



FILM: **I CARE A LOT**

FDG RATING: 3.5 ☺☺☺○○

Film Discussion Group (FDG) Scale is 1-5 (5 is best)

J Blakeson: *director, writer*
Rosamund Pike: *actress, Marla Grayson*
Dianne Weist: *actress, Jennifer Peterson*
Peter Dinklage: *actor, Roman*

DATE: March 21, 2021

DISCUSSION SUMMARY: **I CARE A LOT**

The title of this film is tongue in cheek. An evil vulture in spiked stilettos, Marla Grayson (outstanding performance by Rosamund Pike), is a court appointed legal guardian for those who can no longer make their own health and wealth decisions. With partners in crime: an unscrupulous doctor who gets a cut from offering up infirm patients who have a semblance of wealth without close family ties and fraudulently exaggerates their state of incompetence, the manager of a care home catering to the affluent who also identifies easy marks for Marla, her lover/business partner Fran, and an oblivious judge who falls for Marla's lies every time and awards her complete guardianship of the powerless victims. They are a fine-tuned machine. Marla places her wards in an assisted living facility, where they are sedated, lose contact with the outside world, then sells off their possessions/assets (the wealthier the better), pocketing the profits.

And then along comes Jennifer Peterson (a marvelous Dianne Weist), smart, active retiree, perfectly capable of living on her own but labeled a "cherry" by the mean machine team so the wheels start to turn. She has a substantial nest egg and no apparent relatives. The doctor identified Jennifer as a sitting goose, then testifies she suffers from dementia and confusion. Marla moves Jennifer into assisted living and immediately roots through everything she owns quickly selling her furniture, car, and home. She finds a key to a safe deposit box containing a watch, gold bars, bank notes and hidden diamonds, which she takes and stashes away. What follows is a very black comedy/thriller as Marla finds out Jennifer is using a stolen identity but what she doesn't know is that Jennifer has close ties to a mob of Russian gangsters led by her son, Roman (as always an unforgettable performance by Peter Dinklage), who absolutely adores his mother.

One discussion participant said in the beginning it was hard to find one person to root for. Everyone was a nasty, evil person. Another commented that it was a rollicking entertaining story. The themes are disturbing, distasteful, so the comedy makes it possible to watch. One resident reviewer loved the first half of the film but thought the second half disintegrated into absurdity. Most of us relished the poetic justice of the ending. Others did not find the film amusing at all, not funny, almost terrifying that this can happen in our justice system. It was pointed out that the film is based on actual events that were documented in a New York Times investigative article.

Snappy characters, great performances, and pitch black humor painted a serious subject as a disturbing dark comedy resulting in a slippery 3.5 on our scale of 1 to 5. (5 is the best).



See you at the movies!

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