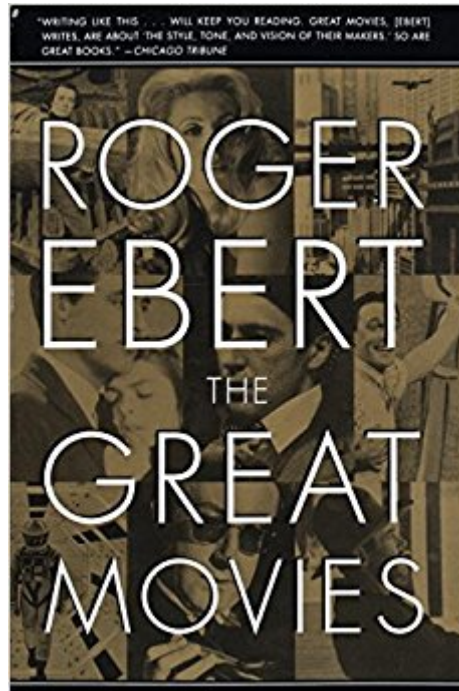




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# The Great Movies



## Synopsis

America's most trusted and best-known film critic Roger Ebert presents one hundred brilliant essays on some of the best movies ever made. Roger Ebert, the famed film writer and critic, wrote biweekly essays for a feature called "The Great Movies," in which he offered a fresh and fervent appreciation of a great film. The Great Movies collects one hundred of these essays, each one of them a gem of critical appreciation and an amalgam of love, analysis, and history that will send readers back to that film with a fresh set of eyes and renewed enthusiasm—or perhaps to an avid first-time viewing. Ebert's selections range widely across genres, periods, and nationalities, and from the highest achievements in film art to justly beloved and wildly successful popular entertainments. Roger Ebert manages in these essays to combine a truly populist appreciation for our most important form of popular art with a scholar's erudition and depth of knowledge and a sure aesthetic sense. Wonderfully enhanced by stills selected by Mary Corliss, the film curator at the Museum of Modern Art, The Great Movies is a treasure trove for film lovers of all persuasions, an unrivaled guide for viewers, and a book to return to again and again. The Great Movies includes: All About Eve • Bonnie and Clyde • Casablanca • Citizen Kane • The Godfather • Jaws • La Dolce Vita • Metropolis • On the Waterfront • Psycho • The Seventh Seal • Sweet Smell of Success • Taxi Driver • The Third Man • The Wizard of Oz • and eighty-five more films.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

If Pauline Kael popularized "movie love," Roger Ebert is the eloquent Valentino of

cinephiles. This invaluable volume gathers 100 of the Pulitzer winner's mini-essays composed since 1997, revised and updated, to form a love letter that could only spring from decades of devotion. A feat of superlative analysis, historical reflection, personal diary, and journalistic odyssey, *The Great Movies* combines an accessible style with an academic's precision. Accompanied by photos perfectly chosen by Museum of Modern Art film stills archivist Mary Corliss, the 100 films are irrefutably worthy of inclusion, allowing room for debate (John Ford's *My Darling Clementine* is in, *The Searchers* is not--arguably a wise decision) while placing each film into its own undeniable context of superiority. Admirably, Ebert recognizes that no critic writes in a vacuum; he dedicates the book to eight master critics hailed as "teachers"; quotes many of his contemporaries, and carries on the debate with Kael's lingering spirit (Ebert counters her on *Body Heat*, praises her on *Nashville*). His appreciation of *E.T.* is written as a letter to beloved children in his life, and the entire book breathes with an awareness of legacy--the cinema's and Ebert's own--that underlies the sobering theme of his introduction. We need these movies (and this book) to remind us that movies can be so much better than they typically are. --Jeff Shannon --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Culled from essays famed film critic Ebert has been writing biweekly for the last two years, the 100 pieces here tell us what's so great about *Casablanca*, *The Seventh Seal*, *The Wizard of Oz*, and more. Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I love reading about great classic movies. These are NOT reviews --- Roger Ebert has written essays describing WHY he considers these movies great .... very detailed and never boring. Roger brings a fresh perspective to explaining why I should watch these films and what makes them great.

There are two things to look at here. His choices and how he writes about them. More than a few of these films are simply, boring things he loves and he couldn't convince me are tolerable. However, what he says about the majority of these films is wonderful. His insight about the parallel between the protagonists and story of *"The Searchers"* and *"Taxi Driver"* is brilliant and, as far as I know, original. His chapter about watching *"E.T."* with two grandchildren is moving and illuminating. His appreciation of the truly great films is so visible that one can forgive him praising Bunuel and other purveyors of emptiness.

Some of the pieces here are very fine; perceptive, perspicacious, cleverly written and quite penetrating. On the other hand they are generally brief (obviously in order to suit a word count for Ebert's columns) and would be even better if he could go to further depths in what he has to say. I particularly thought his responses to *The Third Man* were quite wonderful and brilliant. Worth it if you care deeply about all these films (and he covers many great ones) --and if it is on sale.

I lost interest in it part way through. Maybe sometime when I have the ambition I'll go back and give it another try.

as an old movie buff, this was interesting to see how many American movies stacked up with foreign films.

Terrific writing  
Amazing selection of movies  
Makes me want to revisit many of the old classics, and Ebert has impeccable cinematic taste.

This collection of short, elegantly written essays touches on familiar classics as well as some lesser known movies (note: they are less known to me, probably not to serious film buffs). It will make you want to rewatch old favorites and watch the ones you haven't seen yet. Truly reads like a collection of love letters to what is best about the movies. It doesn't try to be definitive, I think that is one reason it works so well.

Roger Ebert is sorely missed by me. This book is great to sit on the coffee table and peruse while selecting a movie to watch. I love his comments on some of these movies. What a reviewer he was!

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