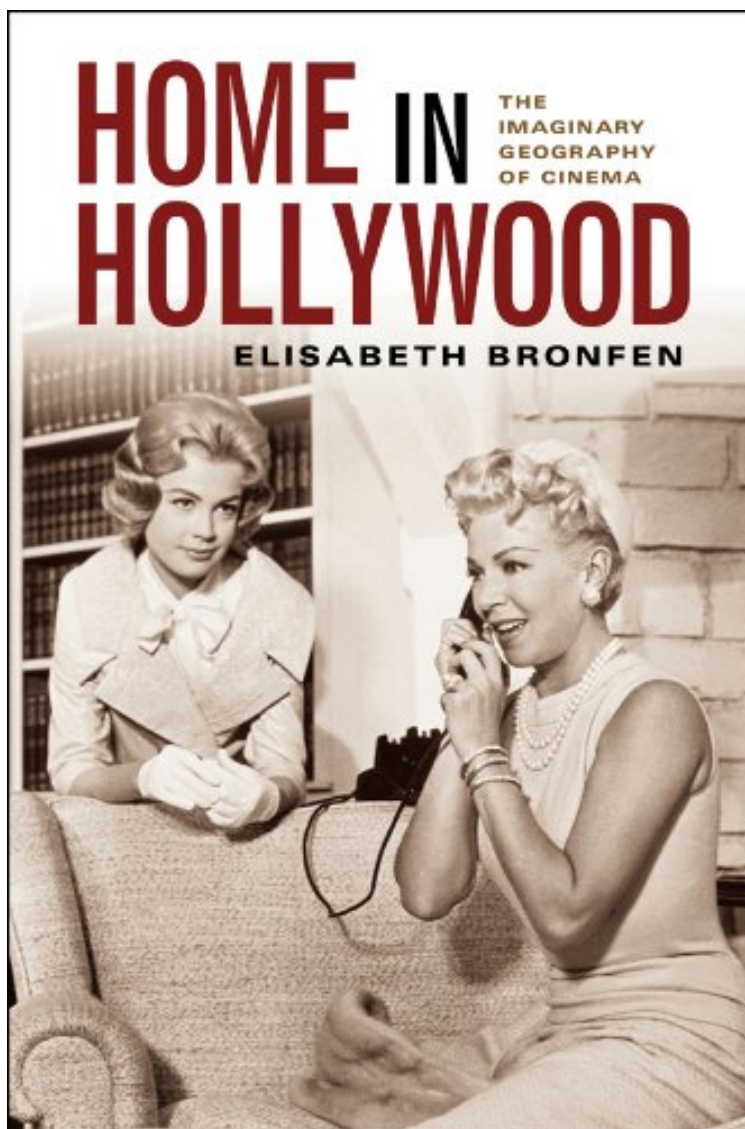


[E-BOOK] Home in Hollywood: The Imaginary Geography of Cinema (Film and Culture)

Home in Hollywood: The Imaginary Geography of Cinema (Film and Culture)

Elisabeth Bronfen

*DOC | *audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF | ePub*



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#3087672 in Books 2004-10-15Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.94 x .68 x 6.42l, .96 #File Name: 0231121776352 pages | File size: 67.Mb

Elisabeth Bronfen : Home in Hollywood: The Imaginary Geography of Cinema (Film and Culture) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Home in Hollywood: The Imaginary Geography of Cinema (Film and Culture):

Who can forget Dorothy's quest for the great and powerful Oz as she tried to return to her beloved Kansas? She thought she needed a wizard's magic, only to discover that home and the power to get there had been with her all along. This engaging and provocative book proposes that Hollywood has created an imaginary cinematic geography filled with people and places we recognize and to which we are irresistibly drawn. Each viewing of a film stirs, in a very real and charismatic way, feelings of home, and the comfort of returning to films like familiar haunts is at the core of our nostalgic desire. Leading us on a journey through American film, Elisabeth Bronfen examines the different ways home is constructed in the development of cinematic narrative. Each chapter includes a close reading of such classic films as Fleming's *The Wizard of Oz*, Sirk's *Imitation of Life*, Burton's *Batman Returns*, Hitchcock's *Rebecca*, Ford's *The Searchers*, and Sayles's *Lone Star*.

From Publishers Weekly *Movies*, Bronfen suggests, are enactments of the Freudian family romance, especially "nostalgia for an untainted sense of belonging," and this, she says, is most apparent in films that deal explicitly with concepts of home. She takes eight films, heavy on thrillers but also encompassing fantasy, melodrama and westerns, and gives each an extremely close reading with a psychoanalytic spin. The tornado in *The Wizard of Oz*, for example, represents "a hallucinatory materialization of [Dorothy's] desire for a violent separation from the home." The analysis also makes extensive use of Freud's concept of the Mischling, or "mixed-race" individual. Bronfen (*The Knotted Subject*) applies this trope literally to a light-skinned African-American who passes for white in Douglas Sirk's *Imitation of Life*, but then expands it to include the white girl raised by Indians in John Ford's *The Searchers* and even Bruce Wayne and his costumed Batman alter ego. Bronfen's interpretations of the films can be convincing, but occasional attempts to apply her theories behind the camera are less persuasive. This isn't for the casual fan; Bronfen's language is highly academic, making a background in psychoanalytic theory extremely helpful if not essential. Readers willing to give their brains a workout, though, will find this stimulating reading. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. It is a tribute to the brilliance and ingenuity of Elisabeth Bronfen... *Home in Hollywood* is a significant achievement. (Sam B. Girgus *American Studies*) What makes Bronfen's book unique is that it refuses to engage in the old leftist game of dismissing all references to home as protofascist fantasies. Bronfen is also able to discern the repressed emancipatory utopias in dreams about sweet home. This is the proper answer to the nationalist discourse of 'blood and soil'! (Slavoj Zizek, author of *Enjoy Your Symptom!* Jacques Lacan in *Hollywood and Out* Summer 2005)