



# **Staying Up Much Too Late: Edward Hopper's Nighthawks and the Dark Side of the American Psyche**

*Gordon Theisen*

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A fascinating study of Edward Hopper's iconic *Nighthawks* painting and its deep significance for understanding American culture.

*Staying up Much Too Late* discusses the painting *Nighthawks* and the painter Edward Hopper and their central importance to twentieth-century American culture. Topics include individualism, New York City, Arthur "Weegee" Fellig, diners, pornography, capitalism, advertising, cigarettes, American philosophy, World War II, *Gravity's Rainbow*, *Blade Runner*, *Pulp Fiction*, Russ Meyer, R. Crumb, David Lynch, and film noir

What links these together is the painting's pessimistic take on American culture, which it also seems to epitomize. Despite its desolate feel, *Nighthawks* has become a familiar icon, reproduced on posters and postcards, in movies and on television shows. But *Nighthawks* is more than just a masterful painting. It is a portal into that rarely acknowledged but pervasive dark side of the American psyche.

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