

Film Title and Release Date: *Military Wives* (2020)

Length of Film in Minutes: 113 minutes

Film Genre: Comedy / Drama

**Reviewer Name and Grade: Oliver W. 8th Grade**

**Date Reviewed: July 13, 2020**

This film is about a group of British women at the Flitcroft Military Base in the early 2010s while their husbands are away serving in Afghanistan. They are trying to keep themselves busy so they won't have to think so much about what could happen to their husbands. They brainstorm all types of possible activities but end up forming a choir, led by Kate and Lisa, who have very different personalities. Kate is very formal and neat and tries to teach the women how to sing properly. On the other hand, Lisa is much more easy-going and fun and just wants to let the women sing what they can. The women find themselves enjoying singing, and they find out that Jess is extremely good at singing. An officer named Crooks hears the women practicing and recommends them to sing at the Royal Albert Hall for the Festival of Remembrance. When Sarah's husband dies in battle, the women don't want to perform anymore. But after they perform at Sarah's husband's funeral, they decide that they want to write their own song, using bits from the letters that their husbands have sent them. When Lisa puts the line "Until we laugh again" into the song, which was from Kate's son Jamie before he died in battle, Kate becomes furious and decides not to perform. But after having a talk with her husband Richard, who was injured and came home, he drives her to the hall and the women put on a great performance.

***How did you find the film on Kanopy?*** - I found this film on Kanopy while I was scrolling through the "Newly Added Movies" section.

***Did the plot keep you interested?*** - Yes, the plot kept me interested. It was really nice to see the women grow from an out-of-tune disaster to an amazing choir. I thought that the film showed a good amount of the women singing, but also scenes of them outside the choir. There were also some sad moments when one of the women broke down. This mix of happy silly moments and darker moments kept the plot interesting.

***Was the pace of the film too fast, too slow, or just right?*** - The pace of the film was just right. Not too much time was spent on any one scene and many different aspects of the womens' lives were shown.

***What grade level(s) is this film appropriate for?*** - There is occasional profanity in this movie, and the characters can be seen drinking throughout. There is one occasion where Lisa's daughter Frankie becomes drunk. There is a constant thought of death and what could be happening to the womens' husbands. I think this movie would be appropriate for people in grades 7 and up.

I would rate this movie *5 stars*. It was nice to see how a group of women who at first seemed to have absolutely no musical talent came together and became a well-organized choir. I really enjoyed watching Lisa and Kate's different approaches to leading the choir, and how it worked out in the end. This movie had some really funny parts where I couldn't stop laughing, but also had some parts that showed issues people might have in real life. Frankie's conflict with her mother Lisa was intriguing to watch. It was also interesting to watch how Kate tried to put on a brave face when she was out in public, but broke down when she was at home by herself. This movie's inspirational story added with the funny characters caused me to really like it.