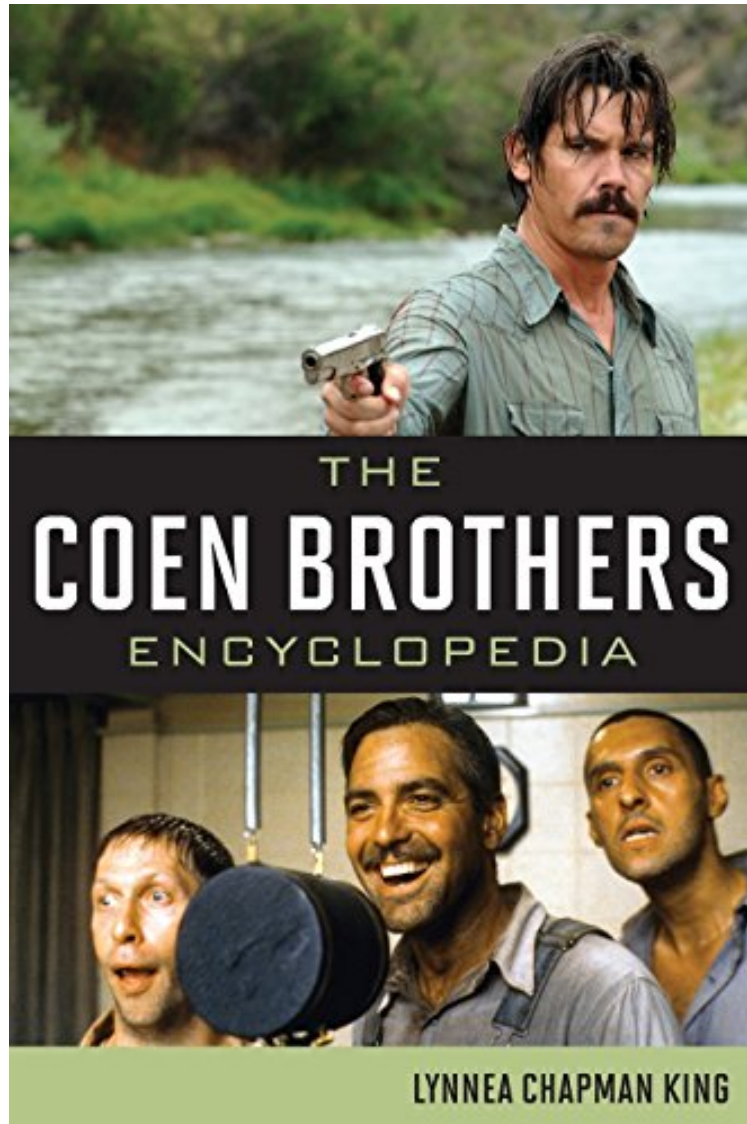


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## The Coen Brothers Encyclopedia

*Lynnea Chapman King*

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**Lynnea Chapman King : The Coen Brothers Encyclopedia** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Coen Brothers Encyclopedia:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Good academic workBy D. GreenExcellent. I am currently doing a research project on the Coen Brothers films, and this book was released just in time. I've read a lot of the cited references (even one paper by the author), and the summary of analysis is well done and wide-ranging. This is almost the book I hoped to write one day. I would note that it is more geared toward the real-world production of the Coen

brothers films instead of the fictional world they've created. Cast and crew are given bios instead of characters, and places are largely only discussed within the entries for each film. I'm a geographer, and my research in the Coen brothers is related to this, so this probably only stands out to me, but I feel that the locations are essential to their work. I also would have enjoyed a bit more photography and screenshots, maybe more of a coffee table book. I don't want to take away from the excellent resource and film scholarship within, but it's a bit pricey, more in the academic/textbook range instead of the casual film buff.

Joel and Ethan Coen have written and directed some of the most celebrated American films of the last thirty years. The output of their work has embraced a wide range of genres, including the neo-noirs *Blood Simple* and *The Man Who Wasn't There*, the absurdist comedy *Raising Arizona*, and the violent gangster film *Millers Crossing*. Whether producing original works like *Fargo* and *Barton Fink* or drawing on inspiration from literature, such as Charles Portis *True Grit* or Cormac McCarthy's *No Country for Old Men*, the brothers put their distinctive stamp on each film. In *The Coen Brothers Encyclopedia*, all aspects of these gifted siblings as writers, directors, producers, and even editors in the guise of Roderick Jaynes are discussed. Entries in this volume focus on creative personnel behind the camera, including costume designers, art directors, and frequent contributors like cinematographer Roger Deakins and composer Carter Burwell. Recurring actors are also represented, such as Jeff Bridges, Steve Buscemi, George Clooney, John Goodman, Holly Hunter, Frances McDormand, and John Turturro. Each entry is followed by a bibliography of published sources, both in print and online. From *Blood Simple* to *Inside Llewyn Davis*, *The Coen Brothers Encyclopedia* is a comprehensive reference on two of the most significant filmmakers of the last three decades. An engaging examination of their work, this volume will appeal to scholars, researchers, and fans interested in this creative duo.

King offers a bare-bones, alphabetically arranged reference work on the Coen brothers (Ethan and Joel), their films, and creative collaborators. Entries for people from actors to writers, e.g., George Clooney, Tom Hanks, Sam Raimi, or Barry Sonnenfeld feature a career summary followed by a discussion of their work with the Coens. The longest entries (4-6 pages) are for the films. For each of these, a fact box precedes a detailed plot synopsis, followed by a few production notes and summary of critical reception. All entries conclude with a short list of references and cross-references to other entries. Contents are current through the filmmakers' *Inside Llewyn Davis* (2013). The volume also provides a filmography that includes the Coens' other work on television ads, acting, and writing, and ends with a half-page selective bibliography. The most extensive entry is about the Coen brothers themselves. It includes biographical details but focuses primarily on their films. . . . Summing Up: Recommended. All readership levels. (CHOICE) This is a highly readable, fascinating work that will be a suitable addition to both film and large library collections. (American Reference Books Annual) *The Coen Brothers Encyclopedia* by Lynne Chapman King tells you everything you want to know about the filmmaking duo. From 'Blood Simple' to 'Inside Llewyn Davis', the directors catalog is covered. (Campus Circle) Since their first feature film, Ethan and Joel Coen have developed a devoted following, first as cult filmmakers and ultimately, as mainstream artists who have been nominated for thirteen Academy Awards and have won four Oscars apiece (for *Fargo* and *No Country for Old Men*). The entries in this encyclopedia focus on all aspects of the Coen Brothers work from writing and directing *Blood Simple* (1983) to their involvement in the forthcoming television series, *Fargo*, adapted from their 1996 film. This extensive reference contains material on all of the films the brothers have written, produced, and directed, as well as their sideline ventures (plays, screenplays, short stories, etc.). Entries include regular collaborators who have worked in front of the camera (Steve Buscemi, George Clooney, John Goodman, Frances McDormand, John Turturro, etc.) as well as those behind the scenes (there's even an entry for film editor Roderick Jaynes, the brothers' *nom de plume*). Each entry is followed by a bibliography of published sources, both in print and online, making *The Coen Brothers Encyclopedia* the most comprehensive reference on their body of work. About the Author Lynne Chapman King is professor of English, Adams State University (Alamosa, Colorado). She is the coeditor of *No Country for Old Men: From Novel to Film* (Scarecrow, 2009).