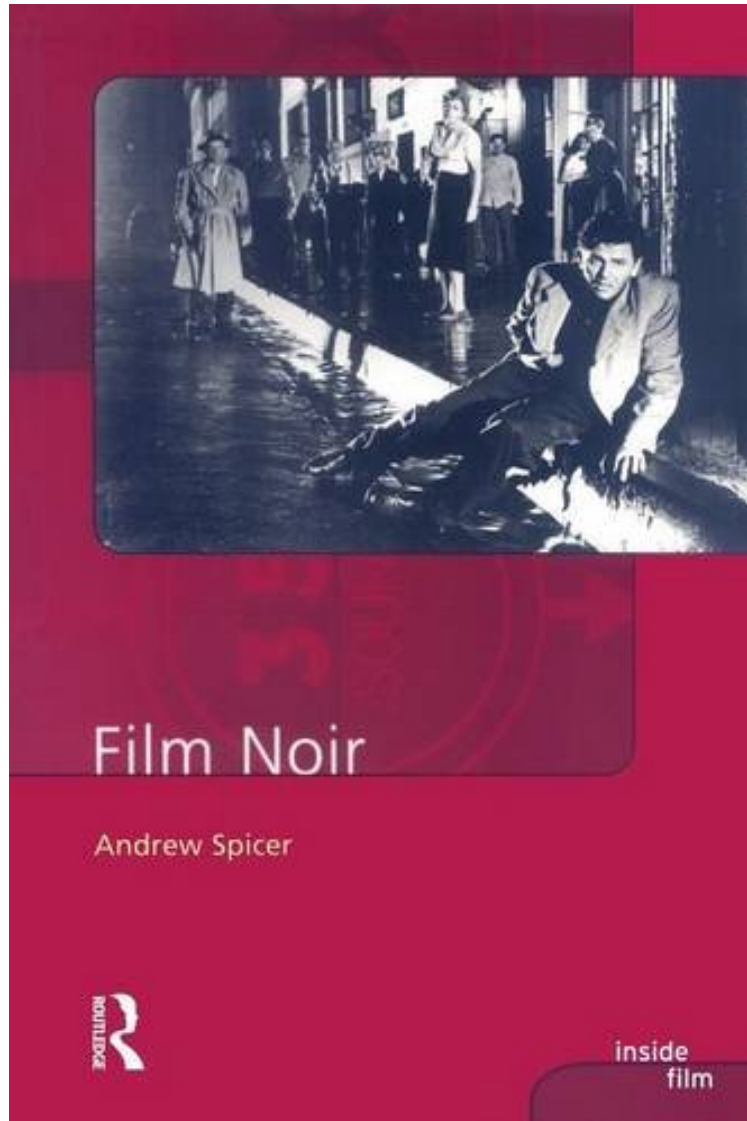


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Andrew Spicer : Film Noir (Insider Film) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Film Noir (Insider Film):

36 of 37 people found the following review helpful. A Brilliant Trip Down These Mean StreetsBy Michael SamerdykeThis is a textbook designed to introduce film noir to college students. However, it could be read with profit by anyone with an interest in the film noir phenomenon.Spicer packs an incredible amount of information in the small space he has. He refers to the latest books and is incredibly thorough. He does a fine job on the origins of film noir,

covering not only "tough guy" authors and German expressionism, but also Weimar "street films," French poetic realism and expressionism in American film before noir. What I found especially interesting was the way Spicer continually breaks down noir and neo-noir into different eras. He sees a difference between noir of the Forties and Fifties, and he distinguishes between early neo-noir and late neo-noir, with *Body Heat* being the breaking point. I found that very useful, since the neo-noir era has lasted so long by now. It is hard to think of *The Long Goodbye* and *Reservoir Dogs* as fitting in the same era, so it is good to have a distinguishing framework. Spicer also covers British film noir, and he breaks that down into different eras as well. To someone very familiar with the American noir canon, this is like discovering a new continent of films. So I would strongly urge any film noir enthusiast to get Spicer's book. You will learn something you didn't know before, or find out about films you will want to see. So this is a book that 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Interesting but hard to read. By J. Cornell II obtained this book for a class on Film Noir and found it interesting. My only dislike is the large number of references, which made reading the material distracting at times. I did discover several movies I want to add, or did add to my private collection. For the serious film buff it is a good reference. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars By Katie It's kind of dry but very informative.

Film Noir is an overview of an often celebrated, but also contested, body of films. It discusses film noir as a cultural phenomenon whose history is more extensive and diverse than American black and white crime thrillers of the forties. An extended Background Chapter situates film noir within its cultural context, describing its origin in German Expressionism, French Poetic Realism and in developments within American genres, the gangster/crime thriller, horror and the Gothic romance and its possible relationship to changes in American society. Five chapters are devoted to classic film noir (1940-59): chapters explore its contexts of production and reception, its visual style, and its narrative patterns and themes chapters on character types and star performances elucidate noir's complex construction of gender with its weak, ambivalent males and predatory femmes fatales and also provide a detailed analysis of three noir auteurs, - Anthony Mann, Robert Siodmak and Fritz Lang Three chapters investigate neo-noir and British film noir: chapters trace the complex evolution of neo-noir in American cinema, from the modernist critiques of *Night Moves* and *Taxi Driver*, to the postmodern hybridity of contemporary noir including *Seven*, *Pulp Fiction* and *Memento* the final chapter surveys the development of British film noir, a significant and virtually unknown cinema, stretching from the thirties to Mike Hodges Croupier Films discussed include both little known examples and seminal works such as *Double Indemnity*, *Scarlet Street*, *Kiss Me Deadly* and *Touch of Evil*. A final section provides a guide to further reading, an extensive bibliography and a list of over 500 films referred to in the text. Lucidly written, *Film Noir* is an accessible, informative and stimulating introduction that will have a broad appeal to undergraduates, cinastes, film teachers and researchers.

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