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Bakalářská práce

Kateřina Kohoutková

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Kateřina Kohoutková

Vedoucí práce:

Mgr. et Mgr. Jana Kašparová

Katedra anglického jazyka a literatury

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Prohlašuji, že jsem práci zpracoval(a) samostatně a použil(a) jen uvedených pramenů a literatury.

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1. Introduction

These days, fewer people are reading books, usually because they do not have much spare time. Modern life appears stressful and so many people claim there is no time for reading. It is much more convenient to watch movies than to read a book. To watch a movie takes about 2 hours, whereas reading can take days. Of course, there are many people who still prefer reading but, given a choice, I would say there are more people who prefer watching movies.

The bachelor thesis, with the title *Forrest Gump in the book and on the screen*, deals with the comparison of the novel *Forrest Gump* by Winston Groom, published in 1986, to the film adaptation *Forrest Gump* by Robert Zemeckis, produced in 1994. The aim of this thesis is to examine the main differences between novel and movie.

This bachelor thesis is divided in two main parts – the theoretical and the practical. The theoretical part is divided into six chapters, some of them are then divided into subchapters. The theoretical part concerns the theory of adaptation and also history of cinematography, then with the Winston Groom bibliography, information about the book, content and the main characters. The theoretical part also deals with Robert Zemeckis's bibliography, information about the movie, content and the main characters.

To accomplish the objectives of this bachelor thesis serves the practical part. The practical part is divided into one chapter and subchapters and deals with the comparative analysis, what the book has in common with the movie, and what is different. Because the stories are similar only at the beginning, I have chosen this method: I start with the story in the novel and then describe the events in the movie.

In Appendices will be possible to see pictures and photos connected to the novel or movie, and an interview with the author Winston Groom.

2. Cinematography

The relationship between film and literature has existed since the cinematography began. The beginning of cinematography emerged from the invention of Cinématographe, patented in France by Louis Jean and Auguste Marie Louis Nicholas Lumière on February 13 1895. The first commercial screening was held on December 28, 1895 at Salon Indien du Grand Café in Paris. The programme comprised ten films and took about 20 minutes. The achievements of the Lumières were considerable. It cost one franc and on their first day, they had just 33 customers. But soon, it spread out and they were taking over 2,000 francs each day. After this achievement, they decided not only to sell their invention, but to send out operators to film in Britain, the USA, Russia, India and Australia where they presented their shows.¹

The first public screening in Britain was held on February 21 1896 at the Marlborough Hall of the Royal Polytechnic Institution in Regent Street in London. This performance attracted only 54 customers but, like the first performance in France, the popularity soon increased.²

The first Cinématographe show took place at Keith's Union Square Theater, New York on June 29 1896. The show was very successful. The Lumières established there their own agency where they sold equipment and films. They soon became very prosperous but it quickly ended in failure.³

Despite failure, the Lumières continued to work on technical developments and in 1900 invented a camera which took large-format 75mm films. By 1905, the Lumières left the cinema business. They worked instead on inventing the first successful photographic colour process and in 1907, invented the Lumière Autochrome. The brothers Lumières lived long enough to be feted as pioneers of the cinema.⁴

¹ Cinematography. Pioneers of Early Cinema: Auguste Lumière (1862-1954), Louis Lumière (1864-1948). [online]. 2011. [Retrieved 2014-07-29].
<<http://www.nationalmediamuseum.org.uk/~media/Files/NMeM/PDF/Collections/Cinematography/PioneersOfEarlyCinemaLumiereBrothers.ashx>>

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

3. Adaptations

Literature became a source of inspiration, perspective and ideas.⁵ A very important step in studying the relationship between film and literature is to construe it as historical pact that has changed through the history. Dudley Andrew says: “*the study of adaptation is tantamount to the study of the cinema as the whole*”.⁶ The beginning of the origins of cinema brought many disadvantages. For example, discussions about mutual relationships between film and literature are still alive and there are many publications and heated debates among the general public. Film has an influence on literature and literature has an influence on film. Many films are based on novels.

3.1 Novels into film

The relation between a novel and film has always been in the ascendant and most persistent. At the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries novels started to attract filmmakers and most films have used some sort of narrative storyline.⁷

Adaptations are everywhere today: on the television, on the musical or dramatic stages, on the Internet, in comic books as well as in novels. Adaptations have a defining relationship to preceding texts, usually called “sources”. Adaptations usually outright confess this relationship. Adaptations are not new in our time. It had been used in history too. Shakespeare used adaptation. He transferred his written words to stage and made them available to a much wider audience. However, in academic criticisms and journalistic reviewing, some popular adaptations are most frequently put down as secondary, derivative, belated, middlebrow, or culturally inferior. But there are also more strong words used to attack film adaptations of literature.⁸ According to these definitions, Linda Hutcheon asks herself how is possible that the majority of all Oscar-winning Best pictures are adaptations.⁹ There have been 86 Best Picture Academy Award winners, 40 were book adaptations (e.g. *The*

⁵Corrigan, Timothy. *Film and literature: An Introduction and Reader*. 1999. Pp. 28

⁶Ibid.p.7

⁷ Ibid. Pp. 37

⁸ Hutcheon, Linda. *Beginning to Theorize Adaptation*. 2002. Pp. 2-3

⁹ Ibid. Pp. 4

Bridge on the River Kwai in 1958, *The Silence of the Lambs* in 1992, *Forrest Gump* in 1995, *The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King* in 2003, *No Country For Old Men* in 2008 and in 2014 *12 Years a Slave*.¹⁰ In her opinion, “part of the answer no doubt has to do with the constant appearance of new media and new channels of mass diffusion. These have clearly fuelled an enormous demand for all kinds of stories. Nonetheless, there must be something particularly appealing about adaptations as adaptation”¹¹

In *Reading the Movies*, William Costanzo notes that it has been estimated that a third of all films ever made were adapted from novels. Adaptations are the most common practice in the exchange between literature and film.¹² The biggest difference between movies and books is that visual images in movies stimulate our perceptions directly whereas written words stimulate our perceptions indirectly. Movies stimulate our perceptions more than reading. There is verbal language, colours, sounds and movements. On the other hand, a movie usually lasts two hours so there is no time for all events from the book. (The adaptation of *Forrest Gump* compresses a novel that has 239 pages into 142 minutes.) Movies do not allow the same freedom a novel does. Viewers have no chance to imagine the characters in their mind. In movies is fixed given how the character looks, how he, or she, speaks and also his or her nonverbal communication is also given. For many viewers, this is the most frustrating thing of making film adaptations from literature. In *Reading the Movies*, William Costanzo cites George Bluestone as one of the first critics to study film adaptations of literature. George Bluestone believed that the filmmaker or screenwriter is an independent artist, “not a translator for an established author, but a new author in his own right.”¹³ Bluestone has some supporters in this statement, because the filmmaker or the screenwriter has to use his own vision or ideas.

¹⁰The Official Academy Awards Database [online]. 2014. [Retrieved 2014-06-30] <http://awardsdatabase.oscars.org/ampas_awards/BasicSearchInput.jsp>

¹¹ Hutcheon, Linda. *Beginning to Theorize Adaptation*. 2002. Pp. 4

¹²Davies, Andrew. *Adaptation: From Novel to Film*. In: <http://www.pbs.org/> [online]. 2005. [Retrieved 2014-07-28]. <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/masterpiece/learningresources/fic_adaptation.html>

¹³ Ibid.

4. Biographies

This chapter deals with biographies about the author of *Forrest Gump* and about the movie director of *Forrest Gump*.

