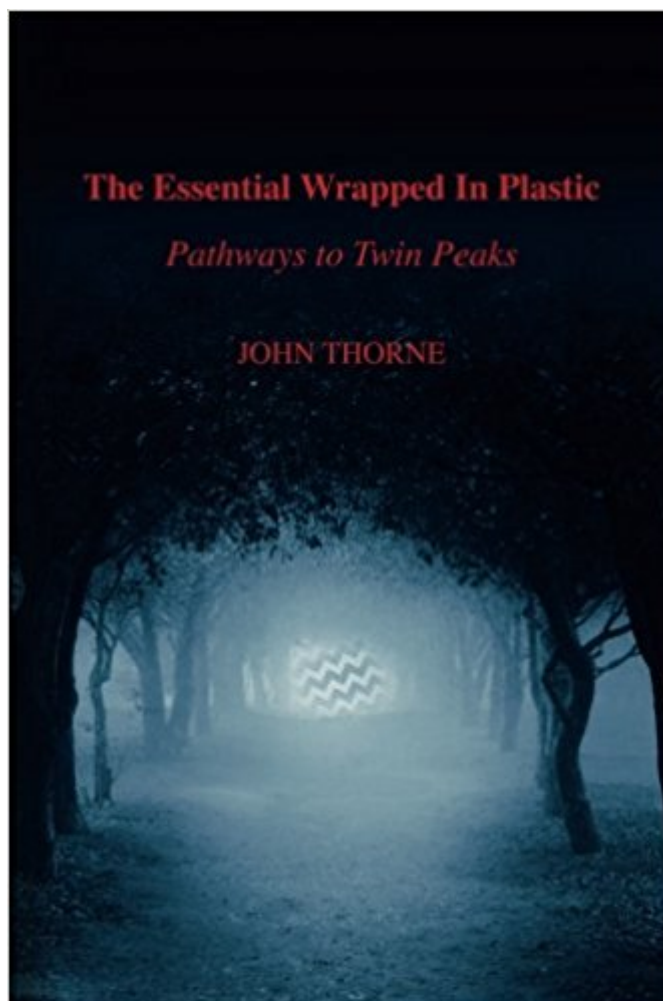


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# The Essential Wrapped In Plastic: Pathways To Twin Peaks



## Synopsis

For thirteen years, *Wrapped In Plastic* magazine studied the celebrated television series, *Twin Peaks*, and the follow-up feature film, *Fire Walk With Me*. Many of the important essays and interviews from those pages have been revised and reorganized for *The Essential Wrapped In Plastic: Pathways to Twin Peaks*. *The Essential Wrapped In Plastic* is a work of critical analysis and historical reporting. The core of the book is a detailed episode guide that reviews each chapter of David Lynch and Mark Frost's landmark series (which originally aired on ABC television in 1990 and 1991). These reviews are supplemented by comments from actors, writers, producers and other creative personnel who provide intimate and first-hand remarks about *Twin Peaks*. Each critique also includes analysis of scripted scenes that were deleted from the final televised episodes, allowing for a deeper understanding of how *Twin Peaks* was being crafted as it went along. The last episode of *Twin Peaks* is examined in detail, with a chapter that focuses on the installment's final, mesmerizing act—an essay that sheds light on what really happened to the series' enigmatic protagonist, Dale Cooper. The feature film, *Fire Walk With Me*, is the subject of two in-depth essays. The first delves into the character of Laura Palmer and shows how David Lynch transformed the idea of Laura (from the series) into a fully realized character (in the film). The second essay radically challenges the design of the *Fire Walk With Me* prologue, arguing that Dale Cooper is a more prominent and vital presence in the story than might first appear. Vibrant and provocative, *Twin Peaks* is an enduring masterpiece. *The Essential Wrapped In Plastic* is a crucial guide to this remarkable work.

## Book Information

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Performing Arts

## Customer Reviews

John Thorne has a Master of Arts in TV/Radio/Film from Southern Methodist University in Dallas. For thirteen years, John was co-editor and co-producer of *Wrapped In Plastic* magazine, where he wrote extensively about *Twin Peaks* and associated film and television. He was also a contributor to the magazines, *Spectrum* and *Following Cerebus*. He is co-editor and contributor to the Kindle book, *Twin Peaks in the Rearview Mirror*.

