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Should I Watch The Movie *Grave of the Fireflies* ?

The movie *Grave of the Fireflies* is an animated film directed by Isao Takahata released on July twenty six, nineteen eighty nine in the United States. This movie is about a young teenager and his little sister battling to survive in Japan during World War two. In the beginning of the film we see the young teenager, his little sister and their mother packing their things to go to a shelter because the Americans are dropping bombs in their town so they need to evacuate. While the teenage son is packing his stuff the mother says that she is going to start heading out and that they will meet at the shelter. While the mother runs to the shelter the teenage son and his little sister stays home grabbing the last of their stuff so they can meet their mother at the shelter. They get to the shelter but one of the chiefs in charge calls the teenager over to tell him some unpleasant news. Sadly the news was to tell him that their mother was horribly injured by one of the bombs and that she was not going to make it. The teenager was starstruck when he got the news but he had to keep his head up because he was left all alone with his sister. Where is the father? You may ask, the father was a soldier fighting in the war and they have not seen him for many years. This was going to be a long journey for the young tennager and his little sister.

I watched this movie two times and the reason why is because the first time I wanted to watch the movie with a blank head. That meant just sitting back, grabbing some popcorn and watching the movie. The second time I wanted to pay attention to everything that was going on in the movie and really dig in deep into what the movie was trying to show us the audience. Now

to answer the golden question, did I like the movie or should I recommend this movie to my friends to watch? The answer is... NO! I did not like the movie for many reasons. Don't get me wrong it is not a terrible movie but I wouldn't watch it again and I wouldn't want to recommend this movie to anybody. For starters the movie made me fall asleep twice and it was difficult to really understand the plot of the movie. You know in most movies there's a plot to the story but in this movie even watching it two times I couldn't find it. The movie was really confusing and it was difficult to be engaged.

Another reason why I did not like the movie was because it was really intense and too emotional for me. Seeing the burnt dead bodies laying around there because of the bombs the Americans would drop and seeing the mother's body wrapped with bandages was disturbing. Even though the movie was animated I still felt the chills seeing all that in cartoon form, I have no idea how I would react if it was filmed regularly with human actors. The movie shows a lot of variety in it but I feel like they needed to organize it more and have a more organized format. There might be people that understood the message and liked the movie, but in my opinion the movie could have been better with a more organized story line.

Watching this movie was a huge accomplishment for me because I don't usually watch movies that I am not familiar with . I either watch movies with actors that I am familiar with or movies with actors that share something in common with my favorite actors, but most likely I keep it safe and watch movies that I know I am going to like. My favorite genre of movies are usually either comedies or action movies. This particular movie was more like an animated drama with a hint of adventure. The reason why is because throughout the movie they show how these two kids had to live on their own without any money or family. They had family but they either did not want anything to do with them or they lost touch. It is very interesting how they

managed to survive off of trading. The reason why they traded is because they didn't have money to eat but they did manage to save some things from their home to trade. They would purchase items that were very rare in those times and that was white rice and wheats. We can see that they show that back in the day when there was no money there was a need for trade in society.

To conclude this movie review I can say that watching this movie I did learn something and that is to value family. You never know what just might happen where you may need some support from your family members. If after reading this review you are interested in watching the movie go for it. Maybe it didn't make a huge impact in my life but maybe it will in yours.