4.1 The Biography of Winston Groom

Winston Groom is the author of *Forrest Gump*.¹⁴

Winston Francis Groom was born in 1943 in Washington D.C. He grew up in Mobile, Alabama, on the Gulf Coast and graduated in 1965 from the University of Alabama, later being commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Army. He served in the army from 1965 to 1969. Winston Groom went through the Vietnam War between 1966 and 1967, after which he was honourably discharged with the rank of Captain. Winston Groom has written many novels using his experiences from the Vietnam War.¹⁵

When Groom came back from the Vietnam, he worked for eight years as a reporter and columnist for the Washington Star, covering the political and court beat. Soon he started to write his first novel *Better Times than These* (1978). His novel *Conversations with the Enemy* was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize in 1984.¹⁶

Winston Groom is the author of sixteen books. In 1986 he published the novel *Forrest Gump*, but it wasn't a bestseller until it was adapted as a movie, *Forrest Gump* in 1994. Almost overnight, Winston Groom became a publishing sensation and the novel stayed at the top of the New York Times bestseller list for 21 weeks. About 2.5 million copies were sold in the United States and millions more all over the world.¹⁷

His published novels include:¹⁸

Better Times than These (1978)

¹⁴ Holanec, Václav. 99 filmů moderní kinematografie: Od roku 1955 do současnosti. 2005. Pp. 276

¹⁵ Biography of Winston Groom [online]. Winston Groom, 2012 [Retrieved 2014-04-22]
<<http://www.winstongroom.com/#!/biography/cjg9>>

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ Winston Groom Books [online]. Winston Groom, 2012 [Retrieved 2014-04-22]
<<http://www.winstongroom.com/#!/books/cee5>>

As Summers Die (1980)

Conversations with the Enemy (1982)

Only (1984)

Forrest Gump (1986)

Gone with the Wind (1988)

Gump and Co. (1995)

Shrouds of Glory: From Atlanta to Nashville: The Last Great Campaign of the Civil War (1995)

Such as Pretty, Pretty Girl (1998)

The Crimson Tide: An Illustrated History of Football at the University of Alabama (2002)

A Storm in Flanders: The Triumph and Tragedy on the Western Front (2002)

1942: The Year that Tried Men's Souls (2004)

Patriotic Fire: Andrew Jackson and Jean Laffite at the Battle of New Orleans (2006)

Vicksburg, 1863 (2009)

Kearny's March: The Epic Creation of the American West, 1846-1847 (2011)

4.2 The Biography of Robert Zemeckis

Robert Zemeckis was born on May 14 1952 in Chicago, Illinois, USA. He was raised in a working class Catholic family. His father was Lithuanian-American and his mother was an Italian-American.¹⁹ He studied at the University of Southern California's School of Cinematic Art, where his movie *A Field of Honor* won a Student Academy Award.²⁰

After a few unsuccessful movies, Michael Douglas hired Zemeckis in 1984 for the adventure comedy *Romancing the Stone*, starring Michael Douglas and Kathleen Turner. This film was very successful and he continued

¹⁹Robert Zemeckis Director. [online] Digital Image 2012 [Retrieved 2012-04-03] <<http://www.bing.com/images/searchq=Robert+zemeckis&view=detail&id=2903A48A818820900B1E59A44022909DDD0D66C6&first=0&FORM=IDFRIR&adlt=strict>>.

²⁰Robert Zemeckis Biography [online] Bio. 2014 [Retrieved 2014-04-03] <<http://www.biography.com/people/robert-zemeckis-212184>>

by directing the trilogy *Back to the Future*, starring Michael J. Fox, Lea Thompson, and Christopher Lloyd.²¹

Who Framed Roger Rabbit was another film directed by Robert Zemeckis.²² It was produced by Steven Spielberg and based on Gary K. Wolf's novel *Who Censored Roger Rabbit*. This movie combines the use of traditional animation plus live action.²³

Zemeckis's biggest commercial success was *Forrest Gump* in 1994. This drama about a young man who is mildly retarded but who achieves professional and personal success amazed everyone.²⁴

"I read the screenplay and couldn't put it down," said Zemeckis. "It was compelling in a strange way because it did not have any typical plot devices. And all I wanted to do was find out what was going to happen to this guy."²⁵

His movies are characterized by special effects. Special effects were used for example, in such movies as *The Polar Express* (2004) and *A Christmas Carol* (2009).²⁶ *The Polar Express* is a fantasy film based on the children's book of the same title by Chris Van Allsburg. *A Christmas Carol* is an adaptation of the Charles Dickens story of the same name. Both movies are in 3D version.²⁷

Robert Zemeckis has won many awards, such as Oscars', Golden Globe, The Director Guild of America award, The Critics award, plus many others.

Robert Zemeckis is one of the world's most successful film directors and is famous for the creativity and special effects.²⁸

His most famous movies:²⁹

²¹ Ibid.

²² Telotte, Jay Paul. *Animating space: From Mickey to Wall-E*. 2010. Pp. 192

²³ Ibid. pp. 193

²⁴ Robert Zemeckis Bio [online] Tribute. 2014. [Retrieved 2014-05-1]
<<http://www.tribute.ca/people/robert-zemeckis/4015/>>

²⁵ *Forrest Gump* [online]. Turner Classic Movies Andrea Passafiume. 2014. [Retrieved 2014-04-14]
<<http://www.tcm.com/this-month/article/359270%7C0/Forrest-Gump.html>>

²⁶ Bergan, Ronald. *Film : Velký ilustrovaný průvodce*. 2008, s. 392 (translation mine)

²⁷ *Vánoční Koleda* [online] Česko-Slovenská filmová databáze. POMO Media Group s.r.o, 2001-2014
[Retrieved 2014-07-30]. <<http://www.csfd.cz/film/235033-vanocni-koleda>>

²⁸ Robert Zemeckis Biography [online] Bio. 2014 [Retrieved 2014-04-03]
<<http://www.biography.com/people/robert-zemeckis-212184>>

I Wanna Hold Your Hand (1978)
Romancing the Stone (1984)
Back to the Future (1985)
Who Framed Roger Rabbit (1988)
Back to the Future II (1989)
Back to the Future III (1990)
Death Becomes Her (1992)
Forrest Gump (1994)
Cast Away (2000)
A Christmas Carol (2009)
Flight (2012)

²⁹ Biografie Robert Zemeckis [online]. CSFD. POMO Media Group s.r.o., 2001-20014 [Retrieved 2014-07-13]. <<http://www.csfd.cz/reziser/3137-zemeckis-robert/>>

5. Forrest Gump in the book

Forrest Gump was written by Winston Groom in 1986.³⁰

The book is written in the first person narrative. The book is chronological, starts with Gump's childhood and ends with Gump's adulthood.

The whole story is narrated by the main character, Forrest Gump. The author, Winston Groom, deliberately used many spelling mistakes to indicate Forrest's character. He also used a lot of details and descriptions. Events are described in detail. Winston Groom used authentic accents in the dialogues and wrote some words like they sounded, for the character Gump.

Winston Groom used some inspiration from father's boyhood in the early 1900's in Mobile, Alabama, where lived a "retarded boy" (see Appendix 1).

5.1 Main characters in the book

The story of *Forrest Gump* contains a lot of characters. However, the most important ones are Forrest Gump, Jenny Curran, Lieutenant Dan Taylor and Benjamin Buford Blue. The following part is dedicated to them.

5.1.1 Forrest Gump

Forrest Gump is the main character and is named after Nathan Bedford Forrest, who fought in the Civil war and was a founder of the Ku Klux Klan. *"Mamma always said we was kin to General Forrest's fambly someways."*³¹

Forrest Gump called himself an idiot: *"Let me say this: bein a idiot is no box of chocolates."* His IQ (Intelligence quotient) is about 70.

