

BOOK REVIEW: **WOMEN IN HOLLYWOOD**

Introduction

The book "Thelma and Louisa and women in Hollywood" by Gina Fournier was published in year 2006. It was written basing on the film that was released in the summer of 1991. The plot of the book and the film are similar. Thus, a notable wave of critic due to the storyline was after the film releasing. It was a real surprise for many people because that was a time of male-dominated movies, and the film was about two women feminist who were out of law. The book "Thelma and Louisa and women in Hollywood" is telling about a friendship of two women and their trip. There are brightly shown gender stereotypes. A real nature and character of heroine come out only when they feel freedom. As a result, it was better for them to farewell with life then with freedom.

The book that cannot be aside.

The book "Thelma and Louisa and women in Hollywood" combines the genres of a "buddy" film. That is the story about a vacation of Thelma and Louisa, who decided to escape from their colorless lives. A real nature of the women came out only during the trip. "Something crossed over in me, and I cannot go back", explained Thelma, "I mean, I just couldn't live". At least she felt herself alive and was imparadised. Her real life began during that trip. Reading that book I have learnt that it is not a book about "buddyhood", but a story about sisterhood. For example, when women decided to relax in the pub, instead of fun they met troubles. Thelma was picked up by a man who attempted to rape her. Louisa wanted to save Thelma and took the gun with the aim to scare Harlan, the assaulter. A man was impenitent, and Louise killed him. Such risky deed can be done only by the most native person, sister. As a result, state police began to persecute them. In spite of troubles women begin to feel real freedom. "I do not remember ever feeling this awake", says Thelma when they drove

through the desert. "Everything looks different. You know what I mean...everything looks new. Do you feel like that? Like you've got something to look forward to?". I also have learnt that freedom change the person. For example, at the beginning of the book heroine were humble women and suffered from the cruelty of men. The women were represented like victims, sex objects and men as aggressors. During the trip, their characters change, with every day heroin become rougher in their deeds. Thelma risked and decided to rob the store. After the robbery Thelma told, "I guess I went a little crazy." But Louise calmed her down and responded, "Well, it's the first chance you've had to really express yourself". Thus, their inner world and conviction begin to change, and their character assumed masculine traits. Men and women are exchanging their role in that part of the book. Very bright example, when police stopped them because of speeding, and Thelma and Louisa locked the policeman in his car. During the trip, women encountered a truck driver who repeatedly made obscene gestures at them. Thelma and Louise did not endure his bad behavior and demanded to apology. After his refuse they fired the fuel-tanker and his car exploded. The driver was not injured but was very angry. Police began to follow women, and they have been finally cornered by the police near the edge of the Grand Canyon. Detective Hal tried to talk with heroin, but they did not want to be captured by police, shot out or imprisoned. Women chose the other end and taking hands of each other drove off into the Grand Canyon.

The three main points for screenwriting.

A plot of the book "Thelma and Louise and Women in Hollywood" is fascinating. Reading a book, it is really easy to become a screenwriter. From the view of screenwriter the film should be divided into three acts. First act or setup is when Thelma and Louise are going to go on a trip. The main phase of that act is a murder of Harlan committed by Louise. Second act or confrontation is their escape. Women accept their fate and behave as fugitives. The crucial point here is tracing the call by the detective and

discovering of their location. And the last, second act or resolution is a showdown with the police and women's driving off the cliff.

There are so many events in the book that can be perfectly represented in the film. I outlined three the most important aspects that can make a film popular and unforgettable. Those three points are basing on strengthening of emotional and influential aspects. A brightness of the described event can be intensified with the help of additional elements. One of the important elements is music. The screenwriter can easy evoke appropriate thoughts in a viewer with help of music that can reflect the soul condition of the hero, his worrying or happiness.

