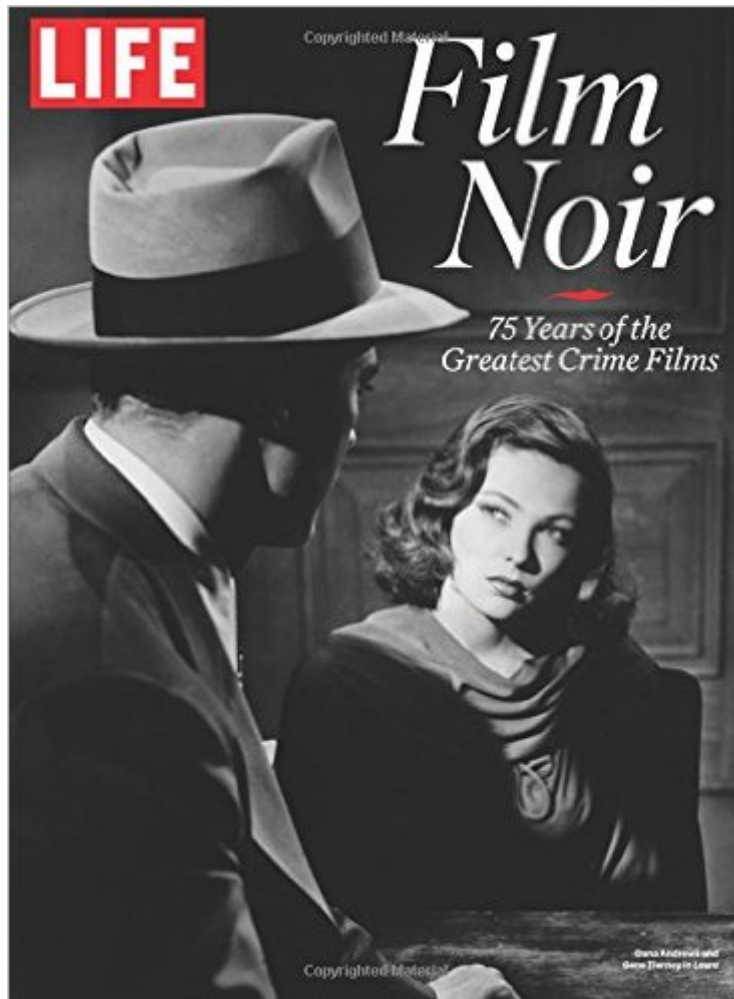


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# LIFE Film Noir: 75 Years Of The Greatest Crime Films



## Synopsis

By incorporating and transforming foreign influences, film noir became a uniquely American art form. Though it was overlooked at first, this powerful genre would give Humphrey Bogart and Robert Mitchum career-defining roles, fuel Joan Crawford's middle-age comeback, and set the stage for the work of Martin Scorsese and Quentin Tarantino. Noir illuminated the dark side of the American dream, but despite its characteristic bleakness, these films are somehow always fun. *Film Noir: 75 Years of the Greatest Crime Films* revisits 20 of the genre's best, from the first noir *The Maltese Falcon* to *L.A. Confidential*. We commence by delving into "Classic Noir," films released between 1941 and 1958 with their angular chiaroscuro and Teutonic angst combined with the influence of pulp and hard-boiled crime fiction. Stunning photography walks us through *Shadow of a Doubt*, *Double Indemnity*, *Laura*, *Mildred Pierce*, *Out of the Past*, *The Third Man*, *In a Lonely Place*, *Niagara*, *The Night of the Hunter*, *Touch of Evil* and more. Next in our "Neo Noir" section, you will see the transformation of noir from 1967 onward with films like *Bonnie and Clyde*, *Dirty Harry*, *Chinatown*, *Taxi Driver*, *Body Heat*, *Blood Simple*, *Blue Velvet*, *Pulp Fiction* and more. Articles about how the genre was born, tabloids and film noir, offscreen noir, and what factors lead film back to black punctuate these spreads. Enter the cinematic world of "doom, fate, fear, and betrayal," as beloved film critic Roger Ebert said, with *Film Noir: 75 Years of the Greatest Crime Films*.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

When I saw this issue of LIFE Film Noir while browsing around " on some online seller storefronts " I said to myself that I HAVE TO HAVE IT. So I got it " and I'm glad I did. I once studied Film Noir " back in an old CINEMA class " I took in JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL, which was eons ago.

But it doesn't matter. As the title states, the GENRE goes back at least 75 years (which predates ME). And it's still going strong. This LIFE special edition highlights their TOP 20 crime films and, no, they AREN'T new. One of the MOST RECENT is probably Quentin Tarantino's Pulp Fiction, made in 1994. But LIFE brings each of the films to life so well that you'll feel as though each was made just YESTERDAY. Really. (I had wrongly assumed that all FILM NOIR movies were made in BLACK & WHITE. But my definition was too narrow. Obviously, many of these titles were made in COLOR.) As background, "Noir" means BLACK in French. And the definition of "FILM NOIR" (from Google) is "a genre of crime film or fiction characterized by cynicism, fatalism, and moral ambiguity." Sweet. This tome also offers TWO histories and short one (on page 5) and a slightly longer one (on page 8). Both are excellent, and both provide a fulfilling overview. For this review, I'm going to list the TWENTY films covered in this text DOWN BELOW with some comments of my own about LIFE's presentation. I'm sure you'll recognize many of the titles. I'll then add LINKS for TEN of them at the end (which is all that the site will allow. Pshaw). Here goes, okay? THE MALTESE FALCON features Humphrey Bogart in one of his SIGNATURE roles. But he wasn't the first to be offered the part of Sam Spade.

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