Forrest lived alone with his mother because his father was dead *"he got kilt just after I's born, so I never known him. He worked down to the docks as a longshoreman an one day a crane was takin a big net load of bananas off one of them United Fruit Company boats and somethin broke an the bananas fell down on my daddy an squahed him flat as a pancake"*³² Forrest's mother was

³⁰Winston Groom Books [online]. Winston Groom, 2012 [Retrieved 2014-04-22] <<http://www.winstongroom.com/#!/books/cee5> >

³¹ Groom, 2002, pp. 10

³² Ibid. pp. 2

a very wise and strong woman. She was able to bring up Forrest Gump even though she was a single mother. She taught Forrest Gump manners.

Children at primary school laughed at him because of his apparent stupidity. At University he played football but had to study, too. He was very good in the *Intermediate Light* but very bad in *English*.

By coincidence, Forrest Gump experienced many adventures. He became an astronaut, chess player, ping-pong and football player, and a professional wrestler. For a few days he tried to act in Hollywood movies. Sometimes, he considered himself a failure, but he never capitulated and continued toward new adventures.

Forrest Gump used vulgarisms, was sexually active and considered much about his life.

5.1.2 Jenny Curran

The next main character is named Jenny Curran. Initially, we did not know much about her because she lived her life privately. We heard about her from stories told by other characters.

When she was a child, she was a normal girl living with her family. She did not have problems during her childhood. As an adult, she became a hippie and demonstrated against wars. She was also a singer in a music band, *The Cracked Eggs*.

As she grew older, she changed her life and became more responsible. She started regular work and lived a well-ordered life, eventually getting married and raising her and Forrest Gump's son.

5.1.3 Lt. (Lieutenant) Dan Taylor

Lt. Dan Taylor was from Connecticut. He was a history teacher and because he was very intelligent, attended a military school and became a lieutenant. Taylor met Forrest Gump in a hospital during the Vietnam War. Taylor had been badly wounded and his legs had to be amputated. He later

started to drink alcohol heavily, get divorced and become homeless, living on the street and working as a shoeblack.

Then he became a part of Forrest Gump's life, travelling around the USA with him. And it was because of Taylor that Forrest became a wrestler.

5.1.4 Benjamin Buford Blue – Bubba

Forrest Gump met Bubba at the University of Alabama, where they played football together. He is a white man, who wanted to do a shrimp business. Bubba came from Bayou La Batre in Louisiana and did shrimp fishing all his life, and he knew everything about this business.

As well as Gump, Bubba served in the army and went to Vietnam. He suffered several injuries and died right next to Forrest Gump. Forrest Gump started a shrimp business to implement their dream. When Forrest Gump became successful, he gave money to Bubba's family because Bubba's father helped Forrest with the beginning of the business.

5.2 Summary of the book³³

The main character Forrest Gump describes the story of his life and introduces his family. Because his father had died, he lived with his mother in Alabama. Forrest Gump experiences many adventures. He meets Jenny Curran at primary school and she becomes his best friend. Because of his strong body, he starts to play football at high school, later at the university and he becomes popular at the All State team.

Because Forrest Gump is "*Temporarily Deferred*" he does not have to serve in the army and can study and play football at the university, where he meets his friend Bubba. But he leaves the university after one semester, because he is unable to pass the exams.

He has to go to the army and is sent to Vietnam, where he has to fight in the Vietnam War. Bubba dies there. By coincidence Forrest Gump starts to play ping-pong and becomes a ping-pong star and also he goes on a mission

³³ Groom, 2002

for NASA with female astronaut and a male ape named Sue. They have an accident and when they come back from the universe, they spend 4 years in New Guinea, where they are held by cannibals. Gump plays chess there. Back in the USA he becomes chess champion and also a professional wrestler.

Forrest Gump finds out that he has got a son with Jenny Curran. But Jenny Curran is married to another man and Forrest just sends some of his profits from the shrimp business, which he implemented like his and Bubba's dream, to Jenny.

6. Movie Adaptation of Forrest Gump

Movie adaptation is a movie based on written material that already exists. When people watch a movie, they do not even think how exacting a task it is - they do not know how many people partake in the movie and what it involves. This part deals with the process of creating a movie adaptation.

The first step, before adapting anything into a screenplay, the screenwriter has to secure the rights to the story he wants to adapt. That means rights from the author of the original story and if the author agrees, the screenwriter then has to pay a given sum of money.³⁴

6.1 Information about the movie

The movie *Forrest Gump* was based on the novel of the same name by Winston Groom. *Forrest Gump* was directed by Robert Zemeckis.³⁵ And it was distributed by Paramount Pictures in 1994.³⁶

Michael Conner Humphreys acted Forrest Gump as a child. Tom Hanks played the adult Forrest Gump.³⁷ Tom Hanks used Michael Conner Humphreys' accent for the older Forrest Gump after hearing him.³⁸ Sally Field played Forrest's mother. Zemeckis needed someone, who was young at the beginning but also he needed someone who could get older. Forrest's best friend Benjamin Buford (Bubba) Blue was played by Mykelti Williamson and the adult Jenny Curran was played by the actress Robin Wright. Jenny Currans as a child was played by Hanna R. Hall. Gary Sinise played Lieutenant Dan Taylor.³⁹

This movie had a premier in the United States on July 6, 1994. In 1995 *Forrest Gump* was nominated for thirteen Academy Awards. The movie got six Oscars from thirteen nominations. It won Oscars for Best picture, Best Actor in a Leading Role for Tom Hanks, Best Director for Robert Zemeckis, Screenplay

³⁴ Krevolin, Richard. How to adapt anything into a screenplay. 2003. Pp. 37-39

³⁵ Holanec, 2005, pp. 276.

³⁶ Ibid.

³⁷ TRAKIN, Roy. Tom Hanks: cesta ke slávě.

³⁸ Holanec, 2005. pp. 276-277.

³⁹ Ibid.

Based on Material Previously Produced or Published for Eric Roth, Best Film Editing and Best Effects, Visual Effects. Other nominations and winnings include Golden Globe Awards, People's Choice Awards and BAFTA Awards and it also won Czech Lions for Best Foreign Language Film.⁴⁰

The production budget was \$55 million, the domestic total gross profit was \$329,694,499 and worldwide gross profit was \$677,387,716. The movie is 142 minutes long. The release date in the Czech Republic was on October 20, 1994.⁴¹

For the film's visual effect were responsible Ken Ralston and his team at Industrial Light & Magic. Using visual technique, the main character could meet many famous personalities and shake with their hand. Thanks to the technique, Forrest Gump met in the movie these celebrities: Elvis Presley, Neil Armstrong, Gerald Ford, Bob Hope, Lyndon Johnson, John F. Kennedy, Robert F. Kennedy, John Lennon, Richard Nixon, Donald Reagan, George Wallace and others. Tom Hanks was first shot against a blue screen along with reference markers so that he could line up with the archive footage.⁴²

The official soundtrack for the movie *Forrest Gump* was created by American music composer Alan Silvestri. The most popular song in this soundtrack is *Forrest Gump Suite* by Alan Silvestri. As was already mentioned, this soundtrack was nominated for Academy Awards.

6.2 Characters in the movie

The story of *Forrest Gump* contains the same main character in the book and in the movie - Forrest Gump, Jenny Curran, Lieutenant Dan Taylor and Benjamin Buford Blue. The following part is dedicated to them.

