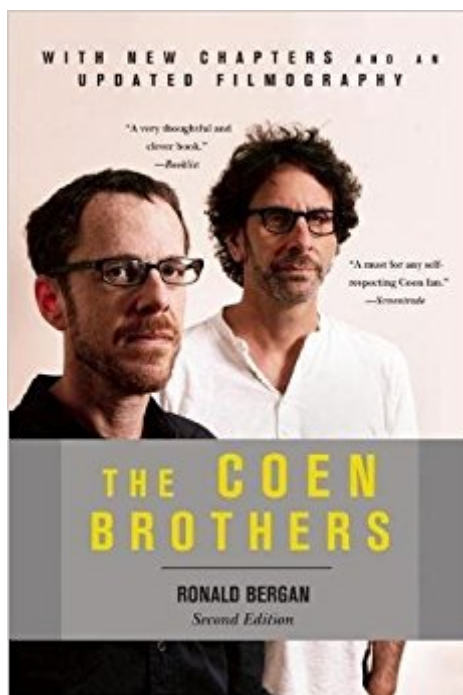


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The Coen Brothers, Second Edition



Synopsis

Brought completely up to date, this insightful biography remains "a must for any self-respecting Coen fan" (Screentrade). This fully updated edition of the first biography of the Coen Brothers includes their complete work so far, from *Blood Simple* to *Inside Llewyn Davis* (2013), with a reassessment of their remarkable career as a whole. Joel and Ethan Coen have pulled off the ultimate balancing act. Despite having their movies financed and distributed by major studios, they have managed to remain true independents, rejecting commercial clichs and never giving up on their own fiercely idiosyncratic vision. While doing so, they have established themselves among the world's leading filmmakers. From their startling debut, *Blood Simple* (1984), all of their movies reveal a distinctive stamp: a flamboyant visual style, richly conceived characters, crisp dialogue, and brilliant casting. They have revitalized old Hollywood genres such as noir, screwball, and the western, giving them a contemporary sensibility. In this biography, Ronald Bergan traces the brothers' Jewish roots, their beginnings as film geeks in suburban Minneapolis, their battle to get their first feature made and released, through their early features and the movies of their maturity. He gives blow-by-blow accounts of the making of each movie. New chapters cover all those released since *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* (2000), with which the first edition of this book ended.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Praise for the First Edition of *The Coen Brothers*: "A very thoughtful and clever book." [Booklist](#); "Full of delicious details." [Evening Standard](#) "Well

researched and entertaining."#151;Financial Times"A must for any self-respecting Coen fan."#151;Screentrade"A blow-by-blow account of the making of each movie in turn . . . Bergan has interesting things to say about the input of the Coen's collaborators . . . and also provides entertaining quotations."#151;Sunday Telegraph"Brings out the good humour and eccentricity of the Coens and their films."#151;Economist"We not only get a clear, sensitive, yet candid view of the mercurial brothers and their lives, but also a critical look at the films the pair have produced and directed and the places where those films connect with each other as well as their creators. . . . A highly readable biography of an esoteric duo, The Coen Brothers will strike a chord with those of us that love their movies."#151;January Magazine

Ronald Bergan, film historian, critics, and lecturer, is a regular contributor to the Guardian. The author of numerous film biographies, including Jean Renoir, Sergei Eisenstein, and Katharine Hepburn, all published by Arcade, he held the chair in film at Florida International University in Miami and lectured at the Sorbonne, the British Institute in Paris, and the University of Lille. He now lives in Prague, where he teaches at the famed FAMU film school.

I love the Coen brothers. I thought this book would be great. I found it mostly uninteresting, a little repetitive, and bit overblown by intellectual gyrations trying to relate Coen movies to other movies. The author really Wiesenthal stretches to demonstrate the latter. I skimmed a good part of it.

I always look forward to seeing new Coen Bros films, and downloaded the book out of curiosity about their lives and quirks, since they seem to have them in spades. Enjoyed the read. I hope they take time to get their mojo back because their last few films haven't measured up to earlier ones.

Interesting. Describes more each film the brothers did. Their bio is woven into the history of each movie. A bit boring at times.

Didn't care for it; didn't finish. For me, their movies are either really good or really awful.

If you are a fan, it's worth reading (I suppose.Bar.

Lightweight and disappointing.

A very slow reading book. It reminded me of a college text book instead of an interesting biography.

Not very biographical, and not a very competent review of their movies. I guess I gave it one star because he spelled their names correctly.

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