

**Film Title and Release Date:** *Year of the Dog* (2003)

**Film Length in Minutes:** 97 Minutes

**Film Genre:** Fiction

**Reviewer Name and Grade:** Yaseen V., 10<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Date Reviewed:** July 4, 2021

The movie *Year of the Dog* follows Peggy, a forty year old administrative assistant with zero social life. In fact, her best friend is her dog, Pencil. One night, she refuses to come in after being left out of the house, and Peggy mistakenly lets him stay outside. The next morning, she finds him in her neighbor's yard crying and in pain. When Peggy takes Pencil to the vet, it is already too late. At this point in the film, Pencil dies from toxic poisoning. She takes him to a vet but it is too late; Pencil morbidly dies of toxic poisoning. The film follows Peggy's life as she copes with Pencil's death. Soon, Peggy gets a call from Newt, a volunteer at the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. He tells her that a dog named Valentine is available for adoption. Peggy agrees to take Valentine in, and begins to bond with her. Through a tumultuous turn of events, the film ends with Peggy realizing her passion for protecting animals. She leaves her former life behind after Valentine abruptly dies and instead goes to a protest, which shows the audience how Peggy has found her purpose in life.

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

I found this film on Kanopy by title search.

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

Unfortunately, the plot of this movie did not keep me entirely interested in the characters because the movie was fast paced, which made many things happen at a time.

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

The pace of this film was a bit too fast for my liking. I thought that the way Peggy dealt with situations was often reckless and that she was quick to jump to conclusions.

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

This film is appropriate for grades nine to ten, due to the sorrowful events that occur.

*3 stars: It was okay; I had hoped for better.*

Overall, I would give *Year of the Dog* three stars because it was a compelling story. However, I personally did not find the plot to be very interesting. I also did not like Peggy's character as much as I had hoped because she was very reckless throughout the movie. However, this film may be enjoyable to animal lovers because it is a movie about the natural cycles of life and how pets/animals can enrich lives.