⁴⁰Forrest Gump awards [online] Imbd. 1990-2014 [Retrieved 2014-04-14] <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0109830/awards?ref_=tt_awd>

⁴¹Forrest Gump [online] Box Office Mojo. 2014. [Retrieved 2014-04-14] <<http://boxofficemojo.com/movies/?page=main&id=forrestgump.htm>>

⁴²Forrest Gump-(Through the eyes of Forrest Gump) [TV Movie]. Paramount Pictures. 1994

6.2.1 Forrest Gump

Forrest Gump is the main character in the film. He narrated the whole story about his life on the bench at the bus station. Forrest Gump was polite and morally upright. He was starry-eyed, not caring much about what was happening and what people thought about him.

As the Forrest Gump in the book, Forrest was named after Nathan Bedford Forrest and his mother said *“the Forrest part was to remind me that sometimes we all do things that, well, that just don’t make sense.”*⁴³

As a child, he had a deformity of the spine and had to wear leg braces, making his movement difficult and slightly ridiculous. His mother said to him: *“Don’t ever let anybody tell you they’re better than you, Forrest. If God intended everybody to be the same, he’d have given us all braces on our legs.”*⁴⁴ His classmates laughed at him because of it. One day, on his way home, classmates started to throw stones on him. Jenny Curran told him: *“Run, Forrest! Run!”*⁴⁵ and Forrest started to run. He lost his leg braces forever. From that day if he was going somewhere, he would run.

Forrest lived alone with his mother. His mother said that his father was on a vacation. Forrest’s mum was very wise and a strong woman. She was able to bring up Forrest Gump even though she was a single mother. She taught Forrest Gump manners.

Forrest Gump had a low IQ of 75 and he was not a good student. He became a football player after the coach had seen Forrest run. Later, he was named in the All-American team and because of this, met President John Fitzgerald Kennedy.

He graduated and joined the army, where he did very well. He also started to play ping-pong and played in the All-American Ping Pong team. As a ping-pong star he met another President – Richard Nixon.

⁴³ Forrest Gump [film]. Directed by Robert Zemeckis. USA, Paramount Pictures, 1994.5:48

⁴⁴ Ibid. 6:23

⁴⁵ Ibid. 15:58

Forrest became a successful businessman in the shrimp fishing business under the name *Bubba Gump Shrimp*.

6.2.2 Jenny Curran

Jenny Curran is next main character. She was a big part of Forrest's life, meeting up with him several times over the years. And some parts of their lives they spent together.

Jenny Curran lived with her father, because her mother had died when she was 5. Her father was a farmer and he sexually abused her.

Forrest Gump met her on the bus to school and she invited him to sit next to her because nobody wanted to sit next to him. They became best friends and spent a lot of time together. But later she started to live with her grandmother and because Curran posed for Playboy, she had to leave school.

Curran became a hippie and demonstrated against war. Even though she was abused when she was a child, she started to be sexually promiscuous and took drugs.

In the end, Curran became ill. She had some unknown virus (AIDS - acquired immune deficiency syndrome, unknown at that time). She got married to Forrest and they raised their son Forrest Jr. together. Forrest took care of her until her death.

6.2.3 Lieutenant Dan Taylor

Forrest Gump met Lt. Dan in Vietnam in the Vietnam War. Lt. Dan was very strong and a good soldier. One day he was shot in his legs, but Forrest, seeing that Lt. Dan was still alive, carried him to a safe place. His legs were later amputated. Lt. Dan always thought that his destiny was to die in the war and he started to despise Forrest for saving him. He had to live without his legs and he was very embittered about that.

He lived in New York, mostly off the government program for injured veterans. He met with Forrest again later and we can say that they started to

be friends. Lt. Dan promises that one day he will be Forrest's first mate on a shrimp boat, if he has one day...

Lt. Dan started to drink heavily. One day, Forrest actually bought a boat and Lt. Dan served on it as first mate. During a hurricane, theirs was the only boat in the area not destroyed: The business started to prosper.

Later, Dan's suggestions made Forrest very rich. Forrest followed his advice and invested in Apple Computers. Lt. Dan bought titanium legs and started a new life. He met a Korean woman named Susan and married her.

6.2.4 Benjamin Buford Blue – Bubba

Forrest Gump met Bubba at the University of Alabama, where they played football together. Bubba, an African-American man, wanted to set up a shrimp fishing business. Bubba came from Bayou La Batre in Louisiana and had done 'shrimping' all his life and knew everything about this business.

Like Forrest, Bubba served in the army and went to Vietnam. He suffered several injuries and died right next to Forrest Gump. Forrest Gump later made their dream come true and started a shrimp business.

When Forrest Gump became successful, he gave money to Bubba's family because Bubba's father had helped Forrest with starting up the business.

6.3 Summary of the movie⁴⁶

Forrest Gump was born in Alabama. He grew up just with his mother in their house. His father was absent during his life and Gump's mother said that he was on vacation.

Over the years, many people rented a room in their house in their house. One of them was a young Elvis Presley and used to watch how Forrest Gump was danced. Later, when he was famous, Elvis used those dance movements.

Forrest had problems with his spine and he had to wear leg braces. Forrest Gump has an IQ of 75, so he should go to a special school. His mother

⁴⁶ Forrest Gump [film]. Directed by Robert Zemeckis. USA, Paramount Pictures, 1994.

arranged that he could go to a normal school, with normal children. He met Jenny on the bus to school and she became an important part of Gump's life. Despite his low intelligence, he studied at university, where he played American football.

After graduation he joined the army and went to Vietnam to fight in the Vietnam War. He met Bubba, who was to become his best friend and they dreamed about a shrimp business. They met Lt. Dan and Bubba was killed in an attack. Forrest Gump was shot and spent time in a hospital with Lt. Dan, who had been wounded, but Forrest saved him. His legs had to be amputated. Lt. Dan was angry with Forrest, because he thought that his destiny was to die in the war.

Forrest received the Medal for Honour and met Jenny, who was a hippie.

Forrest became a ping-pong star and played for the U. S. Army team. He used to earn money from ping-pong and eventually bought a shrimp boat. Lt. Dan had promised him some time before that, if he ever bought a boat, he would be his first mate. So they started a shrimp business. They were not successful, but in a hurricane, their boat was the only one to survive. The business prospered and Lt. Dan was grateful to Forrest for saving his life.

Gump's mother was ill and Forrest let Lt. Dan to manage their company. The mother died afterwards. Lt. Dan gave Forrest advice to invest money in shares of the Apple Company. That made them very rich. Forrest gave money to Bubba's family.

Curran came back to the Gump's life. He wanted to marry her, but she refused. They made love, but Jenny left next morning. Forrest Gump decided to run and his running took 3 years. It made him a celebrity and many people ran with him. One day, he stopped running and went home, where he found a letter from Curran. She wanted to meet him.

Jenny Curran told Gump that they have a son together, also named Forrest. Jenny was ill with an unknown virus. They married and Jenny died

soon after, in the same bed as Gump's mother. Forrest took care of young Forrest and was a great father.

7. Book vs. Movie Adaptation

Often, people evaluate that the novella is much better than the movie adaptation. But they both bring a different enjoyment. In the case of *Forrest Gump*, it shows the exact opposite of this experience. An overwhelming majority who have ever seen the movie, as well as those who have read (or tried to read) the book consider the movie to be better. Mainly because Tom Hanks offers a strong emotional experience, which they would miss in the book.

Robert Zemeckis used in his movie adaptation the same characters as Winston Groom. Some of the characters in the movie adaptation differ from the characters in the book in several aspects. Robert Zemeckis made many changes to make the story more attractive for the audience.

7.1 Gump's childhood

In the novel, Gump starts to introduce himself and his family.

