



Good Will Hunting

Matt Damon , Ben Affleck , Gus Van Sant (Introduction)

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As director Gus Van Sant observes in the introduction to Matt Damon's and Ben Affleck's screenplay Good Will Hunting, the two young actors somewhat resemble the characters they play in the film: they're best friends, and Affleck (who plays Chuckie) habitually chauffeurs Damon (Will), who doesn't drive. Van Sant says we can see how badly Damon drives by watching the film's last scene, in which he is actually driving the car with the camera mounted on it. But Damon and company write better than he drives; this script contains some of the boldest, best monologues since Pulp Fiction. Van Sant and cast member Robin Williams helped the young actors tame the tigers in their cranial tanks, trimming the script into a precision instrument. Though the stills from the film are not perfectly matched to their places in the script, this story remains as much a joy to read as it is to watch on the big screen.

Good Will Hunting Details

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From Reader Review Good Will Hunting for online ebook

Vassilis says

One of my all-time favorite movies, based on a heart warming, simple but powerful sentimentally script. The characters built-up is really brilliant. It is all about how the past & experiences can tremendously affect our behavior and emotions, how one can be closed to himself due to pre-existing traumas. It is also how one should seek out for what satisfies his soul & what he really wants to do in his life, ignoring what his environment or society expects him to. It is, last, about opening up & finding your soulmate, the one person whom you can share both your good & bad moments for the rest of your life, and how much more important is that vs. focusing only on career or retaining your convenience within your comfort zone. Absolutely recommended, both script & movie!

Realini says

Good Will Hunting by Matt Damon and Ben Affleck

This is a stupendous work that has launched the careers of Matt Damon and Ben Affleck. They have won both the Golden Globe and the Academy Award for their screenplay

Will Hunting is a hero, an Übermensch and a complicated, anxious, troubled young man, prone to violence. When the mathematics professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology writes a complicated equation, Will solves it.

But he is only a janitor at M.I.T.

This could be perceived as a confirmation of the calling theory, whereby janitors with a calling could be happier than white collar workers without one.

Only Will Hunting is very often in trouble.

He has had an unhappy childhood and he is now fighting very often, facing trial for various offences and crimes.

His mind is brilliant.

Without organized studies, he is able to quote from Howard Zinn and various history books when there is a challenge.

Chuckie is Will's best friend, aware of the possibilities and skills of his genius friend, for whom he sees a great future.

Will Hunting though is both admirable and repugnant in his attitude towards other people, which may make some sense.

It probably is difficult to see how outstanding his mind is, capable of so many operations unavailable to ordinary people.

One student is competing with Chuckie in a bar, showing off his prowess and the superior knowledge of history.

Will Hunting comes to the rescue and demonstrates the flaws of an education based on assimilation without analysis.

He points out the futility of reading various treaties without taking the trouble to think about them and interpret

- You have no personal contribution
- But I will have a degree
- So
- You will be serving my children in a drive through
- But I will be original...

Will Hunting is very keen on upsetting the analysts that he has to see as a condition for his release and parole.

He accuses one of being a homosexual, pretends to be hypnotized by another, inventing false childhood memories.

Finally he meets Sean, portrayed by the late, regretted Robin Williams, who has won the Academy Award for this role.

As somewhat expected, Will hunting starts on the wrong foot with this new analyst, offending him from the start.

Sean was more than in love with his wife, whom he had adored and Will hunting says that she was the wrong woman for him.

Sean's wife has died after a long suffering and he is so sensitive on the subject that he grabs the patient by the neck:

- I will kill you if you say something bad about my wife

Later on, the analyst is sharing memories with his new friend, Will, about how he met the woman of his life. It was before a World Series Game, for which Sean and his friends had waited all night to get tickets and got them.

But this was the day when he met the love of his life that became instantly more important than the game. Indeed, more important than anything else.

Finally, a quote from the clever script, that shows the brilliance of the writing, but also the fact that it can be somewhat exaggerated at times:

“Why shouldn't I work for the N.S.A.? That's a tough one, but I'll take a shot. Say I'm working at N.S.A. Somebody puts a code on my desk, something nobody else can break. Maybe I take a shot at it and maybe I break it. And I'm real happy with myself, 'cause I did my job well. But maybe that code was the location of some rebel army in North Africa or the Middle East. Once they have that location, they bomb the village where the rebels were hiding and fifteen hundred people I never met, never had no problem with, get killed. Now the politicians are sayin', "Oh, send in the Marines to secure the area" 'cause they don't give a shit. It won't be their kid over there, gettin' shot. Just like it wasn't them when their number got called, 'cause they were pullin' a tour in the National Guard. It'll be some kid from Southie takin' shrapnel in the ass. And he comes back to find that the plant he used to work at got exported to the country he just got back from. And the guy who put the shrapnel in his ass got his old job, 'cause he'll work for fifteen cents a day and no bathroom breaks. Meanwhile, he realizes the only reason he was over there in the first place was so we could

