

Parallax view

Second Chance Press - The Parallax View



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The Parallax View movie review (1974)

Guilty over disregarding Carter's pleas, Frady visits the small town of Salmontail to probe the recent death of Judge Arthur Bridges, also a witness. Annual or heliocentric parallax is the apparent displacement of a nearby star resulting from its observation from the earth. When they arrive at the dam, however, Wicker pulls his gun on Frady while the floodgates are opening, plotting to have him drown the same way Bridges did.

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And he has a good sense of the incongruous, as in a scene where a senator on a golf cart is killed in an enormous banquet hall, and the cart wanders at random, knocking over tables, until police cars race onto the banquet floor in pursuit.

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Frady commandeers Wicker's squad car, and at the sheriff's house he uncovers Parallax Corporation documents which reveal that the organization recruits political assassins. If only more of Parallax dated as well.

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But at the same time, he is a stark contrast to the Woodward and Bernstein-type reporters. Pakula often emphasizes on contrast, sharply cutting from dark, murky interiors to characters moving under sunlight. The whole thing was remarkably staged, right up to Frady saving the day and the bomb blast after passengers are disembarked that happens off-screen.

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