

Somewhere in the Night



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"I had seen film noirs before, with only the vaguest notion of what that term really signified (something dark and sinister?) and was attracted by their unique visual style, gritty, textured rendering of urban life, sharply drawn characters, and psychological complexity," writes acclaimed novelist and poet Nicholas Christopher in this new and expanded edition of *Somewhere in the Night*. Starting with the classic *Out of the Past*, Christopher takes us on the grand tour of the great film noirs. With style and humor, he identifies the genre's central motif — "The city as labyrinth is key to entering the psychological and aesthetic framework of the film noir" — and goes on to analyze more than three hundred films from 1940 to the present. Imbuing the language of film with the lyricism so praised in his novels, Christopher draws from his vast knowledge of literature to explore the genre's numerous influences. (Although it was a French critic who coined the term "film noir," Christopher argues that Americans had been shooting films in the genre years even before the term was invented.) Citing cultural, social, and historical influences from all over the world, he effortlessly guides us through the labyrinth.

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