


Cornell Woolrich from Pulp Noir to Film Noir

By Thomas C. Renzi

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Extremely popular and prolific in the 1930s and 1940s, Cornell Woolrich still has diehard fans who thrive on his densely packed descriptions and his spellbinding premises. A contemporary of Hammett and Chandler, he competed with them for notoriety in the pulps and became the single most adapted writer for films of the noir period. Perhaps the most famous film adaptation of a Woolrich story is Alfred Hitchcock's *Rear Window* (1954). Even today, his work is still onscreen; Michael Cristofer's *Original Sin* (2001) is based on one of his tales. This book offers a detailed analysis of many of Woolrich's novels and short stories; examines films adapted from these works; and shows how Woolrich's techniques and themes influenced the noir genre. Twenty-two stories and 29 films compose the bulk of the study, though other films noirs are also considered because of their relevance to Woolrich's plots, themes, and characters.

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About the Author

Thomas C. Renzi is an administrator and instructor at Buffalo State College (New York). He is also the author of Jules Verne on Film (2004).

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