

Rear Window (1954)

With James Stewart and Grace Kelly

Watch the movie <https://clickv.ie/w/hOFg>

Focus Questions



- How is Jeffries' act of looking out the window similar to that of watching a film?

When watching a film you can't change anything that's occurring. You are powerless to change anything, and can only watch the events as they unfold. This powerlessness is what Jeffries experiences, he himself can't do anything and no-one else believes him. Additionally, the window frame also brings into mind a TV frame, or the frame of a movie screen.

- For most of the film, Jeffries watches without being watched. When does this change and how does this make the viewer feel?

It changes when Lisa is arrested, Thorwald spots her wearing his wife's wedding ring, looks out the window and straight at Jeffries and Stella watching him. This makes the viewer feel very tense and worried for all of the characters.

- How do Lisa and Jeffries each feel about marriage?

Jeffries feels that Lisa is too posh and good for him, and that they probably shouldn't marry because he'd always be travelling for his work. Lisa however really wants to marry him, and is very supportive of his work and views.

- How do their ideas of marriage reflect ideas of marriage being played out around the courtyard?

Across multiple of the subplots you have a lot of people who look like a perceived image, and are actually different people. This juxtaposition echoes the concerns that Jeffries (and to a much lesser extent Lisa) have about marriage. All of these concerns are carried out through the different apartments and subplots they look into.

- How does the use of first-person camera looking through the telescope make the audience feel and why?

It makes the audience close to what is happening, although it does reinforce the feeling that the viewer can't actually do anything to change what is occurring while they watch.