

Book Reviews

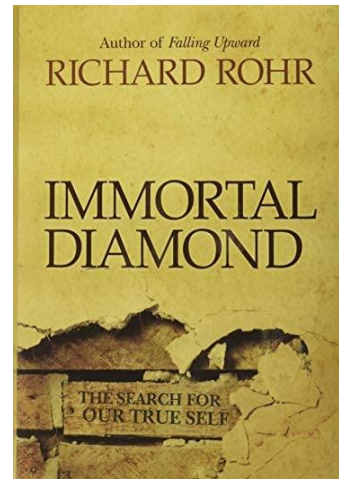
“The Immortal Diamond: The search for the True Self” by Richard Rohr

Reviewed by Gerry Kalinowski : Brisbane, Queensland

Rohr’s premise is that humanity is made for transcendence, but the ego limits the horizon to our defining ourselves from the perceptions of others. This book is a theoretical and experiential encouragement to seeking the true self. The true self knows who you are and whose you are. The true self is the treasure of an immortal diamond contained in each person.

Fans will find a lot that is familiar. This book is a deeper exploration on his *Falling Upward* book. It is a platform for Richard Rohr to espouse his broader theology and spirituality. His rambling style waxes lyrical with stories, supporting his argument with scripture and tradition. Rohr develops his belief in a participatory spirituality through our life in God, rather than it being a movement towards God. Interesting is his expounding an understanding of resurrection which is grounded in our lived experience. A point of debate is anthropology. This book has a raised perspective, as compared with one of a fallen world.

There are pearls for the patient, problems for those critical of his perspective. Rohr does emphasise that all is gift, and our coming to our true self is by the power of the Spirit.



“Christ-Figures: There on our Screens” by Peter Malone msc

Reviewed by Rita Malavisi : Melbourne, Victoria

Told in a down to earth, descriptive and with sometimes a humorous touch, Peter candidly, takes the characters in movies and links them with the Gospel Jesus. This book is more than just film reviews. Peter has tremendous skill in retelling a movie without giving away any spoiler alerts. The focus is on the character that is portrayed, and it’s their likeness to the actions of Christ. He has challenged me to

The movies chosen by Peter display a wide range of issues, and you’ll find many genres included (sci-fi, romantic, biographical, documentary, war). Peter has highlighted the Jesus figure in some of my favourite movies, and now I have a whole new list for my “to watch list”. Peter aptly parallels the character’s actions, and Jesus actions through reference to scripture passages and stories.

In my spirituality sessions, I often use movie themes to help convey and uncover some deeper messages, so Peter has suggested these for deeper reflection, giving us another layer from which to see in-depth. This book is great to be able to suggest a movie with an inspirational character, in olden movies and also up to date ones. Thank you Peter, for giving us a book that reminds us that “each of us is called to be a Christ-figure in our lives”.

