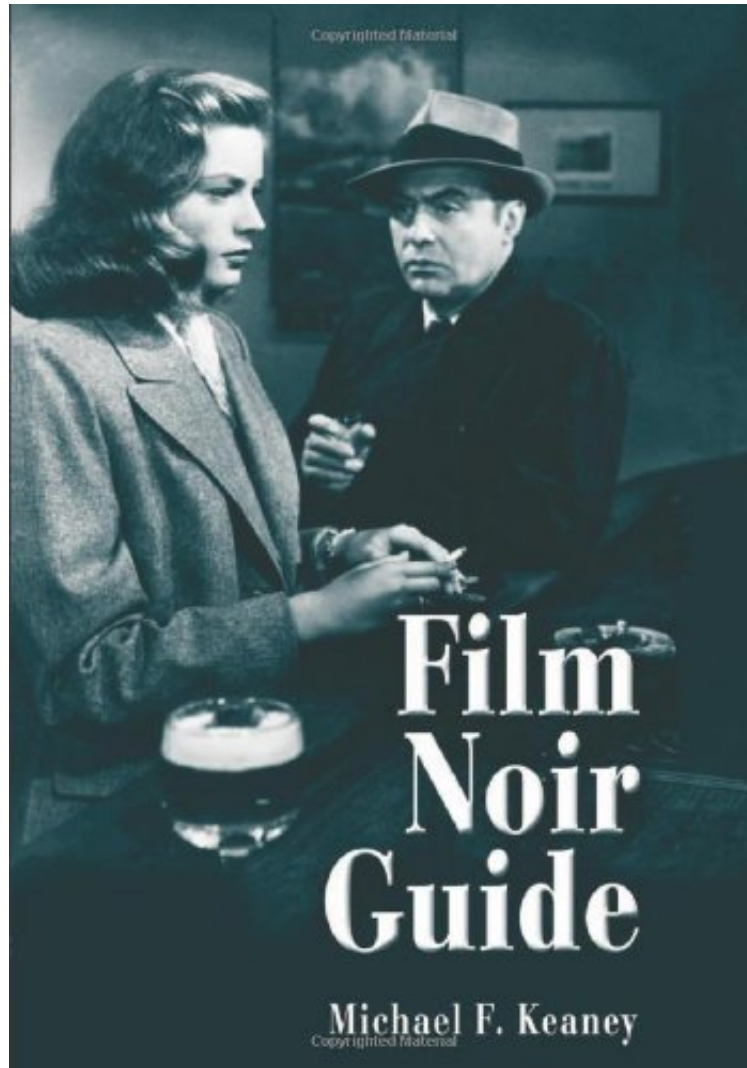


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Film Noir Guide: 745 Films of the Classic Era, 1940-1959

Michael F. Keaney

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Michael F. Keaney : Film Noir Guide: 745 Films of the Classic Era, 1940-1959 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Film Noir Guide: 745 Films of the Classic Era, 1940-1959:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A great Noir reference book, with some caveats (And, beware of Used editions)By Niles508First, 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. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Kindle Edition Only ! By Kindle Customer 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! 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Book exposed my ignorance By Buffalo Bill 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.

More than 700 films from the classic period of film noir (1940 to 1959) are presented in this exhaustive reference book--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.

From Booklist Over a six-week period at the end of World War II, French cinema audiences saw a flood of American films. All were crime movies, mostly involving murder. French critics applied the term film noir to these, and it stuck. Examples include *The Maltese Falcon* and *Murder, My Sweet*. Since then, of course, the academic definition of this term has been in much dispute, including, but not limited to, when the first and last film was produced. Keaney, a film noir fan, briefly addresses these controversies, but as a true fan he would rather leave the arguments to professors and collect and enjoy the movies even if they fall outside somebody's definition. The result is this work, a filmography of more than 700 movies released from 1940 to 1959. Each entry includes a cast and crew list; film noir type (for example, "Blackmail," "Femme Fatale") and themes ("greed, lust, guilt, fatalism"); a one- to five-star rating; and a synopsis and brief examination written in an easy, familiar style that serves to inform and entertain. Keaney is not a blind fan, as he does recognize the faults and problems with the films he includes. The features he appends to most entries add interest. One feature highlights "Memorable Noir Moment(s)." For example, for *The Maltese Falcon* (1941) he notes: "Psychotic gunman [Elisha] Cook, fed up with Bogey's [Humphrey Bogart] lack of respect, warns him, 'Keep on ridin' me, they're gonna be picking lead out of your liver.'" He also identifies "Familiar Faces from Television," cluing viewers into early appearances of *Star Trek's* Dr. McCoy or *F Troop's* Sgt. O'Rourke. The work is completed by lists of films by director, type, and year of release; a collector's guide; and a very useful annotated bibliography. As a popular film reference resource, this is a worthy addition to public libraries, and even specialized or research libraries might be interested in it for the filmography alone. RBB Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "memorable quotes...a terrific reference" --Classic Images "a worthy addition" --Booklist/RBB "engaging...suitable for both scholars and fans...informative...highly recommended." --Choice "Monumental." --Against the Grain "Keaney's enthusiasm for the material is evident." --College Research Libraries About the Author Michael F. Keaney is a fan of classic movies and the author of two McFarland books about film noir.