Several weeks ago I published a column about the TWIN PEAKS fan magazine WRAPPED IN PLASTIC which for 13 years was the supreme source for all things TP — interviews, episode analysis, criticism, theory, and more. WRAPPED IN PLASTIC was the first of its kind and the godfather of all TWIN PEAKS — fansites, blogs, podcasts and columns, including this one. Now John Thorne, one of the co-publishers of the magazine, has released THE ESSENTIAL WRAPPED IN PLASTIC: PATHWAYS TO TWIN PEAKS, a long-awaited critical analysis and historical record from Thorne that incorporates some of the finest pieces from the magazine. The result is simply the smartest and most thorough episode guide and series assessment ever published. While there are still magazines available for purchase online, for the most part the content of WRAPPED IN PLASTIC has been spread to the virtual winds. A great deal of the content was the copyright of its respective writers and thus hard to attain, but Thorne has managed to pepper his analysis with tidbits from a good number of essays from the magazine — its heyday as well as other invaluable sources such as Chris Rodley — LYNCH ON LYNCH, David Lavery — FULL OF SECRETS, and even David Foster Wallace — A SUPPOSEDLY FUN THING I'LL NEVER DO AGAIN. You better believe I placed my order on the instant the book became available, and now, true believers, I have read it and am ready to divulge its merits, of which there are many. The majority of the text is an episode guide, and the information Thorne has gathered and the knowledge with which he dispenses it is awe-inspiring. The guides start with simple plot descriptions broken down into acts then move into a more detailed and always erudite analysis by Thorne of the episode — its themes, connotations, technical innovations, influences, merits and flaws — supplemented on occasion by quotes and points from other critical works, some from his magazine and some from other sources. At the end of each guide Thorne provides detailed descriptions of any deleted scenes (either shot and deleted or deleted from the scripts before shooting) that might further inform the narrative or characterization, and then he rounds everything out with quotes from various cast members and

other participants culled from a decade-plus of exclusive WRAPPED IN PLASTIC interviews. The most direct way I can think to explain the efficacy and understanding Thorne's guide exudes is to say it is in-depth and complete to the point it's probably now and forever the preeminent guide, and that's coming from a guy currently writing his own. Beyond this extensive guide, there's an equally extensive look at the last episode and FIRE WALK WITH ME, including a section of cast reactions to the polarizing film, a section on the film's critical reception, and a pair of essays from Thorne, one focused on the arc of Laura Palmer, and one interpreting the film's first 30 minutes as another possible dream of Dale Cooper's. As with the episode guide, Thorne's knowledge and insight into the series aren't up for debate — the guy knows his stuff, my stuff, your stuff, everybody's stuff — but it's in these latter essays on FWWM that he really puts his chops on display, weaving past narrative, deeper than subtext and into the core of meaning not just of the film, but of the entire TWIN PEAKS experience. As Thorne says early in the book, "FIRE WALK WITH ME is Lynch's successful effort at connecting TWIN PEAKS' final episode with its first (the pilot). The film creates in TWIN PEAKS a hermetic narrative — one that encompasses the entirety of the series. Without FIRE WALK WITH ME, the TWIN PEAKS narrative is a graceful arc. With the film, the narrative becomes a perfect circle. That one quote made me realize that FWWM could only be told after the main storyline, and supports my partial-theory that perhaps Lynch knew exactly what he was doing, timewise, when he slipped old Dale in the Black Lodge and had not-Laura tell him she'd see him again in 25 years. That's my favorite part about this book: Thorne makes it hauntingly and enthrallingly clear that for a show that was constantly evolving its narrative, not just within seasons but within episodes — they don't make scripted TV dramas with this much improve ever — there are no coincidences in TWIN PEAKS, even the happy accidents have meaning. If I was going to be dropped on a deserted island for the rest of my days and told I could take one and only one artifact of TWIN PEAKS media to entertain myself — which itself is a somewhat Lynchian concept — I'd take this book, maybe even over the series itself. Because Thorne's book encapsulates everything that is great about our favorite show, then extrapolates from it in many ways and from all angles to create something intricately more fascinating, like a show not within but above another show, something watching us watching it. There is no question whatsoever that if you consider yourself fan-enough of

the show that you've read this far into my column, you need to own this book as soon as is humanly, financially, and postally possible. Never, in my opinion, has the word "Essential" been so aptly used in a title.

This is an excellent book! A must buy for every Twin Peaks fan. This is a book you will not want to put down. It's a great read and a great reference book when your watching the show and movie. There is analysis on every Twin Peaks episode and the movie as well as the scripts (Notable Deleted Scenes)! With John Thorne's 13 years experience co-editing and co-producing the Twin Peaks magazine *Wrapped In Plastic* it's clear he really knows his stuff about Twin Peaks. Interviews with cast and crew such as David Lynch, Mark Frost, Frank Siva (Bob), Jenn Lynch, Sheryl Lee, Harley Peyton, James Marshall, Don Davis, Jack Nance, Catherine Coulson, Kimmy Robertson, Al Strobel, Dana Ashbrook, Julee Cruise, Robert Engels, Charlotte Stewart, Miguel Ferrer, Grace Zabriskie, Everett McGill, Richard Beymer, Michale J. Anderson, Scott Frost, Heather Graham, Kenneth Welsh, Ted Raimi & more! Fantastic FWWM essays exploring Laura Palmer and the Dear Meadow prologue! I'm impressed all this could be packed into one book.

Great.

