

Film Title and Release Date: *Leave No Trace* (2016)

Film Length in Minutes: 119 Minutes

Film Genre: Drama

Reviewer Name and Grade: James B., 9th Grade

Date Reviewed: May 31, 2022

The film *Leave No Trace*, is a fictional film that follows a military veteran with PTSD. In this film, the ex veteran by the name of Will lives with his young daughter Tom. They live in a peaceful forest isolated from the world except for occasionally going to town for food and supplies. Eventually Tom is spotted in the woods by somebody jogging in the woods. This leads to them being arrested by park authorities and getting detained by social services. After being assessed by social services, they find a house to live in on a Christmas tree farm. Will begins to work packaging Christmas trees, however the helicopters used begin to trigger his PTSD. One morning Will decides to leave the farm and Tom follows. After a long journey of looking for homes, they are eventually dropped off by a local trucker in an isolated forest area. One morning Will goes looking for food and doesn't return. He is eventually found by Tom and he has severe foot injuries. Tom finds help from local quadbikers but refuses to let Will go to a hospital. The quadbikers bring in Dale, a local woman, who's friend is a former Army medic. The medic also suffers from PTSD and lends Will his service dog to help with his condition. Will and Tom are given an empty trailer to live in while waiting for the injuries to heal. When Will insists on leaving this time, Tom refuses. The two then have to part ways as Tom continues living in her new home and Will goes back to living in the forest. Later in the film we see Tom leave a bag of food for Will to find as a callback to their old life in the forest.

How did you find the film on Kanopy?

I found the film by casual browsing.

Did the plot (for fictional movie) or presentation of information (for documentary) keep you interested?

Yes, the plot kept me actively engaged throughout the duration of the film.

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

The pace of the film I found to be just right. It was perfect for the film and the runtime fits perfectly.

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

This film is appropriate for almost anyone, it is not built for a specific aged audience.

I would rate this film *4 stars*. I would rate this 4 stars, because I thought the movie was great. I loved how easy it was to sympathize for Will, especially with his condition, and I loved the dynamic between characters. The plot was great and overall I felt the film was very worthwhile to watch.