

Movie review

by Andrew Mckenzy

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Into The Wild by Michael Brook

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Into The Wild by Michael Brook

Introduction

This movie reminds me of a wild horse, captured and tethered on a tree, its struggles to break free and the uncertainty of its life once it manages to free itself. By watching the movie, I realize that people can also be wild; leave the path set for them, break loose from the chains and venture into a free life full of uncertainties. Christopher Mccandless, later Alexander Supertramp, is driven by everything he hates about his life to leave his home, family, friends and identity. He dreams of a life where he would not have to be like his parents; educated, wealthy yet desperate for love and affection. He ventures into a path that is wild and that many consider deadly.

The explicit meaning of this movie is that true happiness does not always lie in material possessions. Though Christopher lives a self-sufficient life, nothing in it makes him happy. His parents define happiness by education and wealth, a definition that he is not willing to accept. The main aim of his wild venture is to find true happiness. Christopher donates his savings to the OXFAM charity organization to prove that true happiness does not lie in worldly riches. He also burns down all the remaining money in an attempt to survive free from any external influence. Christopher manages to stay in the wild for a while without cash. He only feeds on game meat, takes a bath in the river, reads his books and sleeps in the magical bus. At this point, his life seems perfect, and he finds happiness in everything he encounters. Though Christopher realizes that money is essential for survival, his joy does not rely on having it. He finds happiness and company in the people he meets, nature, books, adventures, and memories he makes during his

wild venture. He abandons riches and works on Wayne's farm to earn enough money to simplify his life, a sign that he only needed what he could use and not any surplus or riches.

The implicit meaning in the movie *Into the Wild* is that self-discovery helps people live a satisfactory life. Christopher's venture into the wild is not just an adventure; it is a journey of self-discovery. He intends to find himself away from the self that he has known all his life. In the search for identity, Christopher is reborn. First, he gets rid of anything that would link him to his own identity. He then takes up a new name and becomes Alexander Supertramp to all those he meets during his travels. His new life is created in different stages from birth, adolescence to manhood. During these stages, he meets many people like Jan, Rainey, Wayne, Ron and other hippies who change his outlook on life. The characters he meets prove helpful in his journey of self-discovery. Supertramp, unlike Christopher, blends with nature. He lets go of his troubles and even talks to nature like the super apple. However, even Supertramp does not forget the life of Christopher; he remembers his family and reminisces the quarrels between his parents. He longs to go back, but every time he finds a reason not to. Though Supertramp spends more than a year trying to discover himself and find true happiness, it is only on his deathbed that he realizes he was himself all along. He realized that Supertramp was still Christopher and was most happy when he had people around him. However, this realization comes too late when he is weak and unable to turn back time. All that is left is regret.

Before I watched this *Into the Wild*, I expected it would be full of everything found in the wild, like animals, flora and fauna. I pictured a documentary of a scientist venturing into the wild to study animals and plants. The movie met my expectations in that there were many types of animals and plants. Christopher depended mainly on the meat from the animals he hunted for survival. Though he ate plants, the confusion of two almost identical plants led to his poisoning

and ultimate death. However, some of my expectations were not met as no scientist researched any plants or animals. It was just a story of a man who left the easy domesticated life and went in search of happiness in the wild and untamed world where he received a new life and ended up dead. Altogether, this version of the story was just as exciting and full of lessons as the one I had imagined.

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