*"Let me say this: bein a idiot is no box of chocolates."*⁴⁷ With this sentence Forrest starts his real-life story. Forrest Gump called himself an idiot, imbecile or even a moron. He doesn't think it bad, he just uses this term from medical examination. His IQ is near 70, but he likes reading. His favourite book is *Of Mice and Men* written by John Steinbeck.

In the movie, the story starts on the bench at the bus station. Forrest Gump is narrating the story to the people waiting for the bus. People are changing during his narration. From the first moment, is obvious that Forrest is not "normal". *"Tom Hanks lowers his voice by an octave and speaks in a courtly Dixie accent. The words come out slowly, almost one at a time."*⁴⁸

Forrest's mother named Forrest after Nathan Bedford Forrest, who fought in the Civil war and was a founder of Ku Klux Klan. His mother says that they were related to General Forrest someway. Forrest doesn't have a father, because he died when Forrest was a baby. He died when a load of bananas

⁴⁷ Groom, 1994, pp. 9

⁴⁸ Gleiberman, Owen. *Forrest Gump*. Entertainment Weekly [online]. 1994. [Retrieved 2014-07-30]. <<http://www.ew.com/ew/article/0,,302943,00.htm>>

fell on him. In the movie, Gump's father absented. We don't know what happened with him, Gump's mother says that he is on vacation.

In the novel, Forrest attends primary school as other normal children, although he doesn't have friends there. But then he meets Jenny Curran and they become friends. After one year Forrest Gump has to go to a special school. He attended this school for 5 or 6 years.

In contrast to the book, in the movie he attends normal primary school, even though he has IQ 75. The headmaster wants to send Forrest Gump to a special school but his mother has sexual intercourse with him so Forrest can stay at normal school. He has got problems with spine and has to wear leg braces and becomes an object of ridicule.

Gump lives with his mother in the novel, just as in the book. In the movie, Gump's mother owns a big house, where she rents rooms. One lodger is young Elvis Presley, who plays the guitar in the presence of Forrest Gump. Gump is dancing on the song Hound Dog and Elvis says: "*Say, man, show me that crazy little walk you just did there. Slow it down some.*"⁴⁹ Forrest likes playing the guitar. "*I started moving around to the music, swinging my hips.*"⁵⁰ One night Gump's sees on the television Elvis Presley that dancing just like Forrest Gump.

7.2 Gump as a football player

In the novel, Forrest Gump starts to grow when he is 13. When he is 16, he weighs 110 kilograms⁵¹ and is 198 centimetres⁵² tall. Forrest's life has changed. A football coach from another high school meets him on the street and Forrest starts to be a football player because of his stature. In the beginning, Forrest is not very good player. He is unable to understand the game. One day, the coach saw Forrest running. From that day Forrest started to be a successful football player. He got to the All State Football team. He got the All State Football award. He embarrassed himself there.

⁴⁹Forrest Gump [film]. Directed by Robert Zemeckis. USA, Paramount Pictures, 1994. 11:11

⁵⁰Ibid. 11:24

⁵¹242 pounds = 109.76935354 kilograms

⁵²6 foot 6 = 198.12 centimetres

“Most everybody had got they prize and said “Thank you,” and then it come my turn. Somebody on the microphone call out “Forrest Gump”. which, if I hadn’t tole you before, is my last name, an I stand up an go over an they han me the prize. I lean over to the mike an say, ‘ Thank you, ’ an everybody starts to cheer an clap an stand up in they seats. I spose somebody tole them aforehan I’m some kind if idiot, an they makin a special effort to be nice. But I’m so surprised by all this, I don’t know what to do, so I jus kep standin there. Then everybody hush u, an the man at the mike he lean over and axe me if I got anything else I want to say. So I says, ‘ I got to pee. ’”⁵³

In the movie, Forrest played football, too. He plays football at the University of Alabama and his team wins many times because Gump is a very speedy runner. Later he is included in the All-American team and meets President John Fitzgerald Kennedy. When the president asks him how he is feeling, Forrest answers that he has to pee. After a reception, Nixon offered Gump to stay overnight at the Watergate Hotel. During the night Forrest saw from the window some people in another room. They used only torches, so Forrest called security. This scene pointed out the *Watergate Scandal*, which lead to Nixon’s resignation in August 1974. Gerald Rudolph Ford became the next U.S. president.

In the novel, after high school people from the University’s football team started to be interested in Forrest Gump. He had to take an exam, but he didn’t pass it. After one misunderstanding with Jenny in the cinema he was taken into custody. He was accused of attempted rape. The judge wanted to send him to the army, but he couldn’t go, because he had a paper which said that his entry to the army was postponed. So the judge permitted him to study at the University. The University obtained good football player.

⁵³ Groom, 2002, pp. 21

7.2.1 Meeting Bubba

In the novel, Forrest Gump meets his friend Bubba at university who teaches him how to play the harmonica. They played football in the same team.

In the movie, Gump doesn't meet Bubba at the university, but on the bus to the boot camp, when they joined the army.

7.3 Gump at the university

Forrest studies a subject called "Intermediate Light". Forrest read the book and he starts to understand and it becomes for him very easy.

Forrest met Jenny Curran again. She was studying music and drama, because she wants to be an actress or a singer.

Jenny is not angry with Forrest, because of what happened in the cinema. She knows that it was an accident.

Forrest has problems with several subjects. He fails in English and in physical education. He is good only in Intermediate Light, where he gets an A. But because of his problems he had to leave the University.

In the movie Gump is much more successful as a university student and graduated in 1967. *"Now can you believe it? After only 5 years of playing football, I got a college degree."*⁵⁴

7.4 The Vietnam War

He goes back to his mother to Mobile, where he finds out that he has to go to the U.S. Army Introduction Centre. After one year of hard military training he was sent to the frontline in Vietnam. There he meets again his friend Bubba. Bubba tells him that Jenny Curran had quit school and demonstrated against war.

⁵⁴ Forrest Gump [film]. Directed by Robert Zemeckis. USA, Paramount Pictures, 1994. 31:10

In the movie, after graduation, Gump met a soldier and joins the army. Forrest undergoes the training very well, but in the novel, he has problems and is sent to the army kitchen.

As was mentioned before, in the movie, Gump meets Bubba on the bus to the boot camp. And from the first minute he speaks only about shrimps.

Bubba and Forrest dream about their plans after the war. They want to make their own shrimp business. Bubba comes from Bayou La Batre in Louisiana and had done shrimping all his life. Bubba knows everything about this business.

7.4.1 Bubba's death

It rains for 2 months and Bubba is shot twice in chest. "He was tryin to say something, an so I bent over real close to hear what it was. But I never could make it out. So I axed the medic, '*You hear what he say?*' An the medic say, '*Home. He said, home.*' Bubba, he died, an that's all I got to say bout that."⁵⁵

The same happens in the movie. The Vietnamese attack them and many of Gump's friends get hurt. Forrest runs away, but he comes back to save Bubba. On the way back to Bubba, Gump saves many hurt soldiers and also saved Lieutenant Dan, who wants to stay and dies there because he doesn't want to leave his platoon. Gump finds Bubba, who had been shot in the chest. Bubba dies in Gump's arms.

7.4.2 Forrest in the hospital

Forrest is shot in the buttocks and spends 2 months in hospital. In hospital he meets a man from Connecticut named Dan. He is a history teacher and because of his intelligence attended a military school and became a lieutenant. Forrest and Dan become friends.

⁵⁵ Groom, 2002, pp. 67

In the movie, Gump and Lieutenant Dan also spend time in the hospital together, because when Lt. Dan was shot, Forrest saves him. Lt. Dan's legs had to be amputated and he can't come to terms with it.

