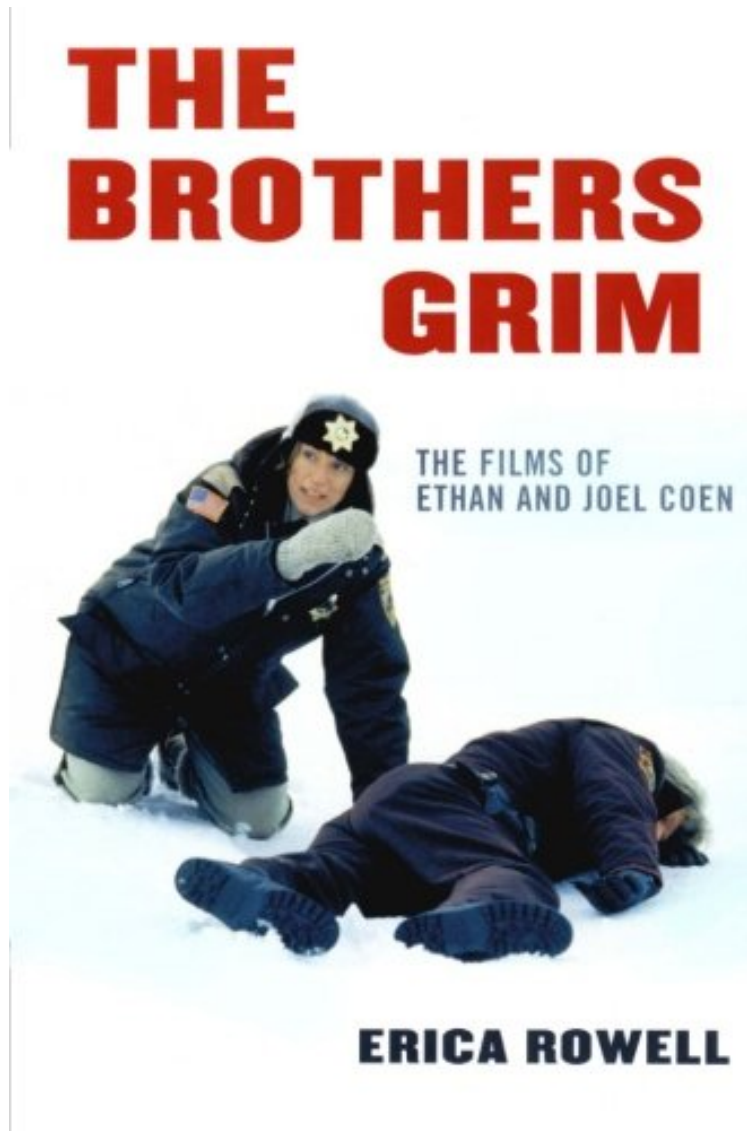


The Brothers Grim: The Films of Ethan and Joel Coen

Erica Rowell

*ebooks | Download PDF | *ePub | DOC | audiobook*



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#639254 in Books Scarecrow Press 2007-06-01 2007-06-01Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.12 x 1.11 x 6.08l, 1.36 #File Name: 0810858509392 pages | File size: 21.Mb

Erica Rowell : The Brothers Grim: The Films of Ethan and Joel Coen before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Brothers Grim: The Films of Ethan and Joel Coen:

12 of 12 people found the following review helpful. Eye-opening and entertaining book for all film loversBy James WangI didn't used to be a fan of the Coen brothers' films, but I appreciated them, as well as good film in general, a lot more after reading this book.The amount of insight author Rowell has into the Coens' films is amazing. As I read through each chapter, I was stunned by how much in the films I had "missed." Rowell's analysis reveals the numerous layers of meaning that are embodied in the films. She covers subjects as diverse as politics, religion and philosophy,

art and music, and race and class. She illuminates the context of the Coens' works in the history of film, and points out the numerous allusions to and borrowings from previous films, including their own. I was truly impressed by the scope of the analysis and the thoroughness of the research conducted. All this is written in a lively style and well organized format that can engage anyone ranging from a casual moviegoer to a scholar of film. Rowell's clever word play throughout the text add to the delight. I recommend viewing a film first, and then reading the relevant chapter in the book to be wowed by all the things you missed. Then watch the film again! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Lively introduction to the Coen brothers' oeuvre By Norman Brenner Excellent summaries and elucidations of all the Coen brothers' movies up to a few years ago (an updated edition is definitely needed!). Very well written, with much wordplay, sure to be enjoyed by connoisseurs of Coenesque style. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. reasonable reading. By Donny King good films

