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Brook, Vincent. *Driven to Darkness: Jewish Émigré Directors and the Rise of Film Noir*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 2009. 285 p. \$70.00 hardcover (ISBN 978-0- 81354-629-2); \$26.95 paper (ISBN 978-0-81354-630-8).

Film noir, which portrays the world as uncertain, dark, and dangerous, is one of the most highly regarded American film genres. This book relates the Jewish identity of a number of directors of film noir to their artistry. The author examines the ambiguities and conflicts these directors experienced as Jewish American émigrés, and the tension between their often high artistic—even avant-garde—European sensibilities and Hollywood, at best a middlebrow entertainment industry. Brook argues that Jewish film noir is often different from the mainstream, especially in its downplaying of the femme fatale and the tough male hero. Some of the analyses are more convincing than others and there are occasional errors (Arnold Schoenberg converted to Lutheranism, not Catholicism and Miriam is Moses' sister, not his wife). Still, this is a respectable study aimed at an academic readership. For larger collections on film.

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