

Script Coverage

The Dance Hall Bitch

By Terry McMahon

Amazing. Beautiful. Heart wrenching. Funny. Violent. Endearing. Complex.

Summary:

Isaac- pathetic grown man still living with his parents, failing his 7th adult education writing class, in love with a woman from his class who he has nothing to say to- decides to make a definite action for the first time in his life so that he finally can find inspiration for his writing.

He decides to get arrested so he makes a pathetic attempt to rob a grocery store with a plastic gun, and just barely lands himself in prison. Once there he begins to receive visits from Julie, the girl from his writing class, who happened to be working at the grocery store he tried to rob. She is timid and sad in her own way, but feels a connection with Isaac so she continues to see him and their relationship grows.

Meanwhile, Isaac is so naïve he begins to think of his cellmate, Jack, as his best friend, but even though he is brotherly with Isaac, we know he is plotting something. Soon we see that he has plans for Isaac to become the prison bitch. He forces Isaac to wear women's clothing and then sells him off to be raped by the fellow inmates and even a guard. Isaac almost loses all soul, even attempting suicide. It is only through Julie's strength that he finds it in him to stand up to Jack. The climax is brilliant, with Julie stabbing Jack in the visitor's room to give Isaac courage, and Isaac stands up to Jack along with every weak inmate who has always fearfully watched the raping from the sidelines.

Isaac gets out of jail, met by Julie, and Jack becomes the new victim, having to listen to the same speech he once gave Isaac about who has control.

Thoughts:

The three main characters, Jack, Isaac, and Julie are amazing and complex; done well, even Oscar worthy. Most complex is Jack, who ranges from being truly gentle and tender to vulgar and violent. I love the complexity of it because each side is so truthful, the tenderness is not an act, nor is the violence, and each time he is gentle the audience feels a new sense of security with him, just as Isaac does. These roles give the actors so much to work with, to draw so much from within themselves to give reason to how each of these characters came to be who they are.

The relationships between the characters are brilliant as well; from the shy, gentle, and awkward relationship between Julie and Isaac, to the brotherly and violent relationship between Jack and Isaac.

It is a chance for the audience to experience a range of emotions. There are laugh out loud moments, moments of fear, and of great sadness and empathy for the characters. This would be a great movie.