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IL MISTERO DI OBERWALD (*The Oberwald Mystery*)

Italy, 1980; color, 129 minutes

Antonioni took on the adaptation of Jean Cocteau's *The Eagle Has Two Heads* in hopes that this Ruritanian tale, his only film to be set in the past, would offer him "a chance for intellectual non-commitment." Instead, the director became truly engaged by the first-time challenge of shooting on video (which was then transferred to 35 mm film) and experimenting with color in a radical fashion reminiscent of his work in *Red Desert*. (Each character carries his own aura – color that enfolds and names him...the film has been called "a synesthesia symphony in which colors and textures are transformed into feeling.") Monica Vitti stars as the queen of a middle European country who falls in love with a young anarchist poet bent on assassinating her. *Oberwald* was named one of the ten best films of the decade by *Time*'s Richard Corliss, who hailed Antonioni's penultimate film as "a bold new direction for the cinema...a work of dazzling ambition and achievement."

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