. Though the original *ILSA: SHE WOLF OF THE SS* is essential exploitation cinema, its sequel *ILSA, HAREM KEEPER OF THE OIL SHEIKS* is, in this writer's opinion, just as fun, if not a better movie than its predecessor.

*HAREM KEEPER* feels more like a remake rather than a sequel, considering that the story has almost no connection to the original. The ultra-buxom Dyanne Thorne again delivers a sensational performance as Ilsa, the wicked pussycat in charge of making sure every sin is in order. Gone is the German prison-camp setting, replaced with the sands of the Middle East. Ilsa now runs a harem for her master, El Sharif, an Arab sheik whose sexual appetite and abuse of power has gotten out of control.



El Sharif, who spends most of his time giving orders and lying down with mistresses, has taken a liking to kidnapping American girls whom he uses and abuses before selling them off in slave auctions to his fellow sheiks. Just as Ilsa imports three new voluptuous specimens, El Sharif receives a visit from two U.S. diplomats who seemingly come in peace to persuade him to share some of the oil his acres of land sit on. Being keen to the idea that the Americans are up to more than they claim to be, he instructs Ilsa to find out what they already know about his slave-trade operation.

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HAREM KEEPER carries over many of SHE WOLF's exploitation sensibilities, but a slightly lighter tone has been put into effect. The U.S. diplomat Dr. Kaiser acts as comic relief, something the grim SHE WOLF was missing, despite the fact that it's hinted he has had an affair with a young slave boy. In order for El Sharif to destroy his rivals, Ilsa devises a plan to implant an intercourse-activated explosive into the slave girls' cervixes before handing them over as peace offerings. Anyone caught disobeying orders on El Sharif's grounds must pay the price by dealing with Ilsa's ebony lady-guards, be it in mortal combat or bosom-in-a-vice anguish.

Though the torture sequences are slightly less vicious and sometimes downright silly, this is still ILSA movie, after all. While it plays out as more of an action film, there is still a fair amount of nonconsensual sex acts present, which keeps the film grounded in its exploitation roots. When an imported slave is reluctant to use her tongue on one of Ilsa's bodyguards, Ilsa shoves her face deep in the servant's crotch, hissing, "Lick, bitch!"; Thorne is ever a trouper. Unnecessary cruelty and bizarre humor like this are part of the sensibilities that make HAREM KEEPER such a treat. War, explosions, rape and murder—all of this screen candy eventually comes to a bubble-gum pop in the exhilarating climax of this rollercoaster ride of a flick.

If you've never gotten around to seeing HAREM KEEPER, this writer strongly suggests you seek it out. Fans of gratuitous nudity and violence will have something to amuse them in every frame, while old-school movie nuts who enjoy an adventurous romp will remember what fun it was before screeners became overloaded with CGI and big names. No matter what you look for in your movies, you will no doubt say when this one's done, "They sure don't make 'em like that anymore."