



Au revoir, les enfants

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Provides the screenplay of Louis Malle's film about the friendship between a young Catholic boy and his Jewish friend, who is sent off to the Nazi death camps.

Au revoir, les enfants Details

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Author : Louis Malle

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From Reader Review Au revoir, les enfants for online ebook

Stacy Vasilenko says

Freaking amazing

booklady says

Unforgettable play based on the Catholic author's own childhood experiences and brief friendship with a Jewish boy temporarily housed @ his boarding school. All too short, piercing and piercingly insightful into the depths of the human heart, plumbing its best and worst.

Can be read in a single, long sitting. Parental discretion advised before just giving to youth, but the reality presented is young boys as they are; no sugar coating.

Excellent!

Megan says

I read this/watched the film as part of my French A Level, and I can honestly say I loved every minute. It's powerful, stunningly written, and absolutely heartbreaking. The relationship between Julian and Jean is so beautiful and yet so tragic.

Even if you don't understand French I'd still highly recommend you watch the movie with subtitles - although do keep some tissues handy!

Iolanthe says

absolutely gorgeous movie about how enmity can become friendship, which can become love.

Now don't get me wrong, I'm not implying that the two main characters are secretly lovers or in love with each other.

What I mean is that they form a strong connection, like brothers, that is beautiful to watch.

everyone talks about the end of the movie, but my favorite part of the movie was the way the relationship between Jean and Julien grows.

Fantastic movie to watch, good screenplay as well.

Ian says

I was wary about reading this book after watching the film several years ago and wondered whether it might be a let-down. Let-down it certainly wasn't and was every bit as engaging as the film.

The book, based on the authors own childhood experiences, is set during the Nazi occupation of France in

the second world war where some young Jewish fugitives are taken in as students at a boarding school and sheltered from the Vichy government. The story centres around the friendship that forms between Julien a Catholic student and one of the Jewish children Jean Bonnet.

There is so much going on with this book that it is difficult to say what I identified with most but for me watching the friendship between Julien and Jean transform into something much stronger was captivating.

Just as moving to read as it is to watch and there are English French-translated copies around too.

It's a well-deserved five from me.

Laura ????? says

Pour ne pas oublier...

(recensione del gennaio 2015)

Francia, 1944, durante l'occupazione tedesca.

In un collegio cattolico trovano rifugio, sotto falsa identità e grazie all'interessamento del direttore, tre ragazzini ebrei; a uno di questi, Jean, si lega d'amicizia con il dodicenne Julien che scoprirà a poco a poco la reale condizione dell'altro. Gli echi del conflitto si fanno inevitabilmente sempre più vicini e assordanti, tuttavia la vita dei ragazzi prosegue là dentro tra lo studio e tutto ciò che fa parte del passaggio dall'infanzia all'adolescenza; tutto relativamente tranquillo, pur tra la non abbondanza di cibo e, all'occorrenza, le corse ai rifugi antiaerei. In attesa dello sbarco alleato che già si sente nell'aria.

Ma, come in genere accade, la guerra incattivisce gli animi e infine qualcuno denuncia la presenza dei tre giovani ebrei. Così, una mattina d'inverno, i nazisti fanno irruzione nell'istituto, arrestando Jean e i suoi compagni, come pure il direttore che li aveva accolti per sottrarli alla deportazione probabilmente già toccata ai loro familiari. Bella la figura di quest'ultimo personaggio, Padre Jean, un uomo giusto che risponde alla propria coscienza prima che alle leggi dell'occupante straniero e del governo collaborazionista. Lui e i tre ragazzi moriranno nei campi di concentramento tedeschi.

Una appassionante e commovente lettura, goduta in lingua originale e personalmente scelta in occasione dell'ormai prossima Giornata della Memoria: pour ne pas oublier, jamais... Per non dimenticare, mai... Perché i drammi di ieri, pur cambiando i protagonisti, rischiano di ripresentarsi anche oggi.

Scritto dal regista Louis Malle che s'ispirò a un ricordo della propria infanzia, "Au revoir, les enfants" è un lavoro destinato al cinema; infatti, risale al 1987 l'omonimo film, Leone d'Oro a Venezia nello stesso anno.

La scena finale da cui prende il titolo l'opera: https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_co...

Realini says

Au Revoir les Enfants, written and directed by Louis Malle

This is an arresting, monumental film, one of the best ever made, with a worthwhile, remarkable, unforgettable narrative about the ordeal suffered by the Jewish people and those who tried to help them, at the hands of the Gestapo and the Nazis, during the awful period of World War II.

