

Philadelphia (1993) - Reading Notes

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Content Notes

- Begins with happy introduction to life in Philadelphia (showing examples of everyday people)
 - Represents innocent, happy society and those unaffected by the AIDS epidemic
- Begins in court with discussion of drugs
 - Debating lawyers over restraining order against construction site (likely for supposed drugs)
 - Mr. Miller (against construction company) loses case for having not proven obvious harm
- Transitions to scene in hospital where lawyer fighting for construction company gets bloodwork done
 - Nervously awaits results
 - Skips to scene in law firm where Andy (Hanks) speaks with friends at firm, starts on work
 - On conversation w/ mother, reveals bloodwork is supposedly excellent
- Later, while working, Andy is called up by "Charles" (presumed to be boss), with others there to discuss copyright case
 - Andrew receives commendation from Charles, made to be senior associate on big case
 - Important people with whom he discusses begin to notice lesion on forehead
 - * Andy claims source to be racquetball on head
 - Nine days later, lesion shown to have grown increasingly larger
 - * Receives foundation to cover up lesions
 - * Seen to have immense pain, runs to bathroom
 - Rushes to hospital, warned of potential colonoscopy
 - * While in hospital, disaster where complaint for case (which he had worked on) cannot be found
 - * Receives "every problem has a solution" while rushing back to office; perhaps symbolic of AIDS' lack of a solution
- Fired for lost complaint; visits previous attorney (Mr. Miller) to discuss
 - Andy wants to make case that he was sabotaged for his AIDS (despite having kept it secret)
 - Miller denies case (potentially due to later revealed homophobia, also due to fear of contagion)
- Receives multiple stares and hints to leave in library (due to fear of contagiousness), reencounters Miller
 - Miller approaches, begins to show interest in case
 - * Pair begin to discuss key pieces of evidence and questions
 - Miller takes on case, gives to former law firm at basketball game
- Andy returns to family home, speaks with family members (met with utmost support for case)
- Scene jumps to prosecutor comments
 - Miller sympathizes with jury by sympathizing with them: fear of AIDS
 - Trial continues with initial strong comments from defendant
- Miller mocked in bar for allegiance with gay man, continually emphasizes homophobia

- Responds to altercation in drug store after being hit on by man w/ violence
- Numerous witness testimonies are taken
 - Ms. Burton (Andy's assistant)
 - * Emphasizes discrimination as African-American (for ethnic earrings)
 - Andy's subordinate emphasizes his ability as good boss
- Andy's partner fears his life will end soon
- With Miller, Andy listens to opera aria which perfectly relates to his own emotions
 - Interrupts preparation for Q&A
- Following day, Andrew gives testimony
 - Makes clear legal abilities of Charles (intelligent, perseverant)
 - Describes experience where Charles made numerous homophobic jokes in front of him
 - * Influenced choice to keep secret
 - Defendant lawyer emphasizes lack of lesion visibility; Miller shows Andrew's chest to all
- Charles' testimony reveals homophobia
 - Andrew's condition gets progressively worse until he is sent to hospital
 - While in hospital, trial is won with *significant* results

Thematic Notes

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