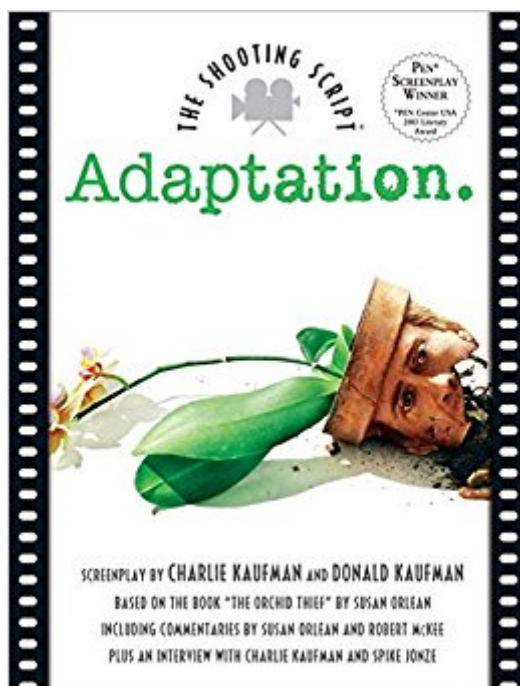


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Adaptation: The Shooting Script



Synopsis

One of the most talked about scripts of the year, *Adaptation* is the story of an orchid collector (Chris Cooper), a journalist (Meryl Streep, as author Susan Orlean), and the screenwriter (Charlie Kaufman, played by Nicolas Cage) who, in adapting Orlean's bestselling book *The Orchid Thief*, writes himself and his twin brother (also played by Cage) into the movie. In the foreword, written exclusively for this Newmarket edition, Orlean reveals her own struggle to tell the story of the orchid, and her delight that "strangely, marvelously, hilariously, Kaufman's screenplay has ended up not being a literal *Adaptation* of my book, but a spiritual one." In a fascinating interview, Kaufman and Jonze take readers behind the scenes of *Adaptation* and their other films to speak about how they collaborate, where truth and fiction diverge, the challenges of balancing various storylines, why they do not like to comment on the meaning of their work, and Kaufman's approach to writing: "I try to write in the midst of confusion and be strong enough to stay there, rather than swim to the shore of some kind of conclusion." Finally, screenwriting guru Robert McKee's commentary attempts to analyze Kaufman's work, identifying many of his themes including "that grand twentieth-century preoccupation with the Self." In the acclaimed Newmarket Shooting Script series format, the book includes the complete screenplay, Orlean's foreword, the interview with Kaufman and Jonze, McKee's critical commentary, 24 black-and-white stills, and cast and crew credits.

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Customer Reviews

'Kaufman is one of Hollywood's hottest... his scripts are like the products of chaos theory' Time Magazine, April 2002 --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Charlie Kaufman previously collaborated with director Spike Jonze on *Being John Malkovich*, which was nominated for the Academy Award[®] for Best Screenplay. Kaufman's other scripts include *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*, *Human Nature*, and *Confessions of a Dangerous Mind*. Robert McKee teaches his 3Story Structure² class annually to sold out auditoriums in Los Angeles, New York, London and film capitals throughout the world. A Fulbright Scholar, this award-winning film and television writer has also served as project and talent development consultant to major production companies such as Tri-Star and Golden Harvest Films. He lives in Los Angeles and Cornwall, England.

The Blu-ray is an improvement over the DVD version. The image quality is slightly better with an image that fills the whole screen. Sound quality is very improved, not just louder but more vivid and detailed. The movie seems to be about pursuing your personal passion while not making yourself vulnerable to life's tragic disappointments--death, disease, and sorrow. I don't believe Charlie Kaufman is one of these people who believes that suffering makes us better and happier. But he does believe that we all pursue our passions in the context of a real world with real demands and consequences. Charlie's brother Donald dies; Susan's lover John dies, too. Both successful writers have passionate alter-egos that they need to confront and learn to control. Donald's memory and John Laroche's memory inspire Charlie and Susan to live their lives more eagerly--but the idea of following your dream and throwing caution to the winds--that's not what I got out of the movie. Spike Jonze and Charlie Kaufman must be one of the great screen collaborations. I prefer *Adaptation* over *Being John Malkovich*. How Jonze and Kaufman ever had successful careers in the movie business gives all of us hope in the movie industry.

