

Intriguing Parallels Between *Truman Show* And *Screwtape Letters*

Truman Show	Screwtape Letters
Truman was made for another world, and he sensed it.	"The truth is that the Enemy, having oddly destined these mere animals to life in His own eternal world, has guarded them pretty effectively from the danger of feeling at home anywhere else." – Letter 28
Christof and the actors manipulated Truman to get him to feeling at home in Seahaven.	"build up a firm attachment to the earth" – Letter 28
"We accept the reality of the world with which we are presented."	<p>"Your business is to fix his attention on [immediate experiences]. Each him to call it 'real life' and don't him ask what he means by 'real'...Never having been a human...you don't realize how enslaved they are to the pressure of the ordinary." – Letter 1</p> <p>"Only the physical facts are 'real' while the spiritual elements are subjective" – Letter 30</p>
Friend: "Who hasn't wanted to travel around? Who hasn't wanted to be somebody?"	"The mere word <i>phase</i> will likely do the trick." – Letter 9
T-Shirt slogan: "Love Him, Protect Him."	"You should be guarding him like the apple of your eye" – Letter 28
Truman's wife's continual references to the financial risks of going away to Fiji.	"Precautions have a tendency to increase fear." – Letter 29
Truman's discovery of the edge of the world and subsequent departure.	<p>"There was a sudden clearing of his eyes (was there not?) as he saw you for the first time, and recognized the part you had in him and knew that you had it no longer." – Letter 31</p> <p>"He got through so easily!...sheer, instantaneous liberation." – Letter 31</p>
Truman's likely thoughts of Seahaven in the future.	"Pains he may still have to encounter, but they embrace those pains. They would not barter them for any earthly pleasure. All the delights of sense, or heart, or intellect, with which you could once have tempted him, even the delights of virtue itself, now seem to him in comparison but as the half nauseous attractions of a raddled harlot would seem to a man who hears that his true beloved whom he has loved all his life and whom he had believed to be dead and even now at his door." – Letter 31
Christof as deceiver	"Readers are advised to remember that the devil is a liar."
Christof "loves" Truman only as long as he can own him and use him.	"To us a human is primarily food; our aim is the absorption of its will into ours, the increase of our own area of selfhood at its expense." – Letter 8
"He could leave at any time. If his was more than just a vague ambition, if he was absolutely determined to discover the truth, there's no way we could prevent him."	Sounds like a Screwtape quote
"I have given Truman a chance to lead a normal life. The world, the place you live in, is the sick place. Seahaven is the way the world should be."	"All that sustains me is the conviction that our Realism, our rejection of all silly nonsense and claptrap, must win in the end."
<p>Christof: Listen to me, Truman. You can leave if you want, I won't try to stop you. But you won't survive out there. You don't know what to do, where to go. Truman: I have a map.</p> <p>Christof: Truman, I've watched you your whole life, I saw you taking your fist step, your first word, your first kiss. I know you better than you know yourself. You are not going to walk out that door. Truman: You never had a camera inside my head.</p>	A plausible conversation between Screwtape and the patient.