



Confessions of a Shopaholic: Reviews Miss the Opportunity

My 12 year old daughter asked me to take her to see this movie. I watched the preview, and because I'm in financial training and because we both love to shop, it seemed like an ideal opportunity to share some dialogue on finance with my daughter.

We saw how the desire for nice things started in our main character; we witnessed the lure of the beautiful displays and the impact of peer pressure on outward appearance early in life. We also heard first hand, the 'little voices' that speak to us when we make daily financial decisions. We saw the impact of the cumulative decisions and its affect on day-to-day life and our relationships. We were able to experience through the characters in the movie the desperate measures people will take to maintain their sense of identity that is created by the lifestyle they live. And best of all, we received the 'happily every after' because both of the main characters chose to follow their dreams instead of being ruled by money.

The hero in the story decided to make it on his own rather than taking the wealthy lifestyle that was available and expected of him. The heroine eventually sold off the designer outfits, which were the sparkling desire that had caused her the financial stress and to turn down her dream job because it meant sacrificing her values.

Both the hero and heroine were able to demonstrate the power of a dream and the ability we all have to choose how we live our life – responsibly. And, this is the part of the story the reviewer missed.

It seems to me that the thrifty, sacrificing characters of the heroine's parents pit against the shiny, glamorous life of their daughter is the black and white lifestyles that people are afraid of. People who scrimp and save every penny are afraid of the debt that the glamorous lifestyle was portrayed as creating.

The reality is that all the main characters eventually demonstrated their ability to achieve their dream on their own terms. The thrifty parents who spent their life savings on a Motorhome were prepared to sell it to help their daughter. The hero was able to start his own company and our heroine was able to move beyond her need for outward approval to live a fulfilled life.

Confessions of a Shopaholic is a story about day-to-day money decisions. It is also a story of people being able to live their life in a way they want to live it because they are clear on what's important to them. Hollywood should be applauded for opening doors for dialogue in this area and for showing that the 'American Dream' can be reached by recognizing what's important to you and following through on your beliefs: Our heroine did not have to sacrifice her lifestyle desires to delay her dreams like her parents – and nor do you when you follow your dream and add some good common sense, a support structure around you, and learn some good fiscal management.

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