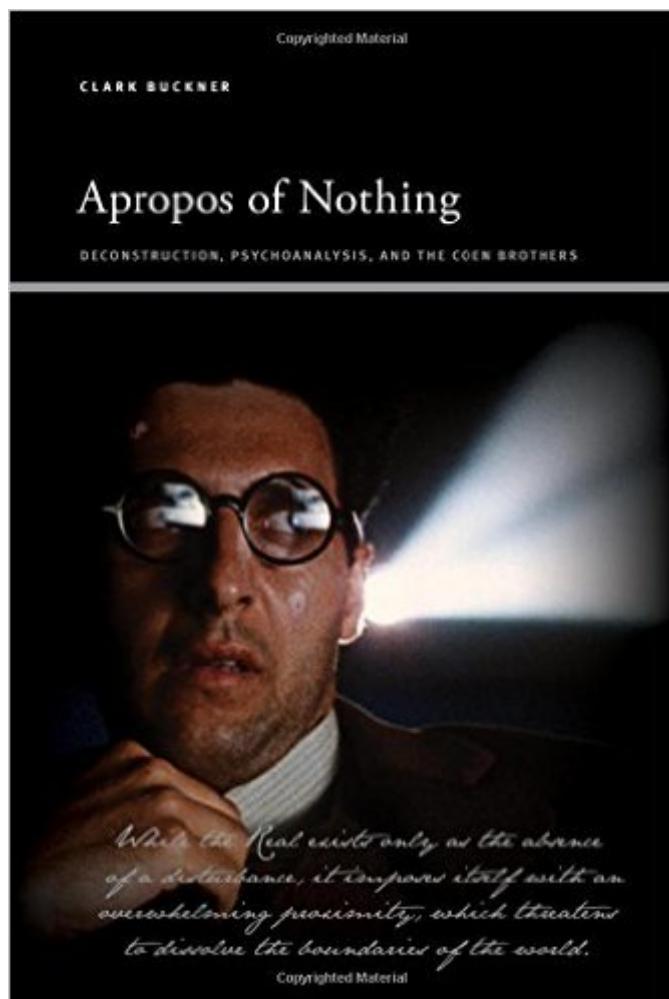


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Apropos Of Nothing: Deconstruction, Psychoanalysis, And The Coen Brothers (SUNY Series, Insinuations: Philosophy, Psychoanalysis, Literature)



Synopsis

Everything you wanted to know about the Lacanian critique of deconstruction, but were afraid to ask the Coen Brothers. The Coen Brothers' films are rife with figures of absence. In *The Big Lebowski*, the Dude does nothing. He is put on the trail of a kidnapping that never happened, and solves the crime when he realizes that he paid the ransom with a *œa ringer* for a ringer. • *The Hudsucker Proxy* features a dupe who draws zeros throughout the film, enthusiastically proclaiming, "You know, for the kids!" • *Barton Fink* is a film that revolves around the absence of a film. In *Apropos of Nothing*, Clark Buckner appeals to these and other figures of the void in the Coen Brothers' films in order to articulate the close proximity and ultimate opposition between Lacanian psychoanalysis and Derridean deconstruction. In the process, he situates both theories in relationship to Heidegger's existential phenomenology, and undertakes a comparative analysis of the negativity in death, language, drive, anxiety, visual perception, paternity, and the unconscious. Formulating one of the most theoretically rigorous readings of the Coens' oeuvre to date, Buckner also offers a readable overview of some central debates in late twentieth-century continental philosophy.

Book Information

Series: SUNY series, *Insinuations: Philosophy, Psychoanalysis, Literature*

Paperback: 270 pages

Publisher: State University of New York Press; Reprint edition (July 2, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1438452543

ISBN-13: 978-1438452548

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.6 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

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Best Sellers Rank: #1,413,642 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #274 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Philosophy > Movements > Deconstruction #500 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Philosophy > Movements > Existentialism #1812 in Books > Medical Books > Psychology > Movements > Psychoanalysis

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