

If you liked the film *The Insider* by Michael Mann then you will enjoy the film *Shattered Glass* by Billy Ray. Here we have a finely-observed film based on the true story of the works of a journalist, Stephen Glass, played by Hayden Christensen. Instead of reporting on actual events, he retrieves interesting stories from what seems to be a 24-hour-working mind. When the lies are stripped from Stephen Glass' stories there is not much truth, if any, left. Instead of him using his beautiful gift to just tell stories, his stories are now telling on him. Will Stephen Glass's picture perfect work be shattered, or will his work continue to be read by what might as well be blind people?

In the office, Glass acts as if a shepherd leading a flock of sheep whose eyes have been covered up by overgrown wool. Perhaps his coworkers could have done their job in checking out the facts of his stories if they had not been preoccupied. They were too busy praising their pet child-like person. Working at *The New Republic* (TNR) can be more like working too closely with TNT. When one of the sheep goes astray, Stephen Glass's troubles soon follow.

Stephen Glass breathed, slept and ate journalism. He felt safe in his own little dark world in the corner of his office. But then TNR's editor Michael Kelly, played by Hank Azaria, was fired. Stephen Glass felt as if a bowline had been placed around his neck and he had been dragged from the field where he ruled. His 'play it by the book family man' coworker 'Chuck' Lane, played by Peter Sarsgaard, is promoted. Thanks to Stephen Glass, he is treated as the 'big bad wolf' and plays the part well. A journalist

from a competition magazine, Adam Penenberg played by Steve Zahn, calls TNR and questions the facts on one of the stories by Stephen Glass. Lane launches an investigation. With the aid of one of Stephen's fake business cards and a joke web site, Lane is able to uncover the lies. He helped the others to see by shedding light on the truth.

Lies on top of lies got to be too heavy for Steven Glass, resulting in *Shattered Glass*. The truth in this story is that he is not the only one to be held accountable for his not so truthful stories. Our confused society is too wrapped up in gossip and in the destruction of others. Unfortunately this type of trash sells and is in high demand. If we were to take a little pride in ourselves and have values, than maybe it would have not been so easy for Stephen Glass to serve us our own 'bull' on a silver platter.