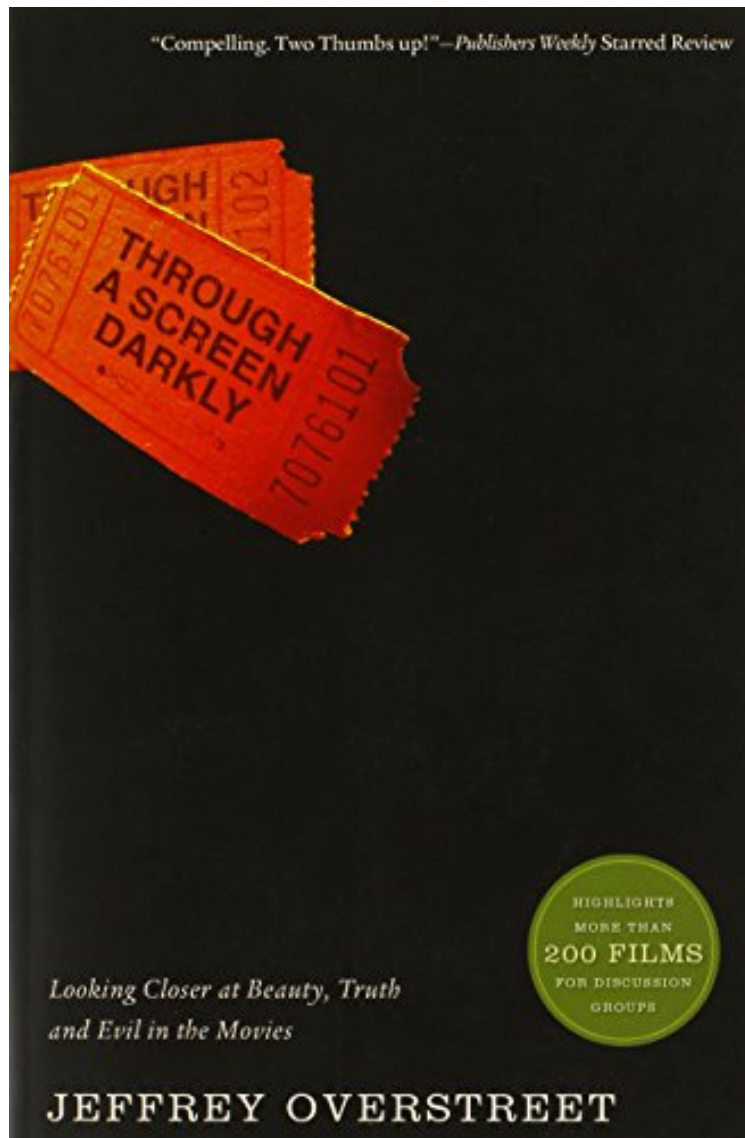


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Through a Screen Darkly

Jeffrey Overstreet

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Jeffrey Overstreet : Through a Screen Darkly before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Through a Screen Darkly:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Rare GiftBy DougThis little book is a great gift to those of us who value understanding cultural consensus. I don't have time to watch all the movies that Jeffrey does. Yet his insights guide me in what stories I want "to get into." These reviews are invaluable to me. "Through a Screen Darkly" is one of the best "how to watch a movie" books I have seen.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great reference

and referral material
By Kimberley Browne
This book will be of great help in sorting through the plethora of movie choices available. I am very impressed by the author's recommendations, and the intelligence and spirituality behind them. I will most definitely be using this resource in choosing films to watch.
4 of 6 people found the following review helpful. I LOVE this Book
By Marsha Marks
Hey, I'm not a movie reviewer. I'm a Flight Attendant who loves reading good books. And this new book **THROUGH A SCREEN DARKLY** by Jeffrey Overstreet, is fantastic. Well written, poetic in prose (I mean, how often do you find that in a movie reviewer) and in general a great read! My copy just arrived today from .com and I'm already calling all my friends to get them to buy the book as well! You'll love it!

In the style of a cinematic travel journal, film columnist and critic Jeffrey Overstreet of Christianity Today and lookingcloser.org leads readers down paths less traveled to explore some of the best films you've never seen. Examining a feast of movies, from blockbusters to buried treasure, Overstreet peels back the layers of work by popular entertainers and underappreciated masters. He shares excerpts from conversations with filmmakers like Peter Jackson, Wim Wenders, Kevin Smith, and Scott Derrickson, producer Ralph Winter, and stars like Elijah Wood, Ian McKellan, Keanu Reeves, and the cast of *Serenity*, drawing "war-stories" from his encounters with movie stars, moviemakers, moviegoers, and other critics in both mainstream and religious circles. He argues that what makes some films timeless rather than merely popular has everything to do with the way these artists--whether they know it or not--have captured reflections of God in their work. *Through a Screen Darkly* also includes a collection of reviews, humorous anecdotes, and on-the-scene film festival reports, as well as recommendations for movie discussion groups and meditations on how different films echo the myriad ways in which Christ captured the attention and imagination of culture.

From Publishers Weekly
Starred . If viewing a film is to be a spiritual exercise, one must be open to conversion. Overstreet, cultural commentator and film critic for Christianity Today, leads readers through his own cinematic conversion in this compelling volume. Overstreet's greatest gift is the masterful way he brings a spirit of discernment to the world of film. For example, determining when sex and violence is artfully employed or when it is just plain gratuitous is not always an easy task. Overstreet uses inspiring anecdotes from his life to show how the process of discerning the content and meaning of films takes patience, prayer and humility. He exhibits all of these traits through his movie commentaries and invites the reader to set aside biases about what is "properly" Christian and look deeper toward how cinema as an art form affects one's soul. This, according to Overstreet, is the work of God. At times, the author's stories distract from his main point, but his primary goal is one to be celebrated: "I have a strange compulsion to sit down between Christian culture and secular society, trying to help them understand each other and ultimately, God better through a shared experience of art." Two thumbs up! (Feb. 8) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. He writes beautifully in *Through a Screen Darkly*...routinely finding redemptive insights in unusual places. -- Youthworker Journal, May/June 2007
From the Back Cover
Welcome to the confessions of a Christian moviegoer. Jeffrey Overstreet, film enthusiast and movie reviewer, takes readers on a journey that spans the globe. From a desert scene in Mongolia to a galaxy far, far away, you'll explore the power of cinematic journeys to introduce life-changing new insights. While visiting the angels of *Wings of Desire* and the inquisitive British newcomers of *The New World*, he'll show you how different characters, different worldviews and different experiences offer pieces of a larger truth. Examining methods and styles employed by Martin Scorsese, Tony Scott, Paul Thomas Anderson, Akira Kurosawa and Krzysztof Kieslowski, he highlights the ways in which art and entertainment can both harm and heal. You'll find excerpts from his conversations with directors Scott Derrickson (*The Exorcism of Emily Rose*), Wim Wenders (*Wings of Desire*) and Patrice Leconte (*The Widow of St. Pierre*), and producer Ralph Winter (the *X-Men* series). What makes some films timeless rather than merely popular has everything to do with the way these artists--whether they know it or not--have captured reflections of God in their work. *Through a Screen Darkly* also includes a collection of recommendations for movie discussion groups, links to frequently updated resources for moviegoers, and meditations on how different films echo the ways in which Christ captured the attention and imagination of culture. You may be surprised by Overstreet's revealing encounters with moviegoers and critics in both mainstream and religious circles. He challenges traditional Christian ideas about art, and coaxes the curious toward bold, rewarding engagement with contemporary cinema.