Cliff Crimes and Misdemeanors

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Overview of Crimes and Misdemeanors

Crimes and Misdemeanors is an existential comedy-drama film. It was directed by Woody Allen. Its origin is Australia, and its original release to the public was on the 15th of February 1990. The movie helps in exploring the different procedures through which the human mind can be influenced by ethics. The medical field is completely involved in it. The central character of the movie is Judah Rosenthal, who is shown to be a successful ophthalmologist. He is shown to be living a perfect life. His belief is that the world is cruel. His analysis of his actions with respect to morals and ethics leads him to find himself in anxiety and guilt. Ben (the rabbi) was not a significant character in the movie but was shown in very important detailed scenes where the story was at its turning points. His belief is that the world is a lawful place with beautiful and loving people. The main aim of the paper is to discuss the movie, its characters, and the role of love in the movie.

A closely related analysis is available in Religion And Morality In Woody Allen's Crimes And Misdemeanors.

Historical Context and Film Production

The movie Crimes and Misdemeanors was composed due to the influence of the 1980s, when, for the first time, the medical world had grown to such advancements that doctors were rarely able to practice morals and ethics. Rather, they tried to adjust the community to this modernism to get as much profit as they could. Woody Allen worked very efficiently with the known actors Martin Landau, Mia Farrow, Anjelica Huston, Jerry Orbach, Alan Alda, Sam Waterston, and Joanna Gleason. Most of them were core actors and performed very well, which resulted in the development of the scenes with keen detail and embellishment. Love is the most highlighted component, and in a comedy movie, it plays an important role in creating twists and energy.

Plot Ethics and Ideological Conflict

The movie starts with a charity party dinner in honor of Judah. The past is also shown. Cliff is engaged in a loveless marriage. The movie discusses the crimes committed by the characters as ideological intoxication. The man had an affair with a mistress. The film elaborates on the book by Fyodor

Dostoevsky, Crime and Punishment. Love is the most discussed theme, and due to this, the character Judah Rosenthal is not able to defend his affair and performs sinful actions, which result in his life being completely influenced by guilt, anxiety, and mental stress. The film is shot in New York, and most of its scenes show the classical culture of the late 20th century (Klepper, Nagin & Tierney, 1983). The figure of God is also shown to be an influence that gives only regret after crimes. When Cliff is unable to maintain his personal life for the sake of his reputation, he gets involved more deeply in the media industry. Here, it is shown that Judah gets engaged with the self-centered producers and controls the camera under great pressure.

Judah Cliff and the Question of Faith

The two characters, Judah and Cliff, meet each other at a party. One is shown to be religious, and the other is quite creative. After their interaction, both people have a positive influence on their lives. The movie also included the concept that the people who wear glasses put their faith in a higher power. Halley gets involved with Cliff, but Cliff finds her not wearing glasses and reconsiders the faith concept (Klepper, Nagin & Tierney, 1983). Love is considered a prominent concept and a necessity of life and helps improve an individual's personal life.

Love Guilt and Moral Consequences

The role of love is highlighted in the movie. There are many examples shown in the movie where the people are highly engaged in love troubles, confessions, successes, and a number of other complicated situations. In the beginning, Judah is shown to be living with his wife and having an affair with a mistress. After the tragedy, he regrets his actions more than anything and turns to religion and rabbis. Cliff finds a loving and beautiful life, which continues to the very end of the movie. Close to the end of the movie, Cliff finds another love and enjoys his life but becomes blind without any light, which would highly affect his way of life. The movie is very keenly attached to religion, God, love, women, villains, and life tragedies. Most people are unable to be satisfied by love because of a number of social and reputational reasons (Bachman, 2013). Some people were highly introverted and were unable to find their love even after a long life of experiences.

Existential Themes and Final Evaluation

In a nutshell, the conclusion of the paper is that the characters very keenly helped to develop the most beautiful and highly understandable scenes. The movie also depicted the 1980s lifestyle, including the American community's way of spending their time throughout their lives. Death, love, and problems with mental illness are considered the main reasons for life disturbances. One of the most prominent characters whose life is highly disturbed, Judah, moved to his childhood home, where his parents were living. He entered the home and heard his father teaching about God and explaining

different facts about it. The movie was highly serious and love-based, but there was a beautiful discussion about love and humor, which resulted in the development of a normalized plot.

References

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Bachman, G. (2013). Crimes and Misdemeanors. *A Companion to Woody Allen*, 170-187.