7.4.3 Forrest as a Ping Pong player

In the hospital Gump starts to be interested in Ping Pong. After a few games he plays very well. Later, he receives letters from his mother and from Jenny. His mother wrote that their house had burnt down and she lives in the poorhouse.

The US president wants to award Forrest, so he flies back to the United States, where he meets President Johnson and is decorated by him. He gets the Medal of Honour. In the movie, Forrest also gets a Medal of Honour and meets a second president in his life - Lyndon Baines Johnson. They have lunch together and appear in the TV broadcast of American sitcom, *Beverly Hillbillies*. President Lyndon Baines Johnson says that Forrest Gump is similar to the sitcom character Jethro Bodine.

In the movie, Forrest Gump meets Jenny Curran after he comes back to the United States. Curran is a hippie and demonstrates against the war. She also takes drugs and is still moving from one place to another. Forrest Gump gave her his Medal of Honour and told her to go back to Alabama.

Forrest starts to play Ping Pong as a professional. When he plays a tournament in Washington, he meets Lt. Dan again. Forrest starts to play ping-pong as a member of United States Ping Pong Team. He goes to Red China. It was not just a tournament for Gump, it is primarily a diplomatic mission, because it is the first U.S. - China meeting after twenty-five years.

Mao Tse-tung wanted to swim across the river and Forrest was there at that moment. Mao Tse-tung started to drown. Forrest jumped into the river and saved Mao Tse-tung from drowning. But Mr. Wilkins, who was there with Forrest, told him that he shouldn't have saved Mao Tse-tung. *"You big dumb goof" he say, 'do you not realize that the best thing that could of happened for the United States was to let that sumbitch drown! You, Gump, is lost us the*

opportunity of a lifetime.”⁵⁶ This sequence is not in the movie, because it is not based on the truth.

In the movie, Gump plays Ping Pong as well and goes to China, too. He becomes very famous and is invited by Dick Cavett to appear on *The Dick Cavett Show*. The second guest is John Lennon and Forrest Gump inspires him to write the song *Imagine*, while he is talking about no possessions and no religion.

Interview - Forrest Gump, John Lennon and Dick Cavett:

Dick Cavett: „*Can you tell us what was China like?*“

Forrest Gump: „*Well, in the land of China, people hardly got nothing at all.*“

John Lennon: „*No possessions?*“

Forrest Gump: „*And in China, they never go to church.*“

John Lennon: „*No religion, too?*“

Dick Cavett: „*Hard to imagine.*“

John Lennon: „*Well, it's easy if you try, Dick.*“⁵⁷

A few years later, John Lennon is shot. “*Some years later that nice young man from England was on his way home to see his little boy and was signing some autographs. For no particular reason at all, somebody shot him.*”⁵⁸

7.5 Jenny's life

In the book, when Forrest Gump leaves the army he doesn't know what to do. So he goes to Boston where he meets Jenny in a club. She has got long hair and wears jeans and a shirt with many spangles, “*she look like a telephone switchboard.*”⁵⁹ She plays in one band named *The Cracked Eggs*. Jenny tells Gump everything about her life. How she became a hippie, how she dated with some men and with one man she visited antiwar

⁵⁶ Groom, 2002, pp. 90-91

⁵⁷ Forrest Gump [film]. Directed by Robert Zemeckis. USA, Paramount Pictures, 1994. 1:11:46 – 1:12:15.

⁵⁸ Ibid. 1:15:08

⁵⁹ Groom, 2002. pp 96

demonstrations. The next man was married and another stole something from a shop and both were arrested. So she started to sing in the band *The Cracked Eggs* and started to live a new life. Forrest moves to Jenny's place, where she lives with her boyfriend Rudolph.

7.5.1 Gump in the music band

Forrest Gump meets other people from the band and Jenny Curran tells them that he can play the harmonica. Everybody from the band agrees and Forrest starts to play in the band *The Cracked Eggs*. Forrest Gump also visits Harvard University Doctor Quackenbush's seminar "Role of the Idiot in World Literature". "*The title alone is enough to make me feel sort of important.*"⁶⁰ Doctor Quackenbush was Jenny's ex-boyfriend. They play in the tragedy by William Shakespeare, *King Lear*, and Forrest plays the role of the Earl of Gloucester. Unfortunately, Forrest starts a fire, because he is very tall and the ceiling starts to burn when he holds a torch.

Rudolph leaves Jenny and she starts to be interested in Forrest. And from that time it starts to be different between them. They sleep in one bed together and have a serious relationship. "*All of a sudden things start to change for me – like my whole life jus begun, an I am the happiest feller in the world.*"⁶¹ But few days later, Curran break up with Gump, she sees him with some girls, who are fans of *The Cracked Eggs*. Jenny Curran leaves and Forrest doesn't know where she is. He finds out that Jenny Curran lives in Washington and that she takes part in demonstrations against war. Forrest goes to Washington to find her. Jenny Curran persuades Forrest Gump to dispose of his medal that he got after he came back from the war. But Forrest hit one man in a suit on the forehead with the medal. The man is the Clerk of the United States Senate. Forrest has to go to the St Elizabeth's mental hospital, where he spends one year.

⁶⁰ Ibid. pp. 100

⁶¹ Groom, 2002, pp. 103

7.6 Forrest Gump and NASA

Doctors find out, that Forrest brain works as a computer. *“Forrest, Doctor Earl say, ‘this is phenomenal. You is got a brain jus like a computer. I do not know well you can reason with it – which is probly why you is in here at first place – but I have never seen anythin quite like this before.”*⁶² Forrest is send to NASA. Forrest should fly with Major Janet Fritch and with a female ape named Sue, to the universe. By mistake he doesn't fly with the female ape Sue, but with a male ape. He is not as well trained as Sue. But because NASA doesn't want to have problems and shame, the ape is renamed Sue and nobody know that they changed. Sue damages a control panel. They are forced to land. They land in New Guinea. They meet natives who are cannibals. One of them can speak English because he studied at Yale University. They called him Big Sam. Forrest Gump and Janet Fritch have to help them with the cotton growing. The natives become friends with Forrest and Janet. Janet starts to be interested in one native called Grurck. Forrest plays chess with Big Sam. As a celebration, natives want to eat Forrest Gump, Janet Fritch and the ape Sue. But at that same time they are attacked by Pygmy people. Forrest Gump, Janet Fritch with Grurck and Sue are captured by Pygmy people. After 4 years, they are saved by people from NASA. Janet with Grurck stay in New Guinea, Sue stays in the jungle too. Forrest comes back to the USA.

7.7 Back in the USA

In the USA many people hailed Forrest Gump, including President Nixon, who invited him into the White House. In the movie, Forrest Gump meets the third president in his life - Richard Nixon.

In the novel, Forrest's mother does not live in the poorhouse anymore. She runs off with some protestant. Forrest meets Dan, who lives like a homeless person. Forrest discovers that Jenny lives in Indianapolis and she works in the tire factory, Temperer. Forrest Gump and Dan Taylor go there to

⁶² Groom, 2002, pp. 115

find Jenny. They find the factory where Jenny works. Jenny lives in the small flat and Forrest and Dan move in Jenny's flat.

