

Starman ★★★★★

Year of Release: 1984

Review by Randy Parker

Country: USA

Verdict: See It

Starman's premise is not new or original: a benevolent alien crash lands on earth and must rendezvous with his companions two days hence in order to be rescued and return home. Otherwise, he faces certain death at the hands of military scientists. This story line is extremely common in science fiction novels and films. *Starman*, however, is quite simply the best execution of this theme that I have encountered (with the exception of *E.T.*).

The alien in *Starman* takes human form; he assumes the appearance of a young widow's late husband. He kidnaps her, and they set out on a cross-country trek to his rendezvous point;

meanwhile the military is in hot pursuit and will undoubtedly cause the alien great harm if they catch him. Jeff Bridges is astounding as the alien life form that finds itself on an unfamiliar planet with unusual customs. Bridges' performance is extraordinarily convincing and, in my opinion, deserved an Oscar nomination. Karen Allen as the young widow is also superb. *Starman* is much more than great science fiction; it is also a touching love story. I was deeply moved by the love that blossomed between Bridges and Allen during the course of their journey. *Starman* is a must see for romantics and science-fiction buffs alike.

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