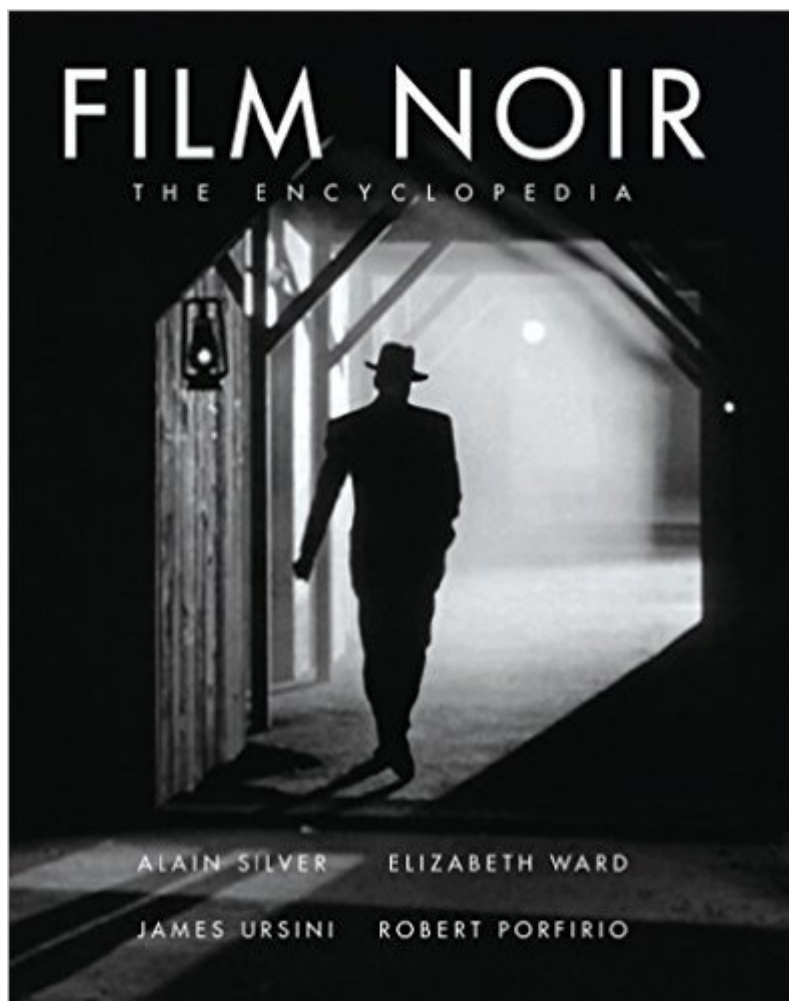


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# The Film Noir Encyclopedia



## Synopsis

Enter the world of film noir, a world of darkness, ambiguity, and moral corruption. Meet the cynical and obsessive heroes of film noir portrayed by actors like Humphrey Bogart, Peter Lorre, James Cagney, Joan Crawford, and Bette Davis. You may encounter a gun-toting gangster, a femme fatale wrapped in fur, a detective with the brim of his hat turned down, or a desperate murderer lurking in the shadows of a doorway. It's a world we all know - the seedy underbelly of the American Dream, and every bit as much a part of our culture. This wonderfully exhaustive text - tallying more than three hundred thousand words with hundreds of film stills and photos new to the work - distills everything about the movement into one volume from movies to stars to themes and motifs, and brings us up to date with contemporary contributions to the movement. Now completely revised, expanded, and redesigned, this classic pioneering work is the final word on a dark subject.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I can't add much to Mark R. Silla's review, other than I agree wholeheartedly, specifically his pointing out the factual errors and overall disappointment with the writing in this book. I too, was very anxious to dive right in, hoping to find a fresh perspective on the films I've already seen, along with a helpful resource for pointing me toward the worthwhile obscure titles that I haven't. What I got was many vanilla, mistake-laden reviews, which obviously were hastily written and edited.

Regardless, I've reluctantly given it a 3-star rating, mainly geared to readers who may be new to the world of Film Noir. For a fresh, highly entertaining take, I strongly suggest "Dark City: The Lost World of Film Noir" by Eddie Muller. It scoops you up and takes you through every dark shadow of

Noir culture in such a unique way, you'll feel like you've lived through one of these films. On the other hand, "The Film Noir Encyclopedia" ably serves its purpose as a reference point in regard to Director, Cast, etc., but if you're a hard-boiled Noir fan, you'll be hard pressed to find anything new here. That is, unless you don't mind inaccurate descriptions and "unintentional" alternate endings. I do say that with tongue firmly planted in cheek, but I WILL point out a glaring example. While perusing the essay of one of the finest and well-known of all Films Noir - "The Asphalt Jungle" - I was astonished to find an entirely incorrect ending. I'm not sure if this is a product of indifference or lack of knowledge, but it's entirely inexcusable and unprofessional. Here's the authors' description of the epilogue - verbatim..."Dix gallantly persuades Doc to accept some of the money before insisting they separate into the nearby Kentucky farmland. But it is futile.

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