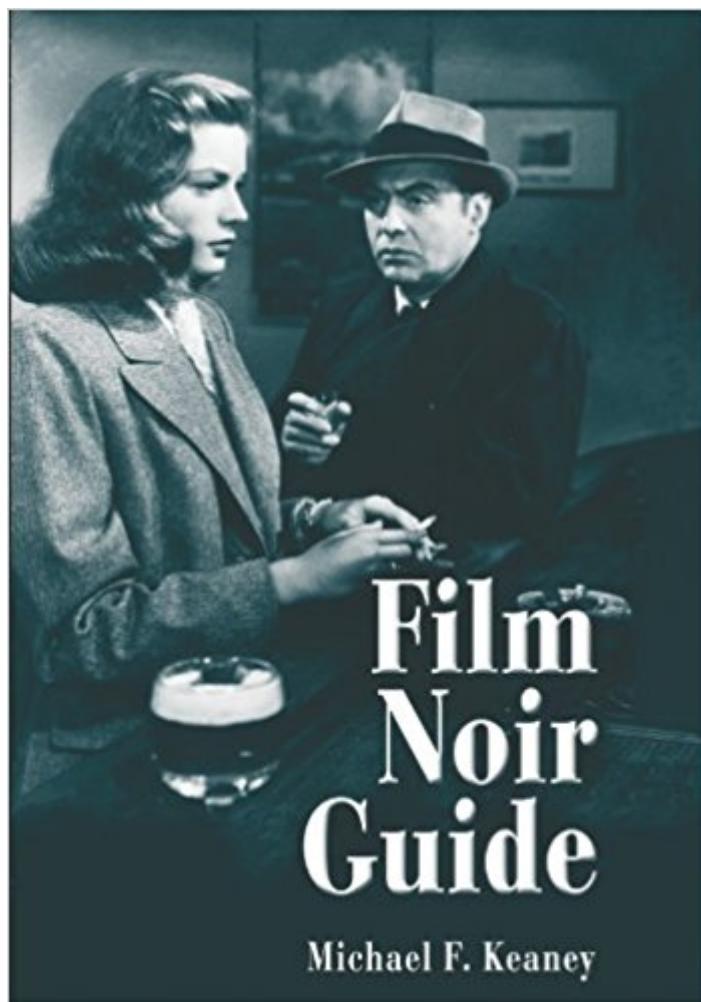


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# Film Noir Guide: 745 Films Of The Classic Era, 1940â€“1959



## **Synopsis**

More than 700 films from the classic period of film noir (1940 to 1959) are presented in this exhaustive reference bookâ "such films as The Accused, Among the Living, The Asphalt Jungle, Baby Face Nelson, Bait, The Beat Generation, Crossfire, Dark Passage, I Walk Alone, The Las Vegas Story, The Naked City, Strangers on a Train, White Heat, and The Window. For each film, the following information is provided: the title, release date, main performers, screenwriter(s), director(s), type of noir, thematic content, a rating based on the five-star system, and a plot synopsis that does not reveal the ending.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

First, a brief review of the book's contents: It really is an outstanding reference book for noir films. I've been trying to collect dvds of noir films -- usually via collections issued on DVD (since that's the least expensive method). All the films that I have managed to collect are referenced in this book. One thing of note: Sometimes a film has been issued under two titles, such as "Aces in the Hole" AKA

"The Big Carnival". You won't always find listings for both titles in this book. So, that can be confusing should you not know that there is an alternative title that you can look up. [This book lists "The Big Carnival".] On the other hand, sometimes both titles are half-referenced [e.g. "The Great Mystic" says "see The Strange Mr. Gregory". BUT, "The Strange Mr. Gregory" does NOT make reference to the alternate title of "The Great Mystic".] This is a definite flaw for a reference book. But, not the end of the world. A second major flaw is the fact that while the directors are all listed, (and there is a good and very useful appendix that lists films by director), there is no reference to any cinematographers. As another reviewer has pointed out, this is a major factor when watching film noir. These cinematographers may be as important or more important than the director for these films. Noir is almost defined by its cinematography, so leaving this reference material out is almost inexcusable. Maybe a new edition is warranted. Leaving aside these two flaws, the book gives a quick summary (usually a paragraph) and some interesting background information about the film or its actors. Also, a rating is provided (1 star to 5 stars) which is good to see how your own rating matches up. [He gives "Double Indemnity" 4.5 stars; I give this film an easy 5 stars.] The year, major actors, screenplay writer, director are all cited. Noir type and Noir themes are also cited. This information is very useful when you wish to compare/contrast a film with others of the same Noir type or theme. And the casual reader can also use this info for simply finding a film that they may want to view. Now, I want to provide some photos of the "Used-Like New" book that I rec'd from an seller for \$27 + \$4 shipping (about \$9 cheaper than buying New). As you can see in the photos, the book is falling apart and totally unacceptable. I have returned it, and seller initially refused to pay return shipping. However, seller did ultimately refund the entire transaction, including my return shipping cost. So, all is well again. I will now purchase again as NEW at \$40 on . I do not understand why there are many sellers out there (not only on ) who list this book (used) for greater than \$40 -- up to \$90 or more! (CRAZY!) It is a bit expensive (\$40) but I think it is probably the best overall Noir reference book out there.

A good guide for casual viewing, but forget about searching for specific titles! There is no search feature and you can't even jump to alphabetized chapters as they are all lumped together. Hardly worth the effort. A great guide, but go with the regular book format!

If you love Film Noir as I do get this book. I thought I know most of Films Noir but this book exposed my ignorance.

As a film noir fan and growing up in the forties and fifties in Queens, New York (as the author did), I found many films listed that I had all but forgotten. So far, I've ordered three or four of these film oldies through , of course and plan on buying many more. The book is well organized by title, year and director. Each movie is rated using the five star system. The many photos bring to mind faces of forgotten character actors as well as stars of the times. A must for any library.

I am reading this book. It is a good guide to have before watching a film noir and to look for people that I have seen on future TV shows. Just what I wanted and I am very well pleased!

Bought this book for my husband who is a fan of Films. He uses it constantly and both of us are happy.

In the glut of noir books out there, there seems to be a race to include the most films under the Film Noir masthead. This book provides an impressive number of films but come on! There are westerns, horror films, adventure films and simple dramas. WAY too inclusive for any kind of true film fan. (and still oddly missing a few marginal noirs) Also, the author has a strange obsession with what TV shows the actors from films have also been in. In nearly every review he mentions some TV show that so-and-so also appeared in. That information is included while he leaves out such important elements to the noir style as who the cinematographer or composers are! A huge oversight. Plus the reviews are often plot spoilers. For how expensive this book is I was highly disappointed. I'd stay with Spencer Selby's 'Dark City' While you could argue that it needs an update to include some more films, it is a far better thumbnail guide to the noir catalog.

The reviews were informative. The author personally viewed all 745 of the films that are in this book. There are many photos of scenes from the movies. One of my favorite features of the book is that each of the films are rated from 5 stars (excellent) to 1 star (poor; for the die-hard film noir fan only). When appropriate a half star is added. I enjoy comparing the author's rating to the rating and then to my own rating. There are useful Appendixes for: 1) film noirs listed by director, 2) film noirs listed by type, and 3) film noirs listed by year of release. The index is 41 pages and I found it to be very helpful. Overall, this is a worthwhile reference book for noir films.

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