

The Movie Review of “The Accused”

The movie “The Accused” released in 1988 showed the challenging and successful struggle for justice starring Jodie Foster, who won her first Best Actress award for the role of Sarah Tobias, and Kelly McGillis performing the role of the assistant district attorney Kathryn Murphy.

The film was directed by Jonathan Kaplan and distributed by Paramount Pictures. This film was one of the Hollywood movies directly dealing with rape in the real life situation and its further investigation at trial. The fact that the movie was based on the real-life case of the gang rape of Cheryl Araujo occurring in 1983 in Massachusetts surely affected people’s perception of the film story, as such situations are not shown and discussed at public leaving many psychological traumas and consequences simply unnoticed.

The events of the movie were mostly based on the investigation of the gang rape of Sarah Tobias at a bar being watched by other drunk bar patrons. First, the district attorney wanted to drop the case giving some light sentences to the guilty persons not connecting them with the rape since Sarah had a past history with drugs, alcohol affecting her present status of the victim negatively, as on the basis of this evidence and kind of behavior the judge might blame the victim in the rape stating she acted inappropriately and initiated the act by herself. However, then Murphy decided to struggle for justice presenting the case in the court, though the woman did not receive the needed support from the chief attorney considering it the lost cause due to the past life of the victim and succeeded to win, as three men were found guilty in the rape.

When I watched the movie, I was surely shocked with the scenes of violence and assault and it was really difficult to imagine that such things really occurred in the real life. However, one thing that interested me much was the fact that Kelly McGillis was also assaulted in the real

life, and this was the main reason why she rejected the role of Sarah Tobias but agreed to perform the role of the attorney resolving the case and struggling for justice and she struggled in the real life.

It is surely difficult to recommend the movie about violence and rape, but I am sure both men and women will learn that justice can be achieved if people struggle for it and have people supporting and understanding them greatly.