In the first scene, Madame Quentin is at the railway station with her two sons, the elder Francois and one of the heroes of this motion picture, the younger Julien Quentin, as the boys depart for studies, away from the danger of war and the German Conquistadores and their abuses.

This family is rich, so much so that the father takes offence when parents visit children at the Catholic boarding school and the father superior, Jean, has a sermon that insists on wealth that corrupts souls and he quotes the famous, but often unheeded passage that mentions "it would be more difficult for a wealthy man to enter heaven than for the camel to pass through the needle"

Julien Quentin meets the other main character of this feature, Jean Bonnet, and the former learns early on that the real name of the latter is not Bonnet but something like Blumenfeld and after this discovery, made by prying into the boy's locker; he keeps asking questions that Jean does not wish to answer.

During World War II, the fascists hunted Jewish people and other minorities and communities that they saw as inferior to their own, supposedly superior Arian stock, and sent them to die in the gas chambers of Auschwitz and other such terrible, death camps.

When they talk about letters and communication, Jean Bonnet explains with grief that his father is a prisoner and he has not heard from his mother, who lives in the free territory of France, which attracts a protest from his interlocutor, who points out that there is no part of the country unoccupied.

In the Catholic school, the situation seems to be rather normal, especially when considering the destitution associated with the war, even when taking into account the cold that is ever present and makes students complain, because they suffer from it in class and the dormitories, where given their large numbers, they at least benefit from the warmth emanated by so many bodies.

Julien is still wetting his bed at night and this attracts the scorn and mockery of colleagues who start shouting about it, as soon as they notice it, but the boy explains to his Jewish friend that, during his sleep, he feels very good, has the sensation that all is fine, he can pee and then he wakes up all wet around the stomach.

The boys are involved in a sort of black market, as they exchange goods, mostly food they receive with Joseph, a young man, Joseph, who is not studying, but is employed as a sort of a help at the kitchen, where he felt he would do well, but now complains that the cook is worse than the alternative.

In exchange for jam, pate and other rather rare delicacies, Joseph provides what his trading partners want, which is often cigarettes and sometimes it involves money, only he also steals from the supplies and that would attract punishment, which in turn would show a despicable side of this man, who is responsible for the death of innocent teenagers.

One day, as they take part in a treasure hunt, Julien and Jean lose their way and the former finds the treasure, only it is late and they would have to be back, inside the walls of the boarding school and as they reach a road, a car is approaching and some Nazi soldiers come out, and the boy who is aware of his dangerous situation runs away from the enemy.

Later on, when the parents come to visit on the special day dedicated to this gathering, Jean has nobody to see him and his friend convinces his mother to take him along at the restaurant, in the city nearby, where a patrol of collaborationists enters the hall, asking for paper and insulting a man who had Jewish papers and therefore was not allowed inside.

A young, good looking girl plays the piano and she is the only female to walk in the premises where teachers and students are all male, attracting all the attention- well, almost all- as she plays the instrument in class and also during the projection of motion pictures with Charlie Chaplin.

One day, Joseph steals from the food supplies and is discovered by the cook and the father superior is calling those seven who traded with him, tells them they are not expelled only because he knows their parents, only the thief is dismissed, in spite of his protests and the fact that he has no place to sleep.

Alas, he finds a solution to that very quickly and he calls on the Gestapo with information, which would have

disastrous effects and prompts the thought that Emotional Intelligence was not used in dealing with this case, although it has to be underlined that those who decided to punish, perhaps a bit too harshly, the young criminal would have to suffer much more than he did.

The boys are in class, and their teacher is placing the combatants on the map, stating that London Radio programs indicate that the Soviets have pushed the fascists far into the Ukraine, allies are fighting near Monte Casino, but Paris Radio, still controlled by the Vichy regime, gives other coordinates for battles.

As Aristotle advocated, the golden mean would suggest that the best option lies not in the extremes, but in the middle and the professor opines that the front line is probably in between the longitudes given by the two opposing media sources.

The Gestapo enters the room and the officer takes down the marks for these battles on the line and talks about the superiority of the German soldier, who has discipline, a quality that is lacking in the French, at least according to this messenger from Hades, who is there to take people to death...

This jewel, chef d'oeuvre has wonders in many places, including the scene where teenage boys discuss religion:

- "St. Thomas's proofs of God's existence don't hold water..."
- I do not agree. Since we can imagine God, he must exist.
- That is just sophistry. At least Bergson seeks transcendence in science."

