

Volker Ferenz

Don't believe his lies

The unreliable narrator
in contemporary American cinema

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Unreliable narration, though not frequent, exists in cinema as well as in literature. [...]

This possibility exists in the cinema just as much as in literature, though it has not been exercised very often – because, perhaps, the viewing public is not as ready for narrative ironies as is the reading public. [...]

A theory of narrative cinema should be able to account not only for the majority of films but also for the narratively odd or problematic ones. Besides, it may well be that unreliable narration will someday become as common in film as it is in the novel.

(Seymour Chatman, *Coming to Terms*)

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