

"This movie might kill you."

Author writes book and movie screenplay

Xander Christou
Reporter

Greg Gaines is just trying to get through high school. He's not a typical high schooler. His strategy for getting through high school is befriending everyone. In the morning, he makes his rounds greeting the popular kids, the jocks, the nerds and the bikers. He does have someone he hangs out with, though, but Greg doesn't call him a friend.

Earl is Greg's business partner, or rather, co-director. They make movies together. They've made more movies than they can count, starting when they were young. Earl is a personality, and he and Greg connect through the films they make and the films they watch. No one else seems to appreciate the films they watch, but they both get inspiration for their movies and learn new things. When author Jesse Andrews discussed his characters at the Texas Teen Book Festival in October 2015, he said that because filmmaking is so collaborative "it seemed like the right art form to inflict on

"If he loves movies, he can't just do them alone. He has to have a least have one other person, and that is Earl," Andrews said.

Then there's Rachel. She's not popular, but most people have seen her around school. Now, though they know her as the girl with cancer. Rachel just found out she has leukemia, and now everybody can't help but notice and have sympathy for her.

Greg's mom wants him to hang out with Rachel, and "help her feel better." He reluctantly agrees, and they start spending time together.

This hilarious book about a sad topic chronicles Greg, Earl and Rachel as they experience their senior year of high school.

"I really wanted to write a book about teenagers that was funny, but also about something difficult," Andrews said.

I read the book in two days, and couldn't put it down. The book captivated me; it's a unique story with incredible characters. Though it's partially about a girl with leukemia, it is one of the funniest

cause of the sad premise, you are doing yourself a disservice. I highly recommend this book, and I'm anticipating Jesse Andrews's new book, "The Haters," in April 2016.

THE MOVIE

I went into this movie with pretty high expectations since I loved the book. I'd heard positive things about the film, and I had decided against seeing the trailer so the movie could surprise me entirely. Let's just say that my expectations were blown away. The film is really cinematic and beautifully adapted to the screen, and the characters were more fleshed out and relatable in the movie.

The movie is easier to follow than the book, and though it strayed from the original plot in some ways, the changes were better for the movie adaptation. Andrews wrote the screenplay himself, so he changed things from his own book, which made the changes feel more authentic. This movie made me laugh and cry, and I walked out of the theater feeling so satisfied. I highly recommend this