Written by Michael Koopmans
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Grab your swords and put on those sandals, because the fine folks at Shout! Factory have a two-DVD set of barbaric proportions coming out today! It’s another Roger Corman’s Cult Classics title to add to your growing pile—a SWORD AND SORCERY COLLECTION featuring DEATHSTALKER (1983), DEATHSTALKER II (1987), THE WARRIOR AND THE SORCERESS (1984) and BARBARIAN QUEEN (1985). The set features more cheesecake and beefcake than you can probably handle, being released just in time to bank on interest in the new CONAN movie—exactly as they did upon initial release!

First up is DEATHSTALKER, a film that‘s certainly not intended for fans of BEN-HUR but, in and of itself, is quite entertaining. The opening sequence perfectly sets the tone, presenting a band of disfigured barbarians jumping and sneaking around some ruins. They happen upon a man and his barely clothed female captive; the former runs off, chased by half the gang, and the latter stays behind just to have one of her breasts exposed by the remainder of the ruffians. We cut to the man stealing a horse in hopes of a quicker escape, whereupon we’re introduced to our blond, chiseled-in-stone “hero,” Deathstalker (played by Rick Hill), who monotonally proclaims, “That’s my horse.” As quickly as the pursuing gang arrives on the scene, they’re swiftly cut down to size—along with the horse thief—by the loinclothed conqueror. He quickly makes his way to the captive girl, who is now tied to a tree, and without missing a beat, exposes and rubs her other breast. End scene.

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DVD PACKAGE: [redacted]