

Film Title: *Equals* (2016)
Length of Film in Minutes: 103 minutes
Film Genre: Science Fiction

Reviewer Name and Grade: Yaseen V., 9th Grade

Date Reviewed: August 11, 2020

Equals is a science fiction film that takes place in a dystopian utopia. Its main characters are named Nia and Silas and they work for “The Collective”, a legislative body of the futuristic society. This body monitors and controls the actions of all people. All emotions, illnesses, and psychological disorders have been eradicated through this system. This ultimately leads to a society without crime and violence, as well as happiness. However, despite the conditioning of all people, Nia and Silas begin to feel emotions for each other, which leads to a dangerous and forbidden relationship. As the film progresses, more and more emotion is seen through the two main characters. One example of this is when Silas wakes up from a nightmare, the first nightmare he has ever had. This was a critical part of the film because it emphasizes how Silas and Nia were changing from how the Collective wants their members of society to be. Later in the film, Silas loses his emotions when he has been falsely told that Nia has died. However, when he realizes she is actually alive, they begin to set their escape plan in motion and leave the society in order to live life together, with their emotions. The movie ends in an unnerving way that leaves the audience wanting an explanation. In the end, Nia and Silas are heading to unknown parts of their Peninsula. Although Nia has her emotions, Silas does not. As they venture out into an uncertain future, the audience is left contemplating on whether or not Silas is able to regain his emotions and live happily with Nia.

How did you find the film on Kanopy (by a title search, subject search, casual browsing)?

I found this film on Kanopy while casually browsing through the many films it offers.

Did the plot (for a fictional movie) keep you interested?

The plot for this science fiction movie was very interesting and kept me absorbed in what would become of Nia and Silas.

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

The pace of this film was just right and successfully told the story of how Nia and Silas dealt with human motions and escaped from their controlling society.

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

I believe this film is great for grades nine and up because it includes scenes that are for mature audiences.

4 stars: I enjoyed this film and found it worthwhile to watch.

I believe this film deserves 4 stars because it tells a unique story that many have not heard of. This film delves into the importance of human emotions and how much they play into our lives. Along with this, it shows how things can drastically change when those in power are in control of everything. Ultimately, this film opened my eyes to how human emotions shape the way our lives turn out. One example of this is how the film portrays the emotion of love between Nia and Silas. Without this emotion, all compassion for one another is lost, and humans are essentially nothing. Overall, I would recommend this movie for teens because it had an interesting plot and lesson.