

Revolutionary Road

Director: Sam Mendes
2007 (109')



Frank and April Wheeler are the cool young couple that other couples aspire to be and parents want their kids to grow up to be. Or so it seems from the outside looking in. Falling in love, getting married, having children and moving to a lovely house with a garden in the suburbs – who could ask for more? Frank and April ask for more and their failure to get it leads to boredom and despair. If only they could break out of their perfect trap and be different! Maybe they can and soon they hatch the plan to escape their monotony and save their marriage. If only...

Revolutionary Road is based on the novel by Richard Yates and is set in mid-1950s USA when people were supposed to believe in the American Dream. In Yates' version the dream turns to disillusionment and the perfect couple begin to tear each other apart.

Vocabulary and Expressions

Longshoreman: Person who works on the docks loading and unloading ships (US)

Pass something (e.g. information) along: Tell or send something you have learned to another person

- *You have a very talented wife*
- *Well, I'll pass it along*

Get or become mixed up in something: To become involved in something that is negative or has negative consequences

- *I shouldn't have let you get mixed up in the damned thing!*

Show somebody the ropes: To show someone who is new to a situation how things are done

- *I can show you the ropes*

To do somebody the world of good: To describe a situation or action which is very beneficial to someone

- *It would do him the world of good to meet a young couple like you*

To be off: This is often said just before you leave a place

- *Well, I must be off*

To scoot: To go or leave (inf.)

- *I must scoot*

Toodle-oo: Sometimes used to say goodbye (inf.)

To cut out: To leave (inf.)

- *I guess I'd better be cutting out*

Swell: If you say that someone or something is swell you say that is very nice or good

- *Listen, you were swell - It was a swell breakfast*

To figure something out: To understand how something works or functions

- *I suppose I'm going to finally figure out what I want to do with my life*

To be tickled to death: To be very happy about something that has happened

- *They are tickled to death in Toledo*

A horse's ass: If you say someone is a horse's ass you are saying they are an idiot

- *What a horse's ass!*

The funny farm: An informal term for a mental hospital

To take off: To leave (usually on a journey)

- *I'm quitting the job in the fall. We're taking off*

Guts: Courage or bravery

- *It takes real guts to see the hopelessness*

Sleep on it: Used when telling someone to think something over with time before making a decision

I guess: 'I guess' is used frequently in US English instead of 'I suppose'

- *I guess your dad would have been real proud, huh?*
- *Yeah, I guess so*

To get cold feet: Expression used when saying someone has changed their mind about something because they are a bit nervous or afraid of what will happen

To give somebody a lift: Used here to describe a situation that has made you feel more positive

- *It gives me such a lift to see it all perked up and spanking clean again*

Whimsical: Unusual; playful; unpredictable

- *They were a bit whimsical for my taste. A bit neurotic.*

Trying: If someone or something is trying it is problematic or difficult to deal with

- They were very trying people to deal with in many ways