



## Reflections on the Movies

*Ken Gire*

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## Reflections on the Movies Ken Gire

Award-winning author Ken Gire knows films powerfully communicate points about life and faith. He teaches readers to view and evaluate Hollywood's old and new fare with a discerning eye and discover the exciting reality that God speaks through film.

## Reflections on the Movies Details

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Author : Ken Gire

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## From Reader Review Reflections on the Movies for online ebook

### Leigh McLeroy says

Ken Gire is such a thoughtful observer of life, including the movies. I truly enjoyed this book.

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### Serenity Bohon says

I have not seen all the movies Gire writes about in this book, and I didn't love all of his reflections (I have so much more to say about Dead Poets Society), but to his general appreciation for film I related heart and soul. "Art was designed to be experienced, not critiqued." And, "When we go to movies, they engage us in dialogue whether we realize it or not." Yes and yes. I love the art of film possibly more than any other medium, and this book does a very good job of explaining why.

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### Kate says

"Besides enlightenment, film can also be an occasion for epiphany. Just as the Holy Spirit spoke through a variety of means in the Bible, He speaks through a variety of means today. Even through movies. A scene, a character, a line of dialogue, or the movie in its entirety comes to us almost like a sacrament, and we sense the Spirit saying, "Take, eat, this is for you" (43).

"A movie, I think, is really only four or five moments between two people; the rest of it exists to give those moments their impact and resonance" (Robert Towne quoted on page 45).

"Some things draw us beyond words. Art can warm even a chilled and sunless soul to an exalted spiritual experience. Through art we occasionally receive--indistinctly, briefly--revelation the likes of which cannot be achieved by rational thought" (50).

"Then, like a man marking a trail, [Jacob:] began to put his prayer between the moments, making the common profound by pausing. Using prayer to tie knots in time, Jacob isolated the details that would pass before others as a stream of events" (quoting Noah benShea's book Jacob's Journey on page 52).

"By taking moments of a movie, especially the moments that move us, and putting pauses of prayerful reflection between them, the luster of each moment will be revealed" (52).

"I can't begin to weigh what all has been lost in my life because I thought there wasn't anything taking place on the corner where God had placed me" (125).

"That's our life's work. To pay attention to those who pass by our corner" (126).

"What we produce will fail. But what happens to us in the producing of it is eternal . . . . The only things that go with us are the things produced *in us*" (170).

"There is a moment in every great story in which the presence of grace can be felt as it waits to be accepted or rejected, even though the reader may not recognize this moment" (Flannery O'Connor quoted on page 173).

"But how much we should allow ourselves to see and to hear in order to be changed is an issue we all wrestle with. . . . All that being said, I would like to say this, which is often left unsaid: Our faith is based on a public execution that was filled with foul language full-frontal nudity, and unbearable violence" (174).

"The sole substitute for an experience which we have not ourselves lived through is art and literature" (Alexander Solzhenitzyn quoted on page 185).

"Giving the ring to Schindler, Itzak Stern translates the Hebrew inscription, a quote from the Talmud: 'It says, "Whoever saves one life, saves the world entire"' (186).

"in a voice over, Morgan Freeman says: 'I have know idea to this day what them two Italian ladies were singin' about. Truth is, I don't *want* to know. Some things are best left unsaid. I like to think they were singing about something so beautiful it *can't* be expressed in words, and makes your heart ache because of it" (196).

That is what I felt after seeing *Our Town* performed last month (March 2010)!

"God is patient in making a masterpiece of our lives, taking a lifetime if necessary. He is also persistent. He will stop at nothing, except our own unwillingness to cooperate. That is a boundary He has chosen not to cross. But it is the only boundary. Tragic circumstances won't stop Him. Physical limitations won't stop Him. Even satanic opposition won't stop Him" (199).

"And I think they would join the thief on the cross in saying that it isn't important *why* you are remembered, but by *whom*" (203).

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## Pat Roseman says

I liked this book. It helped me see some of the movies I've watched in a different light and even want to watch a few of them again to see what I might have missed. I'm hopeful it will help me watch movies a little differently in the future.

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## Coyle says

"In some ways, Reflections on the Movies is refreshing. Published in 2000, this book is evidence that Gire clearly liked movies long before most Evangelical Christians. Specifically, he watched and enjoyed movies before Passion of the Christ cemented the "back to the theaters" movement begun among Evangelicals by Braveheart. In a time when many Christians refused to watch anything not completely sanitized in content and had a habit of burning Amy Grant albums, Gire was watching and delighting in the best that Hollywood and the indie markets had to offer. And he was engaging with these movies well. If this book is representative, Gire is a wonderful model of how Christians ought to watch and think about. He is thoughtful, careful, and generous in his interpretations of movies in a way that we would do well to copy. And even where I disagree with a specific reaction or comment (sorry, but Dead Poets Society was a pile of plop), I can't disagree with the enthusiasm and, well, reflection he brings to the table. I get the feeling that he would be the sort of person I'd want to have come in and talk to a class or a university chapel service about how to responsibly consume popular culture.

And yet, for all that I have some hesitation about his overall approach."

Read the rest here: <http://www.patheos.com/blogs/schaeffe...>

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### **Sheri Freeland says**

I so enjoyed this book on God in the movies. I love to watch movies and especially those with redemptive messages. This book showed me I wasn't the only one who could be a Christian and enjoy "secular" movies. Thank you Ken Gire!

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### **Deana says**

Really, really liked this one. New perspective on movie watching.

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### **Amanda says**

Christmas present, thanks Mom! I enjoyed the analysis of the films I had seen, but should have skipped the chapters on the films I haven't seen - spoilers.

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