

LADY BIRD

Film Review





I wish you had been (flirting)



We de-flowered each other. We have each other's flowers.



Well, I don't know. What says "rich people thanksgiving"?



Actually, I was thinking. Maybe we should go to the Deuce? I was talking to Kyle about it...

A young woman with shoulder-length reddish hair and light-colored eyes is shown from the chest up. She is wearing a brown blazer over a black and white striped turtleneck top. She is holding a black smartphone to her right ear with her right hand. Her expression is serious and somewhat somber. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with stone steps and a wall.

I wanted to tell you. But, we weren't really talking when it happened.

The film as a whole sees the world through Christine's (or as she often insists to be called: Lady Bird's) lens. An odd, mildly estranged and somewhat awkward perception of adolescence. For me, Christine's maternal relationship with her biological mother, Marion, is the focal point of the piece - or at-least where the most significant duress is drawn out of spectators. Marion, at first glance, is an angry, repressive and cruel character (who often shouts awful degrading one liners at Christine). However I think by the summation (and her passionate and sprinting attempt to see Christine off to college) we understand her on a more multifaceted level: her fighting love and undying work almost always misrepresented as hostility and coldness. Marion is the epitome of misunderstood motherhood - always trying to be the best and do the best for her children, but failing to express that sentiment appropriately.

Lady Bird on the other hand, is consistently caught up in her troubled relationships, not only with her mother - but with her first closeted boyfriend, her shallow popularity-driven friends, and even her final lover before she leaves for college (a woke bastard played by Timothee Chalamet who lies to her about his virginity). Most gut-wrenchingly so, is Lady Bird's relationship with her father, Larry, who is nothing but a polite, timid and ultimately overlooked character. Their fragmented bond (only worsened by financial problems and Marion) comes to a climax when both Larry and Marion realise that Christine is in fact, embarrassed of their monetary position (often going so far as to say she "lives on the wrong side of the tracks).

A film that cleverly and intriguingly depicts notions of miscommunication, perspective and understanding: Lady Bird.