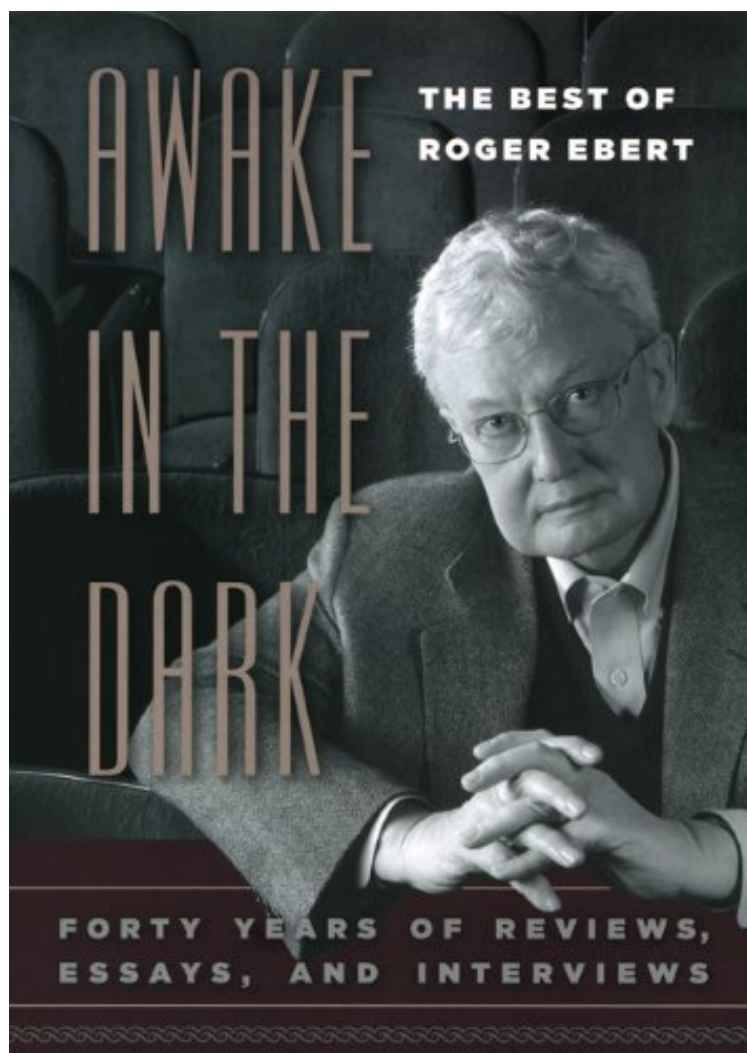


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Awake in the Dark: The Best of Roger Ebert

Roger Ebert

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Roger Ebert : Awake in the Dark: The Best of Roger Ebert before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Awake in the Dark: The Best of Roger Ebert:

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following review helpful. Felicitous styleBy Rupert C. LewisFelicitous style and great intelligence. Draws you into a film and the personalities behind movies in a conversational style. Dip into it wherever you care as you don't have to read from front to back. The reverse will do just as well. Have been reading Pauline Kael as well and she is intellectually sharp on the history of literature and film. Ebert is no less equipped but the daily quota and contact with his audience make his writing much more accessible. Kael is engaged with the ideological battle of defending the the popular art form in film against critics who look down it. by the time Ebert comes along cinematic art is a given.

Roger Ebert has been writing film reviews for the Chicago Sun-Times for nearly forty years. And during those four decades, his wide knowledge, keen judgment, prodigious energy, and sharp sense of humor have made him America's most celebrated film critic. He was the first such critic to win a Pulitzer Prize; one of just three film critics ever to receive that honor; and the only one to have a star dedicated to him on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. His groundbreaking hit TV show, *At the Movies*, meanwhile, has made "two thumbs up" one of the most coveted hallmarks in the entire industry. No critic alive has reviewed more movies than Roger Ebert, and yet his essential writings have never been collected in a single volume; until now. With *Awake in the Dark*, both fans and film buffs can finally bask in the best of Ebert's work. The reviews, interviews, and essays collected here present a picture of this indispensable critic's numerous contributions to the cinema and cinephilia. From *The Godfather* to *GoodFellas*, from *Cries and Whispers* to *Crash*, the reviews in *Awake in the Dark* span some of the most exceptional periods in film history, from the dramatic rise of rebel Hollywood and the heyday of the auteur, to the triumph of blockbuster films such as *Star Wars* and *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, to the indie revolution that is still with us today. The extraordinary interviews gathered in *Awake in the Dark* capture Ebert engaging not only some of the most influential directors of our time; Martin Scorsese, Steven Spielberg, Woody Allen, Robert Altman, Werner Herzog, and Ingmar Bergman; but also some of the silver screen's most respected and dynamic personalities, including actors as diverse as Robert Mitchum, James Stewart, Warren Beatty, and Meryl Streep. Ebert's remarkable essays play a significant part in *Awake in the Dark* as well. The book contains some of Ebert's most admired pieces, among them a moving appreciation of John Cassavetes and a loving tribute to the virtues of black-and-white films. If Pauline Kael and Andrew Sarris were godmother and godfather to the movie generation, then Ebert is its voice from within; a writer whose exceptional intelligence and daily bursts of insight and enthusiasm have shaped the way we think about the movies. *Awake in the Dark*, therefore, will be a treasure trove not just for fans of this seminal critic, but for anyone desiring a fascinating and compulsively readable chronicle of film since the late 1960s.

From BooklistEbert, probably the most prolific film critic of all time, here distills his massive life's work into a single volume. After a nostalgic introduction recounting his initial forays into criticism, he presents reviews of the best films of each of the past 38 years, from *Bonnie and Clyde* to *Crash*, and a selection of foreign films, documentaries, and "overlooked and underrated" works. More compelling are longer "think pieces" on such topics as colorization, the movie-ratings system, digital projection, and *Star Wars*' deleterious effect on Hollywood. Those, and a selection of star profiles and interviews, allow him to share his expertise and voice his passion in a fashion that daily reviewing seldom permits. The volume's final selection, a 2004 piece about the healing effect of viewing movies--and of writing about them--during his convalescence from cancer treatment, may well serve as his valedictory. As film criticism becomes more marginalized, Ebert may come to be seen as the last of a kind--the critic who actually has the power to influence a national audience. Gordon FlaggCopyright copy; American Library Association. All rights reserved "Roger Ebert loves movies more, and better, than almost any critic I've ever met. He also has a keen understanding of the way they work, which you will find out as you make your way through this irreplaceable collection of reviews, reminiscences, and critiques. There's a lifetime of thought and appreciation between these pages; a life, really; and you simply can't say that about most other collections of film criticism."