I'm not going to make any comment on the film itself, which is one of those pieces that sticks, even if you don't quite get it, and even if you (like so many others out there) don't like Nicolas Cage. Suffice it to say that I think this film would deserve an upgrade every time there's a new digital format, but 1) the available transfers are not THERE yet; and 2) this disc has as many extras as a VHS tape. If you already own it on DVD, it wouldn't make too much sense to buy the BR. Now, if you're new to the film, by all means, go get the BD: the slight improvement in both sound and image will make for a better experience. It's not a bad transfer. Let's say it's solid enough. But it's not like

Jonze's "Her" by a good ten miles.

Surprisingly, this film is deceptive. Quite a rarified look from Cage, who who first see sweating profusely and about to require CPR. There's this rather dull set up and I will admit I came quite close to reaching for the plue, but something held me back. I don't think I could have foreseen the direction this process was headed, but I was suddenly very glad I had stayed on. Cage, Mr. "Go Ahead, Dislike Me" at every role, has a fun side. Absent goofy fun, or pratfalls. I am referring more to the subtle changes in his stance, his gaze, his body language became his art. I found him fascinating, and I do not use that word lightly. Very pleased with the quirk of the story, and who becomes a hero vs who deserves to be a hero. I thought Streep held her range, only slightly dismissive, but totally willing to pursue opportunity, when available. The web woven here is between good and bad, but it won't be until the blistering end that the final pieces fall into place. It's part love, part satire, part foul murder (?) - but you have to watch it first. I think any film where Nicolas Cage laughs and smiles is one to watch, sheer reversal of his always grim visage.

Charlie Kaufman has once again blown my mind. After seeing movies that he has written for, (like *Eternal Sunshine* and *Being John Malkovich*), I am not surprised that he did an amazing job constructing a good story that keeps you on your toes til the end. This is one of those movies that I can watch over and over yet still be surprised each time I do. I felt so much emotions, especially near the end. I bought this movie because it was recommended and it is also a Nicolas Cage movie (one of my favorite actors). If you have the chance, watching the movie. Give it a shot. Every moment is precious so don't let anything interrupt you.

Adaptation is a funny yet thought provoking movie that sets the standards to meta-cinema. The story is based on a novel named *The Orchid Thief* by Susan Orlean (Meryl Streep), but main story of this movie centers around the writer of the movie itself Charlie Kaufman (Nicholas Cage), who is trying but failing to adapt *The Orchid Thief* on the big screen. And that is all you need to know about the movie. This is metafiction at its best core. Spike Lee delivers this movie on a self-aware level with a great by the writer himself that is hard to do in movie. The cast is fantastic in this movie with great performances.

It's *An Okay Movie*. At first i was confused with the characters that nicolas cage played. but then i got it. Meryl Streep on the other hand was marvelous and so was Chris Cooper. i love the ending to

this movie. just that it is a bit confusing but if you pay real close attention you'll understand it. I watched it twice to understand it good.

Meta. That's this movie. It's meta in just the kind of way that tickles me. It's tough to review this movie without spoiling anything. Here's what I appreciated about the film: it's a movie about a screenwriter who's run out of ideas for a project he's signed on to complete; it's about what he does in his efforts to complete the film, and it's about how the screenplay on which he's working finds its way. The screenplay takes on a life of its own and does what it must for our protagonist to achieve his mission. And it's a meta-commentary. About what, I can't say without giving away key plot elements that are much more fun to discover than to be told about... So give it a try. Unless you're not in a mood to think about the movie you're watching. Then find something else.

I have read *The Orchid Thief* and visited the Fakahatchee Strand, so I was very interested in this movie. It is a very strange movie when you consider it is taken from the book. It was entertaining.

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