

Film Title and Release Date: *Charade* (1963)

Film Length in Minutes: 115 minutes

Film Genre: Thriller/Mystery

Reviewer Name and Grade: Alyssa P. 9th Grade

Date Reviewed: July 27, 2020

In Paris in 1963, Regina Lampert returns from holiday in the Swiss Alps, where she met a memorable man named Peter Joshua, and stayed with her friend Sylvie Gaudet and her lovable, yet mischievous son John-Louis. On this trip, she decided to divorce her current husband, Charles Lampert, for she feels they don't love each other. Upon arrival at their apartment, she swings open the door to find all the contents of her apartment lost. The Parisian police inspector notifies her that her husband Charles sold all of their belongings, and attempted to escape Paris, but was murdered when he tried. Regina is left with his travel belongings; in a sports bag is a letter addressed to her, a ship ticket to Venezuela, toiletries, and four passports with multiple names in multiple countries, and the chilling notion that Charles is not who she thought he was. At Charles' wake, the number of attendees were few and far between. Three men arrive to view his body and ensure he is no longer alive. Regina is later summoned to an office at the American Embassy, where she is informed by C.I.A. Agent Hamilton Bartholomew that those three men, and another man by the name of Carson Dyle and her husband Charles were involved in an O.S.S. operation to deliver \$250,000 in gold to the French Resistance, but never completed the task. She learns that instead, they stole it for themselves. Charles double-crossed the others and kept the riches for himself. The three men are after the missing fortune, and believe Regina has it, despite the fact that she had no idea about this before just then. They will do everything in their power to get the money, and that includes hunting Regina for it. She is in great danger. Regina leaves this meeting with this newfound information, fear, and a wary eye. The man she met in the Alps, Peter Joshua, reunites with Regina in Paris, and relocates her to a hotel. The three criminals go after her, and Peter protects her, but even he isn't who he claims to be. He is not the only one she knows living under an alias; or multiple. In this surprising thriller, Regina is tasked with protecting herself and finding the money, whilst not being able to trust anyone. This thrilling classic will keep you on the edge of your seat, asking 'who? where? and why?' learning that people aren't always who they seem to be.

How did you find the film on Kanopy?

I found the film by searching for classics. I was curious to see their selection, and I set a goal to watch more classic movies this summer, but with the library closed, until recently I didn't have the ability to watch them. I was happy to find it because this was a movie I really wanted to see for a long time.

Did the plot keep you interested?

The plot was very engaging. I adored how witty and three-dimensional the characters were, the interesting setting and storyline that kept me on my toes. *Charade* was a film filled with intrigue. It was an extraordinary piece.

Was the pace of the film too fast, too slow, or just right?

The pace of the film was perfect.

What grade level(s) is this film appropriate for?

I would suggest this movie to anyone above the fifth grade. Not because it is inappropriate in any way, just because as an older kid they may appreciate the material and depth of the story more.

I would rate the film with: *Five Stars*.

The film was absolutely amazing. I loved everything about it. I loved the character arcs of Regina and Peter Joshua, the CIA Agent by the name of 'Hamilton Bartholomew', and the three men who were after her. The setting, Paris, was absolutely breathtaking from start to finish; as well as Audrey Hepburn's Givenchy wardrobe. The story was full of twists and turns, making you question every character, encompassing you with the question, *who did it?* Not everyone was who they said they were, and it was a mysteriously thrilling masterpiece; and other viewers agree. It was included among the American Film Institute's 2001 list of 400 movies nominated for the top 100 Most Heart-Pounding American Movies. I adored this movie and I would absolutely recommend it to everyone.