Fantastic collected edition from the long-running TWIN PEAKS fanzine WRAPPED IN PLASTIC, gathered in such a way as to provide an absolutely ideal, in-depth TWIN PEAKS companion to the TV series, the movies, the books, and everything. Peppered throughout with one-of-a-kind interviews with David Lynch, Mark Frost, the entire cast & crew of TWIN PEAKS (all incarnations), DIARY OF LAURA PALMER author Jennifer Lynch, and others, THE ESSENTIAL WRAPPED IN PLASTIC is a perfect library item for any and all TP fans, and even better gift to those just coming into the fold. HIGHEST RECOMMENDATION!!!

Collection of Essays and Interviews from 75-Issue *Wrapped in Plastic* Twin Peaks Fan Magazine Covers Every Aspect of the Show in Entertaining and Informative Fashion It's both fortunate and unfortunate that John Thorne's guide THE ESSENTIAL WRAPPED IN PLASTIC appears in 2016, a year before Showtime airs the much-anticipated continuation of Twin Peaks (a "limited series" of somewhere between 9-18 hours, with David Lynch directing every episode). On the one hand, this is obviously prime time for Twin Peaks material, as fans anticipate the new series by refreshing their

knowledge of the original (aired on ABC 1990-91), while those curious about Twin Peaks for the first time will find this book an extremely helpful companion. On the other hand, pre-dating even Showtime's announcement of a new series, Twin Peaks has been coming back into the media with a vengeance and so Thorne's compendium arrives on virtual and actual bookshelves with a lot of competition. Before 2014, there was virtually no Twin Peaks nonfiction readily available. One collection, *Full of Secrets* (an essay anthology edited by David Lavery) had been published two decades earlier and was out of print. That changed with the much-celebrated debut of Brad Duke's excellent Oral History "Reflections", followed a year later by the (unrelated, and thus somewhat confusing titled) Pop Classics entry "Wrapped in Plastic" by Andy Burns, and a FAQ book due later this summer - along with some others I may be missing. As such, a potential customer might be inclined to assume at a glance that Thorne's collection is an also-ran, redundant after so many other studies. Don't. First of all, Thorne's approach is more wide-ranging than any other Twin Peaks book has been, and likely will be for some time. He includes plot descriptions, analyses of the original scripts, and excerpts from interviews (plus, as a bonus, the entirety of a very rare, very revealing interview with Frank Silva, the actor who played Killer Bob, alone worth the price of admission), plus in-depth essays on the important closing chapters of the saga (the Lodge, Deer Meadow, Laura's arc, and - more briefly - the mysterious Judy) and amusing trivial pursuits (including recaps of the Georgia Coffee Commercials and a fascinating tangent on two old songs name-dropped in FWWM). All this material is organized into the easy reference format of an episode guide. Importantly, he also devotes about 100 pages of the 350-page book to the feature film *Twin Peaks: Fire Walk With Me*, which has often been neglected in Twin Peaks scholarship (Duke's book, for example, devotes maybe a page or two, mostly of negative anecdotes from series cast/crew that didn't care for the film). Whether or not you enjoy the movie, you will come away from Thorne's analysis deeply enriched. His writing on the film includes a stunning essay on Laura Palmer (which shaped my own reading of the movie immeasurably, leading to the creation of my "Journey Through Twin Peaks" videos) and, most famously, his controversial but very well-reasoned "Dreams of Deer Meadow" thesis in which he posits that the first half-hour of the movie is Dale Cooper's dream sequence. As much as I loved *Reflections*, it always disappointed me that we didn't get to hear the voices of the cast and crew discussing their work on *Fire Walk With Me*, the final piece of Twin Peaks (for 25 years anyway); by including a 15-page oral history of the film's conception, production, and reception, Thorne is able to address this oversight. The source of the book, *Wrapped in Plastic*, was a magazine that ran for 13 years, co-edited by Thorne and the late Craig Miller. It interviewed dozens of Twin Peaks actors and filmmakers including the big one, David Lynch himself (twice!). It

also ran hundreds of pieces ranging from short observations to scholarly essays. At the time it carried the joyful burden of Twin Peaks devotion nearly single-handedly; few were discussing the show at all from the mid-nineties to mid-zeroes, let alone with such enthusiasm and insight. Speaking personally (and I should reveal here that Thorne shared some parts of the book with me before publishing, for which I offered editorial feedback), when I discovered Thorne's work two years ago it completely changed the way I thought about my favorite show and film. What was messy and incoherent suddenly took on sharper shape. What was shrouded in mystery began to reveal itself in the light of thoughtful, unfearful questioning (in a way that strengthened, rather than diminished, the mystery). And the vast store of history and context at Thorne's disposal enabled him to carefully restore and burnish a much-maligned artwork until it gleamed in the way we always knew it could, even when we had been looking at it through our own prejudices and misunderstandings. There is a good chance that without Thorne's and Miller's dedicated cultivation of Twin Peaks fandom during the long dark age between *Fire Walk With Me* and *The Gold Box* DVD set, the culture ready to re-embrace Twin Peaks would not exist. Even if they had only been responsible for the content of this book, we'd have a lot to thank them for - as it is, we have a whole lot more. Buy it as a thank-you for their efforts but better yet, as a gift to yourself: this is an absolute treasure trove for Twin Peaks fans new and old.

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