



# Shows About Nothing: Nihilism in Popular Culture from The Exorcist to Seinfeld

*Thomas S. Hibbs, Thomas S. Hibbs*

Download now

[Click here](#) if your download doesn't start automatically

# Shows About Nothing: Nihilism in Popular Culture from The Exorcist to Seinfeld

*Thomas S. Hibbs, Thomas S. Hibbs*

**Shows About Nothing: Nihilism in Popular Culture from The Exorcist to Seinfeld** Thomas S. Hibbs, Thomas S. Hibbs

The portrayal of evil in film and television, frequently denounced as an attack on "family values" and an incitement to real-life violence, is more complicated and more disturbing than we realize. In a pointed challenge to both Hollywood and its critics, Professor Thomas Hibbs argues that the demonic anti-heroes and seductive comic evil of popular culture are not weapons in a conscious cultural assault but reactions to the apathy and conformity of American life.

While the movies of Frank Capra once celebrated the triumph of good over evil, George Bailey has given way to Hannibal Lecter, who through raw power and bold creativity lives "beyond good and evil." Professor Hibbs follows the trajectory of evil in American film and television, linking it to the spread of nihilism—a state of spiritual impoverishment and shrunken aspirations to which, both Tocqueville and Nietzsche warned, democracies are especially susceptible. The most recent product of Hollywood's fascination with evil is the comic nihilism of Seinfeld, in which the distinctively American pursuit of happiness is endlessly frustrated by dark forces beyond our understanding or control.

Professor Hibbs probes the themes and artistry of the landmark works of the cinematic quest for evil. A series of grisly films from The Exorcist to Cape Fear and Silence of the Lambs reveals a preoccupation with the power of evil. When evil ceases to terrify, it becomes banal, producing a comic view of the meaninglessness of life (Forrest Gump, Natural Born Killers, Titanic, The Simpsons). Seinfeld and Trainspotting represent nihilism's last stage, but not the last word, and Professor Hibbs considers how classical ideals—partially recovered in recent comedy (Pulp Fiction) and film noir (L.A. Confidential, Seven)—might point the way out of nihilism.

 [Download Shows About Nothing: Nihilism in Popular Culture f ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Shows About Nothing: Nihilism in Popular Culture ...pdf](#)

## **Download and Read Free Online Shows About Nothing: Nihilism in Popular Culture from The Exorcist to Seinfeld Thomas S. Hibbs, Thomas S. Hibbs**

---

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Mary Gines:**

Reading can called head hangout, why? Because when you are reading a book mainly book entitled Shows About Nothing: Nihilism in Popular Culture from The Exorcist to Seinfeld your head will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in each aspect that maybe mysterious for but surely will become your mind friends. Imaging every single word written in a book then become one application form conclusion and explanation that maybe you never get prior to. The Shows About Nothing: Nihilism in Popular Culture from The Exorcist to Seinfeld giving you yet another experience more than blown away your head but also giving you useful info for your better life on this era. So now let us explain to you the relaxing pattern at this point is your body and mind will be pleased when you are finished reading through it, like winning a sport. Do you want to try this extraordinary investing spare time activity?

#### **Charles Settles:**

Shows About Nothing: Nihilism in Popular Culture from The Exorcist to Seinfeld can be one of your beginning books that are good idea. Many of us recommend that straight away because this publication has good vocabulary which could increase your knowledge in words, easy to understand, bit entertaining however delivering the information. The article author giving his/her effort that will put every word into satisfaction arrangement in writing Shows About Nothing: Nihilism in Popular Culture from The Exorcist to Seinfeld however doesn't forget the main stage, giving the reader the hottest and also based confirm resource information that maybe you can be one among it. This great information can easily drawn you into new stage of crucial imagining.

#### **Jeffery Fulmer:**

The book untitled Shows About Nothing: Nihilism in Popular Culture from The Exorcist to Seinfeld contain a lot of information on it. The writer explains the woman idea with easy method. The language is very simple to implement all the people, so do definitely not worry, you can easy to read it. The book was written by famous author. The author brings you in the new period of time of literary works. You can read this book because you can read on your smart phone, or device, so you can read the book in anywhere and anytime. If you want to buy the e-book, you can available their official web-site in addition to order it. Have a nice examine.

#### **Yvonne Tetrault:**

Guide is one of source of expertise. We can add our understanding from it. Not only for students but also native or citizen have to have book to know the change information of year to help year. As we know those publications have many advantages. Beside we add our knowledge, may also bring us to around the world. By the book Shows About Nothing: Nihilism in Popular Culture from The Exorcist to Seinfeld we can get more advantage. Don't one to be creative people? To be creative person must love to read a book. Merely

choose the best book that suitable with your aim. Don't become doubt to change your life with that book Shows About Nothing: Nihilism in Popular Culture from The Exorcist to Seinfeld. You can more pleasing than now.

**Download and Read Online Shows About Nothing: Nihilism in Popular Culture from The Exorcist to Seinfeld Thomas S. Hibbs, Thomas S. Hibbs #OZ7U0I5NKLC**

## **Read Shows About Nothing: Nihilism in Popular Culture from The Exorcist to Seinfeld by Thomas S. Hibbs, Thomas S. Hibbs for online ebook**

Shows About Nothing: Nihilism in Popular Culture from The Exorcist to Seinfeld by Thomas S. Hibbs, Thomas S. Hibbs Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Shows About Nothing: Nihilism in Popular Culture from The Exorcist to Seinfeld by Thomas S. Hibbs, Thomas S. Hibbs books to read online.

### **Online Shows About Nothing: Nihilism in Popular Culture from The Exorcist to Seinfeld by Thomas S. Hibbs, Thomas S. Hibbs ebook PDF download**

**Shows About Nothing: Nihilism in Popular Culture from The Exorcist to Seinfeld by Thomas S. Hibbs, Thomas S. Hibbs Doc**

Shows About Nothing: Nihilism in Popular Culture from The Exorcist to Seinfeld by Thomas S. Hibbs, Thomas S. Hibbs Mobipocket

Shows About Nothing: Nihilism in Popular Culture from The Exorcist to Seinfeld by Thomas S. Hibbs, Thomas S. Hibbs EPub