

Every Day Counts

- “Love for Life”

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Abstract. This article mainly introduces film “Love for Life”. From its eleven scenes, I can see Zhao Deyi plays a great character. He is an AIDS patient, but he keeps happy all the time with brilliance until death with no regret. During times of hopelessness, despair, depression, disillusionment, or any difficulty that arise, he is persistent, optimistic and courageous. He quests for his true love bravely. He loves for life. Every day counts. He can’t decide the life’s length, but can decide its width and thickness.

Introduction

This article mainly tells about a film named “Love for Life”. During the early 1990s, a Chinese village called Goddess Temple became disordered because of the disastrous “fever” (AIDS). Everyone who got it died like falling leaves. The villagers show various human natures for fear of AIDS. Both Zhao Deyi and Shang Qinqin suffer AIDS. They sympathize, depend on and care for each other. They are in love. They feel drawn to one another. They greatly enjoy each other’s company, and are sexually attracted to one another. Finally they get married. With few blessings, they still have a happy life with brilliance and with no regret.

The film “Love for Life ” is adapted by Yan Lianke’s novel named “the Dream of Ding Zhuang”. The film is directed by Gu Changwei, starring Zhang Ziyi, Guo Fucheng, Pu Cunxin, Tao Zeru, Jiang Wenli and other actors and actresses, which was put on in China on May 1, 2011.

Zhao Deyi plays a great character. He has intensive endurance. He is optimistic, positive, strong, brave and responsible. Facing all kinds of discriminations, disrespects, sneers and satires, he quests for love and has a happy life. I enjoy him very much and learn a lot from him. The detailed scenes are as follows.

In the first scene

Zhao Zhuzhu (Zhao Deyi’ s father): “Here in school. All meals will be communal. Who volunteers to cook?”

Cook (a woman): “If you men are too macho for the kitchen, I will do it. But no disrespect.”

Zhao Deyi: “We’ d respect you in the bedroom!”

From this scene, we can see Zhao Deyi is humorous. He makes jokes of others just like a healthy person. He still remains unbiased and tries to get rid of his inferiority.

In the second scene

After Shang Qinqin’ s red silk jacket is stolen, she and Zhao Deyi both want to find out who the thief is. They meet on the school playground roof.

Zhao Deyi=Zhao

Shang Qinqin=Shang

Zhao: “Who stole your coat? Why not steal from them?”

Shang: “No, all people have a face.”

Zhao: “To hell with face, did your husband give you any? When he heard you were sick, he beat you. Everyone knows. That’s how little he cared, just enough to hit you. My wife, Haoyan, hasn’t touched me in over a year since I was diagnosed. I am not even 30 years old.”

Shang: “My husband said I was too filthy to be buried next to him.”

Zhao: “What a shit! If it were me, I’d be proud to be buried by your side. Damn it. You and I belong together.”

In such distress, Zhao keeps looking for a nice life. He is very blunt, straightforward, honest and never conceals his true intentions.

In the third scene

Zhao Deyi and Shang Qinqin have a date in the field,

Shang: “Do you miss me?”

Zhao: “Didn’t you miss me?”

Shang: “I mostly thought about being sick. There is nothing to live for.

Zhao: “Nothing to live for? I will give you something to live for!”

Shang: “I won’t live out the year.”

Zhao: “If you marry me, I’d take you.”

After making love, Zhao Deyi runs uncontrollably before the train, shouting “Qinqin” to show his ecstasy of delight, neglecting the roar of the train. He even makes a deliberate provocation against the train driver and lights a cigarette, shouting: “I am god’s own goddamn daddy, from now until the day I die.” At that moment, he is the happiest man in the world. Every day counts. Every minutes counts. He is a genius. He battles disasters in such ways. He is always passionate. He wants to escape that “dark”, “dead” and “zombie” life. He shows his happiness and pride. Maybe many AIDS patients feel hopeless, losing happiness, prides and desires. He thinks he can overcome his tragic fate and be a master of life, not a slave.

In the fourth scene

Shang Qinqin’s husband, Xioahai, catches Zhao Deyi and Shang Qinin’s affair.

Xioahai: “Show them what a slut looks like! Sloppy slippers! Cheat on me, will you!”

Zhao Deyi said to the onlookers (villagers): “Well, you had your fun. Glad I could help entertain you.”

Zhao Deyi keeps calm at the scandal as well as disillusionment peacefully. He thinks his lust is normal. Nobody cares about him, it doesn’t matter, he just cares about himself, so he doesn’t feel so shameful. Though there are cruelties, misfortunes, hardships and humiliations in life, so what? He dares to love and still quests for love.

In the fifth scene

Shang Qinin is discarded by her husband’s family and disrespected by her own brother and sister-in-law. She has nowhere to go.

