

(Mobile ebook) The Beach

The Beach

John Hodge

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John Hodge : The Beach before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Beach:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. I am Mourning a Masterpiece By Dr Jacques COULARDEAU The novel is great. The screenplay is a total disappointment. The author, John Hodge, reduces a monumental sequence and revisiting of Lord of the Flies, the fascistic regression of a clan of escapists, the criminal decay of a secret clan into a

secret society, a sect of its own, ready to kill to exorcize evil, that is to say the intruder, John Hodge, will I say, reduces this masterpiece into a melodramatic regressive sentimentalese story of some hippy-like vacationers who want to reduce the world to Sun, Sea, Sky and Sex, the double SS of the egocentric, selfish, selfcentered and even egotistic youth of today that only dream of surfing a white beach, sunbathing in the golden sun, dreaming in the blue sky, and enjoying multiple and transient partners. The escape is gone, the rejection of consumerism is gone, and every change from the book goes that way. The essential character of Jed is erased. The Black Keaty plays cricket. Karl disappears we do not know how. The Thai guards of the marihuana fields become farmers. And the most ridiculous consumerism is spread in the shopping list of all the members when Sal and Richard have to go to the next inhabited island to get rice, and in that list we find some ridiculous items, just to remind the audience of the necessity of sexual hygiene and safer sex : tampons and condoms. Only in the very last scene we get some real dramatic tension, but with the meaning of a betrayed human animal who has to quit this world and this life not to face her defeat : Sal commits suicide. Absurd in the logic of the book, where the whole underlying principle was that social life is nothing but another Vietnam War on a world scale and that it is unescapable. But Hodge has to destroy this very tension of this very last scene with the absurd voice-over that says (Richard speaking) that he took Franoise along and is living in full happiness with her. The book has been betrayed. We have moved from Alex Garland to Barbara Cartland (actually quoted in the screenplay). So this screenplay does not deserve a garland of praises but a wreath of black flowers, because we are mourning a masterpiece reduced to an entertaining love story for empty brains. Dr Jacques COULARDEAU, Universities of Paris IX and II.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The Beach - Fantastically simpleBy Catharina FouchWhether seeing the movie beforehand made me subjective, I don't know. However, I can honestly say that at least I'm not a particular Leo fan, so if the movie DID affect my judgement of Garland's novel, at least it wasn't just because of Di Caprio's pretty face.The Beach is a breathtaking novel. It is simple. It is honest. It lives on in one's imagination and dreams. In fact, The Beach is more than a novel. When Richard says at one stage that travelling is more than just taking a holiday - to travel, one has to be a traveller - perhaps already then, he invites us and warns us, that this story changes the reader.Inevitably, the plot will be compared to that of Golding's Lord of the Flies, but whereas Golding's message was more straightforward, The Beach vies away from al that is blatant or political. It has so many forms of messages, that the final message will be whatever the reader wants it to be.The Beach is a rainbow of shimmering ideas, delicately described characters, vague insanity and passion. It will stay with you.0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The Beach - Fantastically simpleBy Catharina FouchWhether seeing the movie beforehand made me subjective, I don't know. However, I can honestly say that at least I'm not a particular Leo fan, so if the movie DID affect my judgement of Garland's novel, at least it wasn't just because of Di Caprio's pretty face.The Beach is a breathtaking novel. It is simple. It is honest. It lives on in one's imagination and dreams. In fact, The Beach is more than a novel. When Richard says at one stage that travelling is more than just taking a holiday - to travel, one has to be a traveller - perhaps already then, he invites us and warns us, that this story changes the reader.Inevitably, the plot will be compared to that of Golding's Lord of the Flies, but whereas Golding's message was more straightforward, The Beach vies away from al that is blatant or political. It has so many forms of messages, that the final message will be whatever the reader wants it to be.The Beach is a rainbow of shimmering ideas, delicately described characters, vague insanity and passion. It will stay with you.

Alex Garland's acclaimed debut novel was adapted for the screen by John Hodge, whose distinctive cinematic vision was responsible for the screenplays of "Shallow Grave" and "Trainspotting". "The Beach" stars Leonardo Di Caprio as Richard, a wayward, sould-searching young traveller yearning for unrivalled adventure, who finds himself caught up in troubling, even deadly undercurrents.

About the AuthorJohn Hodge was born in Glasgow in 1964. After graduating in Medicine at Edinburgh University, he practised as a doctor before turning to screenwriting. His first screenplay was Shallow Grave. His scripts since then include Trainspotting, A Life Less Ordinary, The Beach, The Sweeny, Trance, The Program, and T2:Trainspotting. He has written one play, Collaborators.