In 1984 Joel and Ethan Coen burst onto the art-house film scene with their neo-noir *Blood Simple* and ever since then they have sharpened the cutting edge of independent film. Blending black humor and violence with unconventional narrative twists, their acclaimed movies evoke highly charged worlds of passion, absurdity, nightmare realms, and petty human failures, all the while revealing the filmmakers' penchant for visual jokes and bravura technical strokes. Their central characters may be blind to reality and individual flaws, but their illusions, dreams, fears, and desires map the boundaries of their worlds worlds made stunningly memorable by the Coens. In *The Brothers Grim: The Films of Ethan and Joel Coen*, Erica Rowell unmask the filmmakers as prankster mythmakers exploiting and subverting universal storytelling modes to further what seems to be their artistic agenda: to elicit laughs. Often employing satire and allegory, the Coens' movies hold a mirror up to American society, allowing viewers to both chuckle and gasp at its absurdities, hypocrisies, and foibles. From business partnerships (*Blood Simple*, *The Ladykillers*) to marriage (*Intolerable Cruelty*) to friendship and ethics (*Miller's Crossing*), the breakdowns of relationships are a steady focus in their work. Often the Coens' satires put broken social institutions in their cinematic crosshairs, exposing cracks in ineffective penal systems (*Raising Arizona*; *O Brother, Where Art Thou?*), unjust justice systems (*The Man Who Wasn't There*), a crooked corporate America (*The Hudsucker Proxy*), unnecessary wars (*The Big Lebowski*), a tyrannical Hollywood (*Barton Fink*), and the unbridled, fatuous pursuit of the American Dream (*Fargo*). While audiences may be excused for missing the duo's social commentary, the depth and breadth of the brothers' films bespeak an intelligence and cultural acuity that is rich, highly topical, and hard to pigeonhole.

...well written and engaging. (American Reference Books Annual, March 2008) Rowell (a journalist and film producer) titles each chapter examining a film from the prolific duo Joel and Ethan Coen (known as the Coen Brothers) after an object that figures so prominently in the movie that it is almost a character. In "Blood Simple: A Photo," "The Big Lebowski: A Bowling Ball" and the other essays, she offers a synopsis, review, and dissection of the themes, technique, influences, and stark social commentary of the often violent and satirical and always stylized Coen films. The writing-directing brothers also created *Raising Arizona*, *Miller's Crossing*, *Oh, Brother, Where Art Thou?* and *Intolerable Cruelty*. (Reference and Research Book News, August 2007) Rowell examines [the Coen brothers] with greater concentration than the typical scattershot making-of or makers-of commentary, and even announces something like an analytical framework to apply to the films. (Film International) From the Back Cover In 1984, Ethan and Joel burst onto the art-house film scene with their neo-noir *Blood Simple*, and ever since they have sharpened the cutting edge of independent filmmaking. Blending black humor and violence with unconventional narrative twists, their acclaimed movies evoke highly charged worlds of passion, absurdity, nightmare realms, and petty human failures, all the while revealing the filmmakers' penchant for visual jokes and bravura technical strokes. In *The Brothers Grim: The Films of Ethan and Joel Coen*, Erica Rowell unmask the filmmakers as prankster mythmakers exploiting and subverting universal storytelling modes to further what seems to be their artistic agenda: to elicit laughs. Often employing satire and allegory, the Coens' movies hold a mirror up to American society, allowing viewers to both chuckle and gasp at its absurdities, hypocrisies, and foibles. From business partnerships (*Blood Simple*, *The Ladykillers*) to marriage (*Intolerable Cruelty*) to friendship and ethics (*Miller's Crossing*), the breakdown of relationships are a common focus in their work. Often the Coens put broken social institutions in their cinematic crosshairs, exposing cracks in ineffective penal systems (*Raising Arizona*; *O Brother, Where Art Thou?*), unjust justice systems (*The Man Who Wasn't There*), a crooked corporate America (*The Hudsucker Proxy*), unnecessary wars (*The Big Lebowski*), a tyrannical Hollywood (*Barton Fink*), and the unbridled and fatuous pursuit of the American dream (*Fargo*). While audiences may be excused for missing the duo's social commentary, the depth and breadth of the brothers' films bespeak an intelligence and cultural acuity that is rich, highly topical, and hard to pigeonhole. *The Brothers Grim* examines the inner workings of the Coens' body of work and exposes its roots and themes. Each chapter discusses a Coen brothers movie in terms of its primary themes, social and political contexts, narrative techniques, and influences and relationships to their other films and, more broadly, to cinema. Rowell also examines the Coens' referential *modus operandi* that retreads cinema, literature, history, philosophy, and art to amplify their films' themes. This comprehensive guide -- enhanced by 50 photographs -- is for anyone interested in the Coens'

unique brand of cinema. About the Author Erica Rowell has worked in the movie industry and as a journalist. Her work has been featured on Monitor Radio, FOXNEWS.com, ABCNEWS.com, and WNYC Radio. Her film credits include line producer on two independent features and art department coordinator on the studio feature, *The Proposition* (1998), starring Kenneth Branagh.