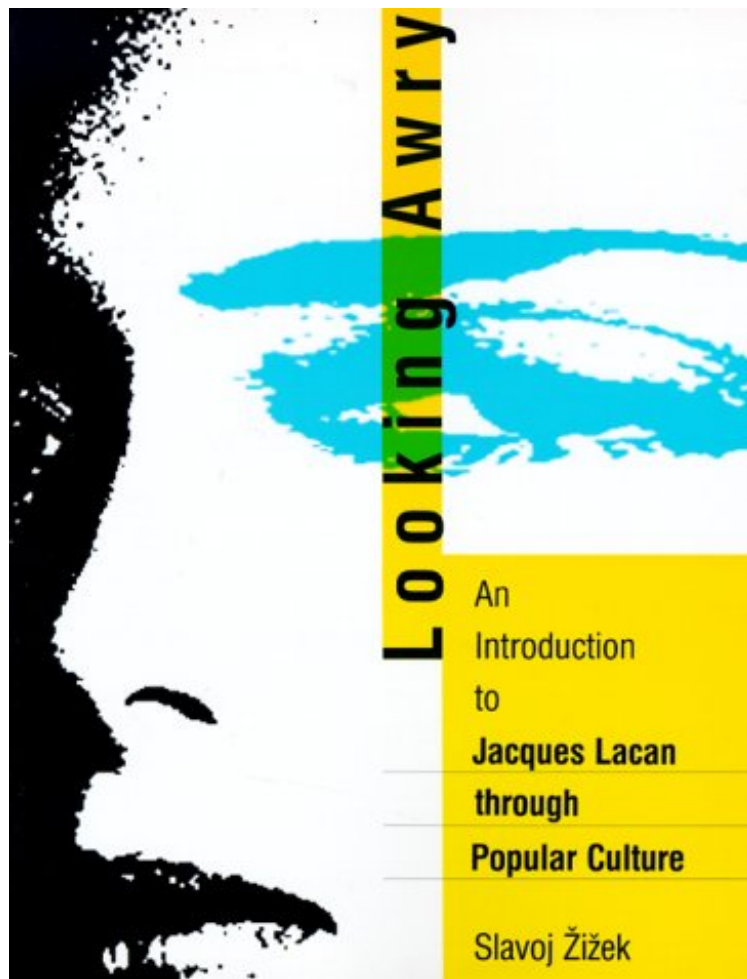


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Looking Awry: An Introduction to Jacques Lacan through Popular Culture (October Books)

Slavoj Žižek

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Slavoj Žižek : Looking Awry: An Introduction to Jacques Lacan through Popular Culture (October Books) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Looking Awry: An Introduction to Jacques Lacan through Popular Culture (October Books):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. 'the Real' title: An Introduction to ŽižekBy BeehazI didn't give this book five stars because I didn't feel I knew Lacan much better after reading it. Granted, there were a few memorable moments of Lacanian interpretation, but now that I look back on it, they were only enlightening because of background information I had from better introductory texts. Fink's 'Clinical Introduction,' and 'Lacanian Subject,' are better for a base understanding of Lacan. Overall, I felt the book was worth the read, because it was Žižek after all.. I

enjoyed a lot of the literature interpretations he included, as well as film analysis. Like other reviewers have commented, this is more Zizek in here than Lacan, and this was part of the reason I decided to read this. However, I felt the overall format of the book- divided by Lacanian theoretical points- did not help the reader's already difficult task of trying to keep track of Zizek's often scattered arguments. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Hal Boyd Exactly as promised. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. indulgence and dogma By Case Quarter LOOKING AWRY, the title of slavoj zizek's introduction of jacques lacan, is also a method of indirectly approaching lacan's work through critiques of popular fiction and film theory of the films of alfred hitchcock and a few films by other directors who worked, for the most part, in film noir of black and white films. comments on lacan's work are minimal within the body of zizek's text. the comments pertaining to lacan's work by zizek, function as signs pointing to the notes at the end of the book, and the notes pointing to lacan's writings. zizek's method does manage an introduction to the work of lacan. in the final section of zizek's text, the political ideas pulled from lacan's writings, seem to belong more to zizek than lacan. remarks made about nationalism under technological advances and the resulting racism of pizza parlors and chinese take-outs correlated with sade and kant were written here before social media, 9-11, and buzz phrases including 'post-racial' and 'diversity'. our time, our now, might clarify, set right, if not prove to be right or wrong, these prophecies. an excellent book for hitchcock fans or students who must read lacan, but equally an introduction to the work of slavoj zizek, who, from what the furious noise within the space surrounding him signifies, has gone on to sound off on much begun here by him.

Slavoj iek, a leading intellectual in the new social movements that are sweeping Eastern Europe, provides a virtuoso reading of Jacques Lacan. iek inverts current pedagogical strategies to explain the difficult philosophical underpinnings of the French theoretician and practitioner who revolutionized our view of psychoanalysis. He approaches Lacan through the motifs and works of contemporary popular culture, from Hitchcock's Vertigo to Stephen King's Pet Sematary, from McCullough's An Indecent Obsession to Romero's Return of the Living Dead -- a strategy of "looking awry" that recalls the exhilarating and vital experience of Lacan. iek discovers fundamental Lacanian categories the triad Imaginary/Symbolic/Real, the object small a, the opposition of drive and desire, the split subject -- at work in horror fiction, in detective thrillers, in romances, in the mass media's perception of ecological crisis, and, above all, in Alfred Hitchcock's films. The playfulness of iek's text, however, is entirely different from that associated with the deconstructive approach made famous by Derrida. By clarifying what Lacan is saying as well as what he is not saying, iek is uniquely able to distinguish Lacan from the poststructuralists who so often claim him.

Zizek is one of the very few thinkers who has been able to reinvent Lacan's fundamental concepts with a freshness and elasticity that makes one remember what was genuinely exciting and revolutionary about the Parisian school. His work is saturated with the lessons of philosophy and psychoanalysis and he has a feel for film and literary culture that is quite breathtaking. (Andrew Ross, Princeton University) Looking Awry is a wonderful introduction to dialectical psychoanalysis; to a fresh approach to the subjectivities of mass culture, and to an extraordinary new voice we will hear often in the coming years. (Fredric R. Jameson, Duke University) iek is a one-person culture mulcher. Flinging out readings of film noir or Hitchcock's The Birds, drawing maps of the unconscious, analyzing the commodity form, Stephen King, or Hegel's Phenomenology of Spirit, he plays the philosopher as standup comic... The elusive Lacan, who cultivated an aura of indecipherability with the care of a diva becomes a field guide to life in an age of media. (Edward Ball Voice Literary Supplement) From the Back Cover In this book Slavoj Zizek, a leading intellectual in the new social movements that are sweeping Eastern Europe, provides a virtuoso reading of Jacques Lacan. Zizek inverts current pedagogical strategies to explain the difficult philosophical underpinnings of the French theoretician and practitioner who revolutionized our view of psychoanalysis. About the Author Slavoj iek, a philosopher and cultural critic, is Senior Researcher in the Department of Philosophy at the University of Ljubljana, Global Distinguished Professor of German at New York University, and International Director of the Birkbeck Institute for the Humanities at the University of London. He is the author of more than thirty books, including Looking Awry: An Introduction to Jacques Lacan through Popular Culture, The Puppet and the Dwarf: The Perverse Core of Christianity, The Parallax View, The Monstrosity of Christ: Paradox or Dialectic (with John Milbank), and iek's Jokes (Did you hear the one about Hegel and negation?), these five published by the MIT Press.