In the movie, Forrest Gump meets Lt. Dan Taylor after the TV show *The Dick Cavett Show*. He lives like a homeless person too and is an alcoholic. He still blames Gump for saving his life. They spend time together and they celebrate New Year. Forrest Gump tells him about the promise to Bubba about a shrimp business. Taylor laughs at him and ironically says: *"The day that you are a shrimp boat captain, I will come and be your first mate. If you're ever a shrimp boat captain, that's a day I'm an astronaut!"*⁶³

7.8 Gump as a wrestler

In the book, when Forrest Gump lives with Dan Taylor in Jenny's house, Forrest becomes a wrestler. He is named "The Dunce". Jenny doesn't like it. She says that it is silly and that it embarrasses Forrest. The result is decided beforehand and Forrest Gump and Dan Taylor want to win some money, so they put money on Forrest. Jenny is unhappy and she doesn't want to have anything to do with it. Due to her disagreement with Forrest's behaviour, Jenny leaves Forrest. Forrest is unable to win and they lose all his money. Jenny writes a letter to Forrest, where she says goodbye to him. *"Dan handed the note to me but I let it drop on the floor and just stood there, realizing for the first time in my life what it is truly like to be a idiot."*⁶⁴

7.9 Gump as a chess player

Gump quits wrestling and goes to Mobile. On the way, in Nashville, he meets Mr Tribble. They play chess and Mr Tribble discovers that Forrest plays chess very well. Forrest enters the International Championship in Las Vegas. Forrest meets in Hollywood, where he goes for a trip with Mr Tribble, a film director Felder. Forrest plays a monster in his movie. The famous actress Raquel Welch acts in the same movie. Forrest encounters an ape, Sue, who works for the movie company. Forrest and Raquel Welch are put in jail, Raquel is involved because of an accident with Forrest Gump. Forrest Gump wins

⁶³ Forrest Gump [film]. Directed by Robert Zemeckis. USA, Paramount Pictures, 1994. 1:19:29

⁶⁴ Groom, 2002, pp. 185

5 000 dollars in the chess championship, but the finals are ended because of Sue and because Gump needs to answer the call of nature. Forrest Gump together with Sue goes home to Alabama.

7.10 Shrimp business

In the movie, Forrest ends in the army and goes home to reunite with his mother, who is now old. The mother recommends him to do an advertisement on the paddles.

Forrest Gump becomes rich and can go to Bayou La Batre, where lives near Bubba's family. In the novel, only Bubba's mother is mentioned and in the movie, only Bubba's father.

Gump buys a boat and named her *Jenny*. At the beginning, Forrest Gump is unsuccessful even though Lt. Dan Taylor keeps his promise and joins him. It changes when the area is hit by Hurricane Carmen. Gump's boat is the only one left on the sea. Under the name *Bubba Gump Shrimp Company*, they soon become very rich. By this time, Lt. Dan Taylor is thankful for Forrest's help in the Vietnam War.

In the novel, Forrest Gump finds his mother who works at the cleaner's, but she is dismissed. She is alone; the protestant left her with a young girl. Forrest Gump goes to the Bayou La Batre, where Bubba's father lived. He shows Forrest Gump everything about shrimps and Forrest found a good place for shrimping. Gump starts his own business. Forrest Gump becomes a successful businessman. He meets his roommate from University, Curtis, in a restaurant. He starts to work for Forrest and tells Forrest about Jenny. She is married and lives in North Carolina.

7.10.1 Gump's election

Forrest Gump is a candidate for the United States Senate. When a reporter asks him what is for him the most pressing issue of the moment, he answers: "*I got to pee.*"⁶⁵ And then, "*We got to pee.*"⁶⁶ became his slogan.

⁶⁵ Groom, 2002, pp. 225

⁶⁶ Ibid.

Forrest Gump's election campaign looks very positive, but then his past shows up. Forrest comes back to shrimping but still has Jenny in his mind. Forrest takes a long holiday and goes with Sue to the Savannah. He plays harmonica there and starts to earn money because people give him small change. He meets Dan who does shoeblack for a living.

Nearly at the end of the book, Gump meets Curran with her son Forrest. Her son is named after his father. But Curran lives with her husband, who does not know that little Forrest is not his son. Gump is very happy that his son is not an idiot. Forrest gives 10 percent of his share to his mother, 10 percent to Bubba's father and the rest he sends to Jenny for Forrest junior. Forrest knows that little Forrest has got a better life with Jenny and her husband Donald. This scene occurs only in the novel and closes the book story.

7.11 Home in Alabama

The movie continues, Forrest Gump finds out that his mother is dying of cancer and runs to Alabama. Before she dies, she says to Forrest the most famous catch-phrase in the movie: *"Life is a box of chocolates, Forrest. You never know what you going to get."*⁶⁷ Mrs. Gump dies soon. Dan Taylor sees about their business and invests money into Apple Computers and that makes them millionaires. Money is not important for Forrest Gump, so he stays in Alabama and builds a church, establishes a medical centre and gives money to Bubba's family.

Jenny Curran comes back to his life and they live as a family. Forrest Gump wants to marry her, but she refuses. They make love in the night and in the morning, Curran leaves. Gump always solves his problems with running and he starts to run.

7.11.1 Running

Forrest Gump runs and he runs for no reason, because first he wants to run to the end of the road, then across the town, then across the country Greenbow, then across the state Alabama and he does. He reaches the ocean

⁶⁷ Forrest Gump [film]. Directed by Robert Zemeckis. USA, Paramount Pictures, 1994. 1:40:51

and he keeps running. He runs across the United States. Some people join him in the running.

Because he is an inspiration for many people, one man asks him for some advice. During this conversation, Forrest Gump steps in the dog's excrements and says:

Forrest Gump: "It happens."

Salesman: "What, shit?"

Forrest Gump: "Sometimes."

A few years later, Forrest discovers that that man earns a lot of money with the slogan on the stickers "*Shit happens*".⁶⁸ During his running another man, who lost all his money, wants to put Gump's face on T-shirts. But Forrest just wipes his muddy face on the T-shirt and keeps running. He forms a smiley face and the man put his face on T-shirts and earns a lot of money.

Forrest runs for 3 years, 2 months, 14 days and 16 hours. One day he stops and says: "*I'm pretty tired. Think I'll go home now.*"⁶⁹ And he stops to run. He walks back to Alabama.

7.12 Present

We are back on the bench at the bus stop. Forrest Gump tells his last companion on the bench that he just received a letter from Jenny Curran and she wants to meet him.

Forrest Gump is very happy to see Jenny Curran again. She introduces him to her son, who is very clever and intelligent. He is named *Forrest*.

Jenny Curran: "This is my very good friend Mr. Gump. Can you say hi to him?"

Young Forrest: "Hello, Mr. Gump."

*Forrest Gump: "Hello."*⁷⁰

⁶⁸Forrest Gump [film]. Directed by Robert Zemeckis. USA, Paramount Pictures, 1994. 1:51:53.

⁶⁹Ibid.1:58:09

⁷⁰Forrest Gump [film]. Directed by Robert Zemeckis. USA, Paramount Pictures, 1994. 2:01:00

Jenny Curran: "His name is Forrest."

Forrest Gump: "Like me!"

Jenny Curran: "I named him after his daddy."

Forrest Gump: "He got a daddy named Forrest, too?"

Jenny Curran: "You are his daddy, Forrest."⁷¹

Jenny Curran tells Forrest that she is ill and has an unknown virus (AIDS) and Forrest invites her and Little Forrest to live with him. Jenny Curran proposes to Forrest Gump. Their wedding is small with a few guests. Lieutenant Dan Taylor, who has titanium prosthetic legs, comes with his fiancée Susan. Forrest called his new legs "*magic legs*".⁷²

After one year Jenny Curran died in the same bed as Mrs. Gump. Forrest Gump buries her under the tree where they played as children. He buys her a house where she lived as a child with her father and where her father abused her and then demolishes it. He misses Jenny terribly; Forrest Gump becomes a good father to Little Forrest.