Zhao Deyi goes to see her.

Shang: “What do you want?”

Zhao: “No one can see us here...Not that I’d care if passers-by saw us. You came back for your summer clothes? Don’t go. My wife is divorcing me. Xiaohai is divorcing you. We are free. Now we can be together. No matter what happens while we live. We can be buried together. So we won’t be alone. What are you crying for? Let’s live together. Who cares what Xiaohai’s family says?”

Who cares what my wife and other villagers say? Let them try to stop us. Don't go anywhere. Live with me. And if my house is too full of my wife's memories, we'll find somewhere else."

Zhao Deyi is so kind to Shang Qinqin. He truly loves her. He is brave, responsible and considerate.

In the sixth scene

Zhao Deyi and Shang Qinqin live together at Zhao's home.

An old woman villager shouts abuse: "Qinqin, come out, you shameless whore! Come out here right now."

Zhao: "She's my wife now. If there is a problem, talk to me."

The old woman villager: "Your wife? As long as she is married to Xiaohai, she is still my daughter-in-law. You got some nerve."

Zhao: "That's right. I seduced her. Now she's shacking up with me. So if you want to take it out on someone, take it out on me."

The old woman villager: "You shameless..."

Zhao: "Scold enough. Go ahead, hit me, beat me to death. Come on, do it."

Zhao is a brave and strong man. He can protect his lover at the critical moment. He struggles for his happy life, fighting reproaches.

In the seventh scene

Zhao Deyi buys things in a shop, the shop owner gives back the change with long tweezers in fear of being infected with AIDS. And Zhang knows the owner discriminates against him. He intentionally opens his pocket widely instead of using his hands to accept the change to fight back such disrespect. In his daily life, though full of discriminations, he never lowers his head in shame. Why do AIDS patients abase themselves before others? No need to feel so.

In the eighth scene

Two men villagers ask Zhao Deyi: "Sick as you are, can you still make love with Qinqin?" With a smile Zhao says without anger: "We can make love twice a night." Seeing Shang Qinqin's sexual body, they say: "We wish we have the fever (AIDS)." Zhao Deyi: "I give my mine to you."

From this, we can see Zhao is so optimistic that his villagers are even a little jealous of him.

In the ninth scene

When Zhao Deyi's father talks to Xiaohai about the divorce.

Xiaohai: "To be honest, I have someone. But she wants to get married this month. But how can I, when those two are shacking up and planning a wedding, too?"

Xiaohai: "We'll see who gives in first. I'll divorce Qinqin on one condition. My fiancée wants a bigger house. Tell your son to leave the house in his will to me. When I get his written will. I'll agree to the divorce."

The next day, Zhao Deyi accepts the condition without any hesitation and writes the will quickly. His brother Zhao Qiquan scolds him: "You know what this wedding certificate cost me? - A perfectly good coffin. You give up everything for that slut, even will away the house. You'd be better off dead."

Because of poverty, so many "Goddess Temple" villagers sold blood and became infected with AIDS. Shang Qinqin sold blood in order to buy an expensive and flashy shampoo, which could make her hair smooth as silk. She thus became infected with AIDS. It's not easy for Zhao Deyi to sell a

house because a house is a big real property. Love as well as dignity is top in his mind. He wants to give Qinqin an official identification although they have few days to live. He is a real man.

In the tenth scene

Zhao Deyi and Shang Qinqin give out wedding candy to the villagers. Some villagers are afraid of having the candy and even don't open the doors, they throw the candy and scatter it through yards. How they wish to get the villagers' blessing. How they wish to get their recognitions and share excitement with them, they want dignity. They want to show they can love to death and be buried together. They are not alone in the grave. Why are the two dying AIDS patients so happy? Few villagers bless them for their marriage, but they bless themselves. An unknown grass cares for itself without others' care. A flower in the desolate mountain can blossom fragrantly without others' enjoyment. An eagle can soar high without others' admiration.

In the eleventh scene

Using his last breath, Zhao Deyi cut his legs with a knife to stain Shang Qinqin's clothes. He wants to satisfy her last wish. Her wish is to die, wearing a red dress. How moving! It is a thrilling sentiment, no doubt!

From all these scenes, I can see Zhao Deyi, an AIDS patient, keeps happy all the time with brilliance until death. He has no regret. Facing the hardship throughout his life, he is persistent, optimistic and courageous. He loves for life. Every day counts. We can't decide the life's length, but can decide its width and thickness. The happiness lies in our attitude to the hardship. If we can change the hardship into life's nourishments, we can be happy. Just like Ernest Hemingway's three famous sayings "Life always makes us black and blue, but later, those places become more strong injured." , "People are not made for defeat, and a man can be destroyed but not to beat." , "Better than the others, is not noble, true nobility should be better than the past itself." .

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