install a government that would sell us oil at a good price. And, of course, the oil companies used the skirmish over there to scare up domestic oil prices. A cute little ancillary benefit for them, but it ain't helping my buddy at two-fifty a gallon. And they're takin' their sweet time bringin' the oil back, of course, and maybe even took the liberty of hiring an alcoholic skipper who likes to drink martinis and fuckin' play slalom with the icebergs, and it ain't too long 'til he hits one, spills the oil and kills all the sea life in the North Atlantic. So now my buddy's out of work and he can't afford to drive, so he's got to walk to the fuckin' job interviews, which sucks 'cause the shrapnel in his ass is givin' him chronic hemorrhoids. And meanwhile he's starvin', 'cause every time he tries to get a bite to eat, the only blue plate special they're servin' is North Atlantic scrod with Quaker State. So what did I think? I'm holdin' out for somethin' better. I figure fuck it, while I'm at it why not just shoot my buddy, take his job, give it to his sworn enemy, hike up gas prices, bomb a village, club a baby seal, hit the hash pipe and join the National Guard? I could be elected president."

Steven Logan says

Very entertaining script.

Ashley says

Great Play. Some typos.

Really want to see my reaction when I compare this to the film (haven't seen the movie yet, so I'm reading the play first)!

some random notes:

- loyalty
- fear of abandonment
- competition
- enjoying your life; passion
- true happiness
- get out of the nest

Jacque Rose says

This is a movie for the ages. We all love romance, this story has beautiful relationship presented on the screen but that's not even the best part of the story. Good Will Hunting talks about a complex young man with an amazing gift, but things are blocking his potential. The most important relationship in this story to me is actually Will and Sean. The gifted, troubled kid and the wise therapist. The screenplay itself was written beautifully with clear descriptions and clear directions. The dialogue itself was intelligently written, we truly understand that the person talking is different and more gifted than us.

Carol says

"There are no finely drawn heroes or villains in the script. There is no right or wrong particularly-----there is something more like honor and dishonor within each character."

This wonderful screenplay, written by two lifelong friends, Matt Damon and Ben Affleck is set in South Boston as the central character, Will hides an enormous amount of past hurt while struggling to get-it-all-out with Sean, his appointed, quick-witted Psychology Professor....who has demons and sorrow of his own.

An orphan and self-educated young man, "smarter than the most decorated MIT professor", Will hangs out....and hides out emotionally with a "scrappy" and entertaining group of southie drinking buddies who would protect him with their very lives....as would be them. There is also a love interest for Will that tests his abhorrence for change and willingness to trust.

GOOD WILL HUNTING received a well-deserved Academy Award and Golden Globe for Best Original Screenplay in 1997.

Enjoyed the movie more with its few minor changes to script, but the screenplay with its introduction and black/white photos interspersed throughout was definitely a winner and quick read for me!

Mostafa El-sayed says

“Sometimes I wish I had never met you, because then I could go to sleep at night not knowing there was someone like you out there.”

Simon Sweetman says

It was quite interesting to read this - nearly twenty years on from seeing the film. I never quite saw the fuss (of either the film or the script) and was firmly in the camp that believed William Goldman wrote/'fixed' this...That's probably not true, but where are the other great scripts from this dynamic writing duo? Some fine dialogue though, when revisiting this. I think I'd struggle to make it through the film again and care in any way but I did enjoy reading the script; didn't quite expect that.

J.L. says

Using it for research. Big help.

Jasynda Pham says

In "Good Will Hunting", by Matt Damon, Will has committed so many crimes and he is on the verge of

going to jail but instead he works as a janitor at a high school and a professor acknowledges and finds a hidden talent that Will has. He is extremely intelligent and doesn't want to do anything about it because people look at him like he's a druggie or he's just a bad influence. In the middle of the book, he meets Skylar at a bar and instantly falls in love with her. Skylar goes to college at Harvard while Will works as a janitor at Massachusetts Institution of Technology(MIT). His therapist and professor want to help him get better, and they want him to teach as a professor but he refuses to do this because he believes that he is too smart and he doesn't want to teach students criteria he already understands. In the end, Will brings his life into his own means and realizes that being a professor is not what he wants to do, instead he goes for Skylar who moves to California to go to Stanford. I think that this book was not only inspiring at most points but it was fascinating. I like this book a lot because I just feel that this professor and his therapist made a huge impact on his life because they so strongly believed in his intelligence and he made many accomplishments in such an inconvenient way.

Chris Adams says

An interesting read. Seemed a bit more stilted on the page. Shows the value of a director and actors to really bring something, particularly a drama, to life.

Malika-Liki says

I first adored the movie and I just enjoy watching it again and again and I have the same pleasure with the screenplay. reading it again and again whole or part of itWOW.

Freddy says

It's especially fascinating to see the changes, however slight, made from script to film. After all, what sounds good on the page doesn't necessarily translate well on stage.

Jowie says

If you want a summary read the wikki but you should watch this movie because it is heart warming and accurately portrays real life characters.

Film are often credited for their character development and this film is no exception. Its clear cut with no extra bull, I appreciated the lack of needless scenes in this movie. Every place shown on camera had a meaning, every moment worked to add to character development. There was not a precious moment wasted in this wonderful work of art. The plot line is predictable but after consuming large amounts of media most movies are predictable. I appreciated the acting, dedication to the role and accuracy of the human behavior science and mathematics in this movie.

Rachael says

Profane, vulgar, tender, and yet, too simple on the page.
