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| Rear Window (1955) |
| **[Enter any *variant forms* of your headword – OPTIONAL]** |
| *Rear Window* is a 1955 suspense film directed by Alfred Hitchcock and written by  John Michael Hayes, who adapted the short story ‘It Had to Be Murder’ by Cornell Woolrich. Starring James Stewart, Grace Kelly, Thelma Ritter, Wendell Corey, and Raymond Burr, *Rear Window* is widely considered to be one of Hitchcock’s greatest films. The plot centres on L. B. ‘Jeff’ Jeffries (Stewart), a photographer with a broken leg, who spies on his neighbours to pass the time. Over time, Jeff begins to suspect that his neighbour, Thorwald, has murdered his wife. Filmed on a single, enormous set, it is notable for its limited use of perspectives (with virtually every shot originating from inside Jeff’s apartment), and its reliance on diegetic music and sound. Analyses of *Rear Window* often focus on the ways Jeff’s voyeurism and obsession (both recurring themes in Hitchcock’s works) self-reflexively invoke the association between cinema and spectator. Jeff’s window becomes a metaphorical screen through which he finds vicarious pleasures in the unfolding ‘stories’ of his neighbours. The film’s gender relations — including Jeff’s troubled relationship with his girlfriend Lisa (Kelly), and the numerous relationships visible to him in the apartment complex — have generated a wide range of feminist interpretations of cinematic spectatorship. |
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| Further reading:  (Belton)  (Modleski) |