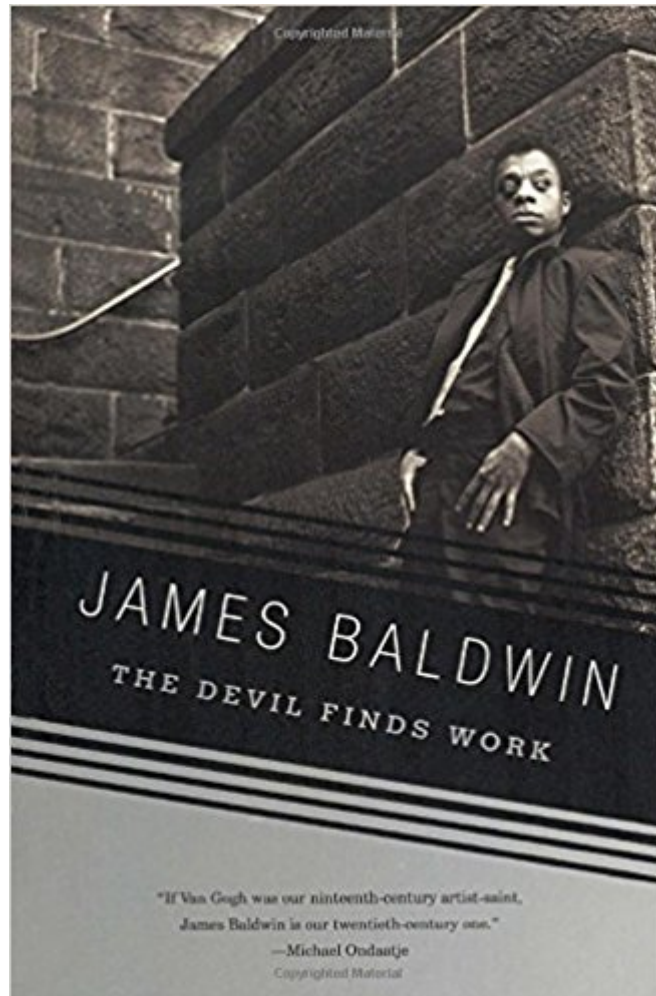




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# **The Devil Finds Work (Vintage International)**



## Synopsis

Baldwin's personal reflections on movies gathered here in a book-length essay are also a probing appraisal of American racial politics. Offering an incisive look at racism in American movies and a vision of America's self-delusions and deceptions, Baldwin challenges the underlying assumptions in such films as *In the Heat of the Night*, *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner*, and *The Exorcist*. Here are our loves and hates, biases and cruelties, fears and ignorance reflected by the films that have entertained us and shaped our consciousness. And here too is the stunning prose of a writer whose passion never diminished his struggle for equality, justice, and social change.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"If Van Gogh was our 19th-century artist-saint, James Baldwin is our 20th-century one." • Michael Ondaatje "The best essayist in this country • a man whose power has always been in his reasoned, biting sarcasm; his insistence on removing layer by layer the hardened skin with which Americans shield themselves from their country." • The New York Times Book Review "It will be hard for the reader to see these films in quite the same way again." • The Christian Science Monitor "He has taken the old subject of race and made it even more personal probing perhaps more deeply than ever before into American racial practices." • The Nation "A provocative discussion." • Saturday Review

James Baldwin At The Movies...  
Provocative, timeless, brilliant. Bette Davis's eyes, Joan Crawford's bitchy elegance, Stepin Fetchit's stereotype, Sidney Poitier's superhuman black man...  
These are the movie stars and the qualities that influenced James Baldwin...  
and now become part of his incisive look at racism in American movies. Baldwin challenges the underlying assumptions in such films as *In the Heat of the Night*, *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner*, and *The Exorcist*, offering us a vision of America's self-delusions and deceptions.  
Here are our loves and hates, biases and cruelties, fears and ignorance reflected by the films that have entertained us and shaped our consciousness.  
And here, too, is the stunning prose of a writer whose passion never diminished his struggle for equality, justice, and social change. From *The Birth of a Nation* to *The Exorcist*--one of America's most important writers turns his critical eye to American film. From the Trade Paperback edition. --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

This is bright light, beaming into some of the most hidden places in America and American history with supreme personal honesty and recall. For anyone who takes film seriously as a - potentially - civilizing medium, this book is incandescent.

This is a short read, but keep in mind it is a critical essay on certain classic movies. Baldwin gives a non bias sharp approach to each and every venue. It is a masterpiece and should be read as such.

Bought this as a gift for my brother. Fast shipping, great quality and he LOVES it.

One of Baldwin's best!

More of an essay. I appreciate his other works that bring the essay out through his story.

Excellent deep analysis of what persons who are not in the majority of Americans, gleans from Hollywood movies. His analysis of Hollywood films, indicates the hidden intent of those films. For persons of color, those films are toxic to their self-esteem. A book that every American could deepen their understanding of how and for whom, the American culture favors and positions for success.

One of the preeminent writers of the Harlem Renaissance and Black literature in general, this was my first foray into James Baldwin territory. Occasionally, people laud over certain people because they produce a lot as opposed to producing productive work. Now I understand Mr. Baldwin's acclaim and celebration. He is a genius! And I truly enjoyed how he intertwines anecdotes from his personal life into breaking down the impact of media images on our consciousness. His work was so poignant in my life that it prompted me to name my media analysis blog after this book's namesake. Mr. Baldwin has rightfully earned his reputation as one of the greatest writers of his time and beyond.

An interesting and insightful view of racism in older movies . FYI--Historical commentary as opposed to contemporary film criticism.

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