

2010 [1984]

by

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A pseudo-sequel to *2001: A Space Odyssey*. It attempts to explain the unanswered questions in the first films: why did H.A.L. malfunction, what are the giant Hershey bars, and so on. And, in the tradition of the first film, leaves open questions of its own: what happened to Jupiter, why is all this happening, and who is out there?

However, the difference in flavor between the films is striking. *2001* was an existential film devoted to the proposition that life is a series of random, not linked, events, that it is normal for us not to understand what is happening to us, and to live life as best we can. To balance this perhaps pessimistic view, *2001* offers hope that there is someone out there helping us along.

2010, on the other hand, seems not to have any philosophical basis as concrete as this. It is rooted in the cause-and-effect world of everyday politics both global, political, and academic. A great deal of film time is spent explaining, justifying. Because the first two thirds of the film is so preoccupied with explaining both the previous film and the current story, with the unexplainable events occurring in the last third, we have no philosophical basis from which to view them and that guiding hand of *2001* becomes treacle burdened sentiment in *2010*.