Nappily Ever After

Friday, September 28, 2018

A mediocre made for Netflix story that has been told countless times before.

Sanaa Lathan stars in this film as Violet, a professional woman (insert any ambiguous high paying role here) who seemingly has it all and is even expecting to get engaged at her upcoming birthday party. Things begin to take a turn for the worse rather quickly when things don’t go as planned (sound familiar yet). These events result in what I can only describe as a mini psychological breakdown for Violet; causing her to cut off the thing she sees as her biggest stressor, all of her hair. I’m going to give you my opinion on the good, the bad, and my rating for this movie. Possible spoilers ahead.

First, I’ll start with the good news. The cinematography is high quality. There are no bad effects or strange camera transitions. Each scene flows nicely into the next. You feel as if you are getting a glimpse of a short period in the main characters life. I like that the story gets to Violet’s breakdown quickly then spends the rest of the film depicting her recovery. With a film like this it is necessary to get straight to the point to avoid boring the viewer. I think they understood this and responded accordingly. I also appreciate this film not being a typical love story. I think basing a woman’s “happily ever after” on her ability to get and keep a man would be a serious injustice to the good things this film tries to represent.

Now for the bad news. The story being told in this movie is unoriginal, painfully unoriginal, and seems dated. I think most women, at the time of this film’s release, know that they can do whatever they want to their hair. This film also seems like it’s rushing to get to the point (maybe the flow isn’t so great, I take back what I said previously). To be fair this movie tries to squeeze a lot into a respectable 98 minute window so I appreciate the attempt to stay on focus and keep things moving. Lastly, no one ever brings up the mental health aspect of what is happening in this film. Am I the only one that thinks Violet (Sanaa Lathan) acts strangely at times? This character seems to be having a series of psychiatric episodes and nobody ever suggests maybe she should go to a psychiatrist or see a therapist or seek some kind of help. It’s not normal to completely shave your head (VERY poorly might I add) after a breakup and subsequent failed drunken rebound or dance wildly alone at home after quitting your job out of frustration. I find it hard to believe real adults act like this.

I’m not a woman so this film doesn’t really speak to me, but I think the moral of the story is to do what you want with your hair. Want to be natural? Good for you, here’s some natural hair products for you. Want to wear a weave or rock a perm? That’s cool too. There’s no overt bashing of any hairstyle in this film (let’s face it, Sanaa Lathan looks great, it would be hard to bash any hairstyle on her). Although this film is not at all original it was interesting enough to keep me watching. Overall I’m going to give Nappily Ever After:

(thumb down thumb up)