The trip of two heroines is a metaphor that represents their development. Long highway is a symbol of freedom that women at least gained. Thelma and Louise leaved everything and decided to escape. They stayed lonely and follow only their fate. The second importing point of screenwriting is representation of the main conflict and expression of the heroes' inner feelings with help of landscapes and spaces. Both heroines had common aim and wanted to develop own convictions. Scenery can easy show changes in the women's' lives. At the beginning of the film it is important to describe them in a closed space. Further using of landscapes and open space shows changes in life of Thelma and Louise, and reflect their multiple opportunities for self development. On the contrary, Derill and Jimmy are usually described at home, police was described in the police department and even a policeman was closed by women in his truck. Thus, using of the close space shows their restricted actions and lack of ambitions.

The third important point in the screenwriting is a play of the actors, their appearance, dialogue and using of different details. For example, representation of Derill in dressing gown and body cloth form correspond point of view about him. Simultaneously women are describes in jeans and boots that shows their masculine traits of the character. An expert

manner of screenwriter can be shown in skills of heroes' position reflection to the situation and people. A bright example when a policeman reviewed a tape record from the store, when Thelma and Louisa were robbing it. His only respective comments were "Jesus Christ, "Good God," and "My Lord". In that moment very important for screenwriter to use different element like play of actor, his body language, attributes, and show an attitude of detective to the women. In spite of murder and robbing that they committed, the true attitude of policemen to heroine was positive. The detective regarded them like victims of circumstances. He even had compassion to them and wanted to save from the death. From the view of screenwriting the brightest detail in the book that can distinctly reflect the situation is a car of Louise. It is very important to use in the film a roofless car. The car was not only a transport, but place where they could hide; any way their shelter was not perfect because roof absence. Viewers can make a parallel, because heroines in spite of rough behavior and virile character still stay unprotected form life problems that are waiting for them during the trip. For example, assault of Harlan, behavior of a truck driver who ogled them and robbing of Louise by J.D. And at the end the car was the only their protection. They understood that they had two ways: to turn themselves into the police or drive off the cliff and stay free of all convention, rules and borders set by society. The end is more symbolic, not literal. It is important for screenwriter do not show death of heroine and crushing the car. It is significant to leave viewer with his own imagination and thoughts. Usually such films are very successful.

Critic of the film that broadened knowledge.

The book "Thelma and Louise and Women in Hollywood" did not stay indifferent any person who read it or saw the film. Many experts criticized it. The author of an article about "Thelma and Louise" in New York Daily News Richard Johnson said that it was "regarding the man" and "justifies armed robbery, manslaughter and chronic drunken driving as exercises in

consciousness rising". Many other critics told that the plot is very simple and simultaneously very powerful, the men in that story did not matter. Society have been disturbed that the book represented an example when bad deeds stayed not punished. Readers and viewers of that time get used to see a man in the role of a main hero. In the book "Thelma and Louise and Women in Hollywood" the main heroines are two women besides they were outlaw, they enjoyed their freedom and had no borders in their actions. That book makes people to ponder on many things. In spite of many criticism majority of women liked the book and the main reason is that women-readers were hungry for female characters. The book contains many facts that made me to think over and broaden my knowledge. Reading many opinions concerning the book I understood that it was hard for society to accept sharp changes. It is better for majority people to see a woman in role of housekeeper, but not of free person. It was strange for me to aware of that many other books tell about murder of innocent people by one man-hero and society does not judge him. In the book "Thelma and Louise and Women in Hollywood" was killed one man with aim of self-protection, and the murder was regarded like unacceptable and outlaw deed. Besides, I did not know previously that some events in life and place can so fundamentally change a character of the person. That story also deepened my knowledge in the women psychology. In any case women's essence is unchangeable. In spite of any situation women stay tender, kind and loveful. That fact is reflected in the episode when one of heroines because of her compassion gives all her jewels to old man with a deeply weather-lined face.

Conclusion

The book and film about two friends Thelma and Louise did not stayed aside. The story contains both positive and negative messages with regard to gender. Besides, many viewers were indignant at the fact of the outlaw women impunity. Many issues are provoked outbreak of people, because of behavior of women relating to men in various situations. It was very

strange for nation to accept women in a role of men. The story reminds traditional 'male' adventure and that was something unique and for many people unacceptable. The book represents relations of women and men stereotypically and thus the plot sends contradictory messages. And the ending seems most troubling and negative. Nevertheless, the author gives for readers a space for imagination and let them to make up their own end.