

Film Title and Release Date: *With Honors* (1994)

Length of Film in Minutes: 101

Film Genre: Drama

Reviewer Name and Grade: Sarina P., 11th Grade

Date Reviewed: January 2, 2023

This is a film set at Harvard University in the 1990s, featuring Joe Pesci as Simon Wilder, Brendan Fraser as Montgomery Kessler, and Moira Kelly as Courtney. Monty is about to graduate from Harvard. In order to graduate with honors, he has to turn in his thesis. After a computer error leaves him with just one copy, he goes to make photocopies, but he drops the thesis through a grate that falls into the library boiler room. There, he meets a homeless man named Simon who is burning the thesis for warmth.

He discovers that Simon is living in the basement. Monty makes a deal with Simon that he'll do one thing for him for every page of the thesis that Simon gives back. Throughout the movie, Monty and Simon bond and Simon teaches Monty life lessons about seeing others as human even if they don't measure up to society's ideals, and Monty eventually lets Simon move into his apartment in a room saved for a roommate who left to study abroad. Simon's health worsens throughout the movie due to asbestosis and in the end, Monty and his Harvard roommates are the ones to be there for him.

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

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

Was the pace of the film too fast, too slow, or just right?
I'm used to faster pace, but it's fine for the genre.

What grade level(s) is this film appropriate for?
8th grade and up.

4 stars.

I thought *With Honors* had a very emotionally gripping storyline that kept me invested. The only reason it lost points was that certain parts felt a bit clichéd, such as when the topic of family was brought up. I literally said to myself, "He's going to say 'My dad left me when I was young,'" which is exactly what he proceeded to say.