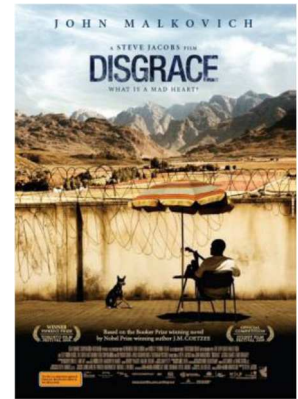


Disgrace

Directed by Steve Jacobs
2008 (120')



Disgrace, set in 1990s post-apartheid South Africa, is the story of David Lurie, professor of English at Cape Town University. Lurie suddenly finds himself disgraced, resigns his position and leaves the city to stay with his daughter on her small isolated farm. A terrible incident on the farm will leave both Lurie and his daughter scarred and changed forever, and force them to confront the new realities of life in the country.

The film is based on the highly acclaimed novel by J. M. Coetzee, the Nobel Prize-winning South African writer.

Vocabulary and expressions:

A nest of vipers: Used to refer to a terrible, wicked place.

We never thought we were sending our daughter into a nest of vipers.

To get the wrong end of the stick: An expression used to say someone has completely misunderstood something.

Help me God if I have the wrong end of the stick.

To push on: To continue with a task or a journey.

If we could push on ...

To plead guilty: To officially state that you are guilty or responsible for a crime or wrongdoing.

I plead guilty to all charges.

To enrich sb/sth: To make sb/sth richer or improve its quality.

I was enriched by the experience.

To give sb a hand: To help sb do sth.

Piquancy: If something has piquancy it has a quality that is stimulating to the mind (a formal word).

You should give him a hand?

Give Petrus a hand? ... I like the historical piquancy.

To hit it off with sb: If two people hit it off they like each other and

become friends as soon as they meet.

To do sth out of the goodness of your heart: To do sth out of generosity or kindness and not for payment or reward.

Don't expect to get paid. You'll have to do it out of the goodness of your heart.

A grant: Financial support (usually from a state organisation).

To put an animal down: To kill an animal (usually because the animal is sick, old or dangerous).

To mind: To care or be disturbed about something.

I do mind. I mind deeply.

To pick up where you left off: To start from the point where you previously stopped.

We can't just pick up where we left off.

Lines from the film:

David's ex-wife: Will you be able to resume your post?

David: I'm not sure if I'll want to.

Member of enquiry to David: There's a difference between pleading guilty and admitting you were wrong.

Petrus: She is forward-looking, Lucy. Not backward-looking.

Petrus: The boy is not a criminal. He is not guilty. He is too young.

Lucy (talking about her attackers): I think they've marked me. Maybe they see me as owing something. And they see themselves as debt-collectors.

David to Melanie's family: I ask you all forgiveness.

Lucy: I'm a woman, David. Do you think I hate children? Must I choose against the child because of who the father is?

David: How humiliating to end like this.

Lucy: Yes, I agree.

David: Like a dog.

Lucy: Yes, like a dog.

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