Remember The Titans Movie Analysis

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Remember the Titans is a movie by the director Boaz Yakin in 2000 (“Remember the Titans Movie.”) and a book written by Steve Sullivan in 2005 (Sullivan, Steve). Both the book and the movie explain the true-life event of Herman Boone, an African American football coach. He united the football teams of T.C. William High School in Alexandria, Virginia, in 1971. This paper will compare and contrast the movie and the book while highlighting the individual scenes that differ from the real event. Bill Yoast was Boone’s coach and the writer of this book narrated the story of Bill Yoast that had been narrated to him personally. The story highlights the concept of overcoming racism.

Team Integration and the Lesson of Acceptance

The real event outlines the integration of African Americans into the football team of T.C. William High School. Boone did coaching and moral building of the high school football team to make them win the match. The real events highlight the struggles of American and African American football players with each other while eventually they embrace racial differences among themselves and play the football match with great unity (Hakim, Mohamad). The story gives the lesson of acceptance of ethnic cultures and giving a chance to the minorities to show their excellence and expertise.

Characters Music and Cinematic Appeal

Most of the characters in the movie were the same as in the real event except for Herman Boone, Gerry Bertier, Bill Yoast, and Sheryl Yoast, who were played by Denzel Washington, Ryan Hurst, Will Patton, and Hayden Panettiere, respectively, in the movie. All the characters performed well on the screen, and the direction resulted in an emotional retort from the viewers. The music used throughout the movie has a sparkling background effect. The pop songs of the 1960s have also been added to the movie. The dialogue, camera, music, camera angles, and the sensational true story appealed to the audience and hence gave an outstanding hit to this movie.

Fictional Players and Added Incidents

The movie fictionalized some characters that were not in the actual event; this includes the character of Ray Budds, who was seen being disqualified from the team by Captain Gerry. Similarly, the scene where Alan offers the football goal spot to another player, Pete, is an addition that never happened in

the real event and has not been mentioned in the book. Boone seems to force the players from different ethnic backgrounds over each other in the movie while leaving for the football camp, and this resonates with the book.

Gettysburg Camp and the Source of Team Tension

The team of integrated football players spent almost a week at Gettysburg College. There, they used to practice football thrice a day, which was a hard part at the beginning of training, and both the movie and book mention this fact. The book explains the real tension among the players that was due to the concern of positioning in the team. The struggling and envious attitude was primarily for captaincy, not concerning racism (Leary, Rama). However, the movie shows the primary cause of tension was racism.

Boone’s Speeches and Coaching Priorities

Coach Boone delivered many inspirational speeches to his team to boost their stamina and motivation for a game, but he never woke them up for long walks at 3 a.m., as shown in the movie. The book explains that the team used to tour the battlefields on Sunday during camping, where the guide used to talk to them. Boone used to highlight the sportsman’s spirit and excellent performance regardless of success; in his speeches, he always focused on the best performance that eventually guarantees success. Boone was more concerned about the performance of each player, and he worked hard on everyone individually.

Exaggerated Friendships and Player Personalities

The movie shows that Julius Campbell and Gerry Bertier became best friends; however, the book mentions that there was not such a close association between them. They were like all other team members; they were friends but never best friends, as shown in the movie. One of the scenes in the movie shows Ronnie kissing Gerry; this scene was an addition as a joke, and this never happened in real life. Ronnie’s character was exaggerated in the movie; however, in reality, he was just another player who came from California.

Racial Tension and Other Dramatic Additions

Unlike the movie, the book does not mention the protest outside the school on the first day. Similarly, the concept of racial tension in Alexandria was highlighted in the movie but was not as severe in the actual story as mentioned in the book. The victory, however, made the association between the ethnic groups better than before (Velez, Elizabeth, and Paul). The scene where Boone tosses a banana to the rival coach, Tyrell, was an addition to the movie as it doesn’t happen in the real story. Similarly,

the movie highlights Sheryl as a big football fan, which wasn't the truth in reality. The girl never personally liked the game but only liked it because her father was a coach.

Changes to Family and Home Incidents

The movie shows that Yoast had only one daughter; however, he had a total of four daughters, and they all lived with their mother. Yoast was also not happy with this storyline. The scene where Petey Jones and Ronnie Bass faced a racial incident at the restaurant was not real. It was an addition to the movie, and the scene where somebody threw a brick at Boone's home was also manipulated when, in reality, it wasn't a brick but something worse: a toilet commode. Similarly, Boone never owned a gun, which is shown in the movie when he comes out of his home with the gun just after the brick-throwing scene.

The Altered Timeline of Gerry Bertier's Accident

The movie shows that Gerry gets paralyzed before the championship; however, in the real story, as mentioned in the book, he got paralyzed after a traumatic accident after the championship. In the movie, Gerry tells the nurse that Julius was his brother when he visited him; this was not the real scene; however, all the team members were given permission to see Gerry after the accident by stating they were a family. Gerry Bertier died after ten years of their championship, and this part of the movie is true. He was a great player and a great handicapped survivor.

Why the Film Departs From the True Story

Hence, there was a lot of manipulation in the movie that was never part of the actual event. The movie highlighted the ethnic tension and, later, the integration of both ethnic groups up to the level of a great friendship. The book shows the true depiction of incidents that happened in the real event and has the fewest manipulations as it has been told by Bill. The manipulation in the movie is added to make it more appealing and emotional. Those additions make the movie interesting and successful. There are always differences between the true story and the one shown in the movie. These fabrications are required for the overall plot of the story.

Work Cited

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