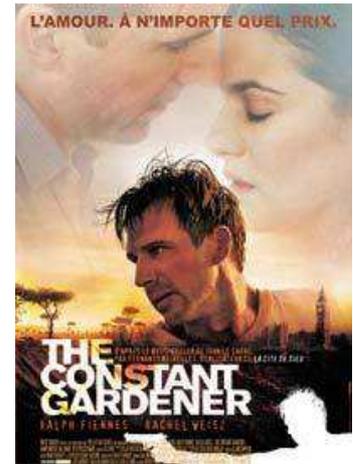


The constant gardener

Director: Fernando Meirelles
2005 (123')



A British diplomat's wife is found murdered in Kenya. The official line is that it was a crime of passion involving a jealous lover. But events soon lead her husband to question this line and we follow him as he begins his own investigation to find out what really happened. This leads not only to the murky world of big business and its marriage to the establishment but also to a rediscovery of his own marriage and the work his wife did which would ultimately lead to her death.

The Constant Gardener is based upon the novel by John Le Carré and directed by Fernando Meirelles whose previous film was Cidade de Deus (City of God).

Vocabulary and expressions:

To skive: To do nothing when you should, for example, be working or studying

You caught me skiving.

Old chap: Form of address used by one man to another (dated expression often used by the upper classes in England)

Feeble: Weak; without strength or force

You tried to protect me very feebly.

You weren't feeble.

Dull: Boring; uninteresting

It was a dull lecture.

Bollocks: Rubbish; nonsense (offensive term)

It was absolute bollocks.

Flattered: Feel pleased, special or important by something that has happened

I'm flattered.

A Cock-up: When something is ruined or messed up by doing something

wrong

Raving mad: Completely insane

She's raving mad

To rein in: To control somebody or something that is considered to have had too much freedom

They've asked you to rein me in.

To rant: To say foolish things in a loud or angry manner

He's just ranting.

Keep an eye on somebody or something: Pay attention to or watch carefully

I'm supposed to keep an eye on you.

I'll be right down: I'll be with you very soon

Staggering: Very, very surprising or shocking

Chuck in: Give up; relinquish; stop

Shambles: Complete mess or disorder

Chuck in your shambles of a marriage.

Likely: Probable

That's looking likely.

To be cleared: To be proved not guilty of a crime or mistake

You've been cleared.

Crude: Unsophisticated; without delicacy

He's a crude sort of chap.

To blub: To cry

Sorry about the blubbing.

Ravenous: Very hungry

I am ravenous.

Sweetheart: Term of endearment to a loved one (similar to darling)

To land on your feet: To come out of a situation successfully

I expect he'll land on his feet.

To take kindly to something: To be pleased by something

To blackmail somebody: To threaten to do something unpleasant to someone unless they do something you tell them to do

I don't take kindly to being blackmailed.

To betray somebody: To let down, hurt or disappoint somebody who trusts or loves you

I betrayed her.

Silly sod: Foolish person

Besotted: If you are besotted with someone, you like them so much that you seem foolish or silly

Silly sod was besotted with her.

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