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Wallace & Gromit: Vengeance Most Fowl: A Film Review

Cute, uplifting, and Britishly charming, *Wallace & Gromit: Vengeance Most Fowl*, directed by Nick Park and Merlin Crossingham, ^{is} ~~was~~ a 2024 film that navigated ^{sy} ~~technological~~ modernity in a fun, bodacious manner while still maintaining a heart [?] ~~felt~~ narrative that emphasized human connection over the rigidity and isolation that comes from an overreliance on technology. Played by Ben Whitehead, Wallace—a cheese-loving inventor whose creations usually end up going sideways—lives with his dog, Gromit, and is often seen creating nifty gadgets throughout the house to make chores quick and efficient. While Wallace assumes the head of the household, Gromit appears to be Wallace's foundation, as he often takes on the gender norm of the traditional "household wife" ^{by} ~~/~~ he gardens, cleans, and even cooks for Wallace, ensuring that he doesn't push himself too far. However, when Wallace creates high-tech gnomes, the steady home [/] ~~life~~ the two have created together quickly unravels, especially when Feathers McGraw—a criminal penguin who's after the blue diamond—aims to frame and sabotage Wallace.

A key moment in this film that encapsulates this internal struggle between the traditional ^{versus} ~~vs.~~ the technological is when Wallace and Gromit are sitting in the kitchen together at the beginning of the film. Gromit glances up at his owner, hope wavering in his eyes, as he thinks his owner might give him a pat on his head. Instead, Wallace uses his machine with a built-in hand to do this gesture for him. Rather than prioritizing an emotional bond, Wallace sticks to the

gadgets that make his life easier, as it's the instant gratification that he's undoubtedly infatuated with. At a certain point, Wallace is unable to complete simple tasks without the aid of his inventions ~~as well~~, illustrating just how deep Wallace's dependence on his technology goes. This concept can be applied to the current struggles with Artificial Intelligence (AI) in today's world as well. With more people relying on AI programs like Chat GPT and the online world in general the desire for genuine social connection and self-guided improvement has significantly dwindled. The film attempts to highlight this alarming phenomenon by illustrating the potential faults and dangers of technology through Wallace's gnomes.

At first, Wallace's gnomes are practical and well-structured, as they're hired to recreate customers' gardens; however, whenever they do so, the gardens end up looking rigid and vacant of personality, charm, and color, which is something you'd expect from a piece of technology that lacks human thought and complex emotions. The gnomes' work is a vivid contrast to Gromit's garden, which is brightly colored and dripping with personal taste. For Gromit, witnessing these gnomes take over a hobby he's fond of is just another reminder that Wallace is gradually replacing him. Additionally, not only are the gnomes seemingly working to uproot Gromit's place, but they also turn rogue under Feathers McGraw's controls, as they wreak havoc on the neighborhood in order to sabotage Wallace and free McGraw from his prison cell.

While the film doesn't seem to take a decisive stance on whether it's anti-technology or not, it seems ~~that~~ the ending highlights that incorporating AI into our daily lives is possible through moderation. At the climax of the film, Gromit is left hanging over the bridge, and just as he's pummeling towards certain death, one of Wallace's gnomes comes to his rescue, proving that their role can still be vital in the most trying times. This scene emphasizes that working with technology in subtle yet efficient ways can still significantly improve one's livelihood, but in

order to maintain a healthy balance, moderation is the key. Both Wallace and Gromit abide by this notion, as the audience can see Gromit back in his garden working peacefully alongside the gnomes. Gromit even gets his pat on the head from Wallace, who ultimately realizes that his dog is the only thing that takes priority in his life. Overall, *Wallace & Gromit: Vengeance Most Fowl* can serve as a potential warning of the faults of relying on technology, reminding viewers that it's our personal connections that take precedence over everything else.

Author's Note #1: The statement “push himself too far,” is slightly vague in the context of the greater paragraph. If you mean that Gromit performs traditional gender norms for Wallace in order to stop Wallace from overwhelming himself with inventions, I would recommend writing something like Option #1. If you mean that Gromit performs traditional gender norms for Wallace in order to stop Wallace from becoming overly reliant on his inventions, I would recommend writing something like Option #2.

Option #1: “and even cooks for Wallace, ensuring that he doesn’t overwhelm himself with his inventions.”

Option #2: “and even cooks for Wallace, ensuring that he doesn’t become too reliant on his inventions.”

Author's Note #2: I think the statement “and the online world in general” is a bit repetitive in regards to the rest of the sentence. The overall focus is on AI programs, so I think the phrase does not serve to add to the rest of the sentence.

Author's Note #3: “At first, Wallace’s gnomes are practical and well-structured, as they’re hired to recreate customers’ gardens; however, whenever they do so, the gardens end up looking rigid and vacant of personality, charm, and color, which is something you’d expect from a piece of technology that lacks human thought and complex emotions.” This sentence is pretty long, and it also has a few repetitive elements that I believe could be shortened for more clarity. If you want to keep the phrases the same but change it into two separate sentences, maybe consider writing it like Option #1. If you want to keep it one sentence, but shorten the phrases, maybe consider writing it like Option #2.

Option #1: “At first, Wallace’s gnomes are practical and well-structured, as they’re hired to recreate customers’ gardens. However, whenever they do so, the gardens end up looking rigid and vacant of personality, charm, and color, which is something you’d expect from a piece of technology that lacks human thought and complex emotions.”

Option #2: “As they’re hired to recreate customers’ gardens, Wallace’s gnomes are practical and well-structured; however, the gardens end up looking rigid and vacant of personality, charm, and color, something you’d expect from a piece of technology that lacks human thought and complex emotions.”