Beyond Words says

J'aime la perspective de l'enfant pendant la deuxième guerre mondiale. Cela nous montre des personnes catholiques et d'autres qui sont juifs. Il y avait plusieurs circonstances qui est arrivé. Ce n'est pas le meilleur, mais c'est bon.

Daphne says

That ending though...

This is one of the most heart-wrenching books I have ever read. It's up there with *The Book Thief* and *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*.

I normally don't like books for school, especially if they're in French like this one, but I absolutely adored this. It was a bit slow at first, but as it progressed you really learned to love the characters, especially Julien and Bonnet.

I loved how accurately this novel portrayed friendship. Julien and Bonnet's relationship didn't seem forced in any way. They went from classmates that didn't particularly like each other, to best friends. They were the kind of friends everyone wishes they had.

And the ending... It breaks my heart every time I think about it.

I can't wait to watch the movie. I'm sure it will be even more amazing and heartbreaking as the book.

Emilie says

Ça fait des années que ce livre poirotte sur mon étagère car j'ai jugé le livre selon la personne qui me l'a donné...je suis très contente de l'avoir lu aujourd'hui, malgré le fait que ce soit triste, comme c'est basé sur de vraies incidents. C'est simple, bien écrit et émouvante. Par contre, suis-je la seule à y trouver des échos des Choristes?

Cait says

Why do they have to do this to me, I'm internally crying (rarely cry on the outside) from this damn book.

If you speak French then just read it, if you don't then watch the movie I don't care just make this story known to you. I don't think I could ever forget it.

China Bialos says

About ten years ago, this was my introduction to Louis Malle. It was subtle, tragic with just the right amount of comedy, beautifully done. And having the privilege of finding and reading its screenplay offered me the chance to realize that an excellent movie starts with excellent writing. This was written perfectly enough that I picture little direction having been needed. Just as moving to read as it was to watch.

Sarah Dorothea says

4 out of 5 stars! ?? Une très belle histoire d'une amitié de deux garçons sous l'Occupation en France. Le récit est rédigé d'une manière extrêmement réaliste. Le livre m'a beaucoup touché, c'est sûr!

Ce dont le livre parle: *Le film se déroule durant l'hiver 1943-1944, dans une France occupée. Julien qui a 12 ans, fils d'une famille bourgeoise, est pensionnaire au petit collège Saint Jean de la Croix, tenu par les pères carmes. Il retrouve le chemin de l'école sans joie après les vacances de Noël, pour le deuxième trimestre. Une rentrée presque comme les autres jusqu'à ce que le père Jean vienne présenter trois nouveaux élèves. L'un d'entre eux, le jeune Jean Bonnet, est le voisin de dortoir de Julien. Les deux élèves se jaugent, Julien est intrigué par Jean, garçon fier, mutique et mystérieux un temps rejeté par l'ensemble de la classe. Après s'être observés mutuellement, ils s'apprivoisent au jour le jour et un lien d'amitié se crée entre eux. Julien finit par comprendre le secret de son ami, son nom n'est pas Bonnet mais Kippelstein, il est juif. Un froid matin de janvier, à la suite d'une dénonciation, la Gestapo fait irruption dans le collège.*

The Cute Little Brown-haired girl says

This was "suggested reading" when I took French in high school I absolutely loved this story. Well written and beautifully discribed. Though I needed an English/French dictionary at my side and it took a good month to get through it, I absolutely loved it. If you need a "boost" to want to read it, it is out on DVD. If you read French, you shouldn't miss this one.

So92 says

Louis Malle évoque dans ce livre une expérience qui a profondément marqué son adolescence et toute sa vie. Pendant la deuxième guerre mondiale, la vie d'un group de garçons dans un collège religieux est brusquement bouleversée par l'irruption des nazis.

Assegnato dalla professoressa di francese come compito delle vacanze nell'estate 2007, l'ho letto in poco tempo. È stata la mia prima esperienza di copione cinematografico: ha la capacità di farti entrare nel vivo della situazione, quasi come se ti trovassi davvero tra i letti del dormitorio e sentissi aleggiare nell'aria la paura, l'attesa, ma anche la straordinaria voglia di vivere di quei ragazzini di tanto tempo fa. Questo libro fa riflettere sulla potenza dell'amicizia, ma anche sulla crudeltà degli uomini e sul coraggio di chi si oppone a tutto ciò. Grandioso il personaggio del frate è veramente toccanti le scene della 'scoperta' di Bonnet e dell'arresto di tutti gli ebrei. Lascia purtroppo l'amaro in bocca per il finale tragico.