Crying Forrest Gump speaks with Jenny on her grave. *"You died on Saturday morning. And I had you placed here under our tree. And I had that house of your father's bulldozed to the ground. Mama always said that dying was a part of life. I sure wish it wasn't. Little Forrest's doing just fine. About to start school soon, and I make his breakfast, lunch and dinner every day. I make sure he combs his hair and brushes his teeth every day. Teaching him how to play Ping-Pong. He is really good. We fish a lot. And every night, we read a book. He's so smart, Jenny. You'd be so proud of him. I am."⁷³*

Forrest Gump told Jenny Curran that if she needed anything, he will not be far away. The movie ends when young Forrest goes to school.

⁷¹ Ibid. 2:01:53

⁷² Ibid. 2:06:03

⁷³ Forrest Gump [film]. Directed by Robert Zemeckis. USA, Paramount Pictures, 1994. 2:09:22

8. The biggest differences between the novel and the movie

As was mentioned before, the movie and the novel contain many differences. At the beginning, the storyline is similar, but then the movie digresses from the novel.

In the movie, Forrest is a part of many historical events, even though he doesn't know about it. We can say that Forrest creates a history but the authenticity is always kept. Even though he is not very intelligent, he actually lives normal life. Maybe because of his low IQ, he doesn't take his life too seriously and he always deals with everything he experiences during his life.

Forrest Gump is a clear character who doesn't use foul language and who never thinks sexually. His first sexual experience was with Jenny Curran, in contrast to the book where he has many sexual experiences and not just with Curran. He also took drugs and lost his family.

Forrest Gump in the novel was 195 centimetres tall and weighed 110 kilograms, but the star actor Tom Hanks is smaller and slimmer.

8.1 Historical events

When he was young, he met Elvis Presley. He played the guitar and Forrest danced with his leg braces and Presley later adopted Forrest's dancing.

The biggest historical event, where Gump took part, was definitely the Vietnam War, where the author Winston Groom draws inspiration from his own experiences from the Vietnam War.

Forrest meets 3 presidents during his life. The first one was president John F. Kennedy who invited him as the All-American football player. John F. Kennedy was later assassinated, and his brother Robert F. Kennedy, too. *"Some time later, for no particular reason, somebody shot that nice young president when he was riding in his car. And a few years after that, somebody shot his little brother, too, only he was in a hotel kitchen."*⁷⁴ The second one

⁷⁴Forrest Gump [film]. Directed by Robert Zemeckis. USA, Paramount Pictures, 1994. 30:47

was Lyndon B. Johnson who awarded Gump the Medal of Honor after he came back from the Vietnam War. And the last president Gump met was Richard Nixon. After a reception Nixon offered Gump to stay at the Watergate Hotel. At night Forrest saw through window some people in another room. They used only torches, so Forrest called security. This scene pointed out the Watergate Scandal, which led to Nixon's resignation in August 1974. Gerald Rudolph became the next U.S. president.

As was described, Gump met John Lennon in the TV show and inspired him to write a song *Imagine*, while Forrest spoke about no possession and no religions in China.

When Forrest started in the shrimp fishing business, the area was hit by Hurricane Carmen, a destructive and widespread storm that helped Forrest to run his business. All boats in the sea were destroyed, but only the boat Jenny survived.

There is mentioned the HIV virus and with the Hippie movement by Jenny Curran. In the novel, Forrest Gump was also a part of some historical events, but there is no authenticity and he moved with history.

9. Conclusion

The aim of this bachelor thesis is to discover how the original story *Forrest Gump* was adapted to a movie of the same name. The main objective of the thesis is to find the differences that can be observed between them.

The bachelor thesis is divided into theoretical and practical parts. In the theoretical part, the history of the cinematography is mentioned and the theory of adaptation described. The next part deals with the author of *Forrest Gump* Winston Groom, which includes information about his personal and professional life, and about his works. Further following the biography of the director Robert Zemeckis where his filmography is mentioned. In the next part, facts about the novel *Forrest Gump* are discussed. In this part it is mentioned how the book was written and Groom's inspiration which refer to the appendix. The main characters from the book (Forrest Gump, Jenny Curran, Lieutenant Dan Taylor and Benjamin Buford Blue) are described one by one. This is followed by a brief summary of the novella. In the same way as the movie is described. Information about the film adaptation (actors, earnings, prize-winners) are given. To see the differences in personality traits, the same characters (Forrest Gump, Jenny Curran, Lieutenant Dan Taylor and Benjamin Buford Blue) from the movie are described. The summary of the movie is also made.

In the practical part, the differences between the novel and the movie adaptation are examined. Each part of Gump's life is introduced with a title that describes the relevant scene. In this part, the whole story of the novel and the whole story of the movie adaptation are described. First, the events from the novel are described and then events from the movie are compared.

At the end of the Bachelor thesis there are attached some appendices, such as photos and pictures connected to the novel or movie, and an interview with the author Winston Groom.

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Appendix 6:

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11. Abstract

The bachelor thesis, *Forrest Gump in the book and on the screen*, deals with the comparison of the novel *Forrest Gump* by Winston Groom to the movie adaptation by Robert Zemeckis.

The theoretical part deals with the theory of cinematography and theory of adaptation, with lives and works of the author Winston Groom and of the director Robert Zemeckis. Afterwards, there is summarized information about the novel and movie, including contents of the novel and of the film. The practical part deals with the comparative analysis which shows differences between the novel and the movie.

The bachelor thesis includes appendices with picture, photos and poster connected to the novel or movie. In appendices is also possible to find an interview with the author Winston Groom.

12. Resumé

Bakalářská práce *Forrest Gump v knize a na filmovém plátně* se zabývá porovnáním románu spisovatele Winstona Grooma *Forrest Gump* a jeho filmovou adaptací režiséra Roberta Zemeckise.

Teoretická část se zabývá teorií kinematografie a teorií adaptace, životy a tvorbou autora Winstona Grooma a režiséra Roberta Zemeckise. Dále jsou zde shrnuty informace o románu a filmu, včetně obsahů. Praktická část se zabývá komparativní analýzou, která ukazuje rozdíly mezi knihou a filmem.

Bakalářská práce obsahuje přílohy s obrázky, fotkami a plakátem, které jsou spjaty s knihou nebo filmem. V příloze je možné najít rozhovor s autorem Winstonem Groomem.

13. Appendices

List of Appendices

Appendix 1: Interview with Winston Groom

Appendix 2: Forrest Gump's Cover - the first edition

Appendix 3: Forrest Gump's Cover - after movie

Appendix 4: Forrest Gump's poster

Appendix 5: Robert Zemeckis

Appendix 6: Winston Groom

An interview with Winston Groom

1. What was your inspiration?

The idea came from as reminiscence of my father from his boyhood in the early 1900's in Mobile, Alabama, where there was a "retarded boy" in the neighbourhood who learned how to play exquisite piano music. I recognized that as the idiot savant syndrome and it occurred to me it might make a scene in a book I wrote someday so that night I sat down to make notes and before the evening was over I had begun Chapter one of Forrest Gump.

2. Why did you choose as a main character “retarded” young man?

It is another than the normal person and than normal characters.

3. What does Forrest Gump as a character mean for you?

I used "an idiot" so to speak, to give the reader a picture of the world as seen from another angle than the normal person.

4. Is the book autobiographical? Did you use your experiences from Vietnam?

The book is not autobiographical. Forrest Gump is an idiot. But yes, of course I used some of my own experiences from Vietnam to flavour the scenes.

5. How much did you participate in the movie?

I wrote the rifest two screenplay versions. Then they got other people to try it. Finally they got something they wanted. I was asked several times

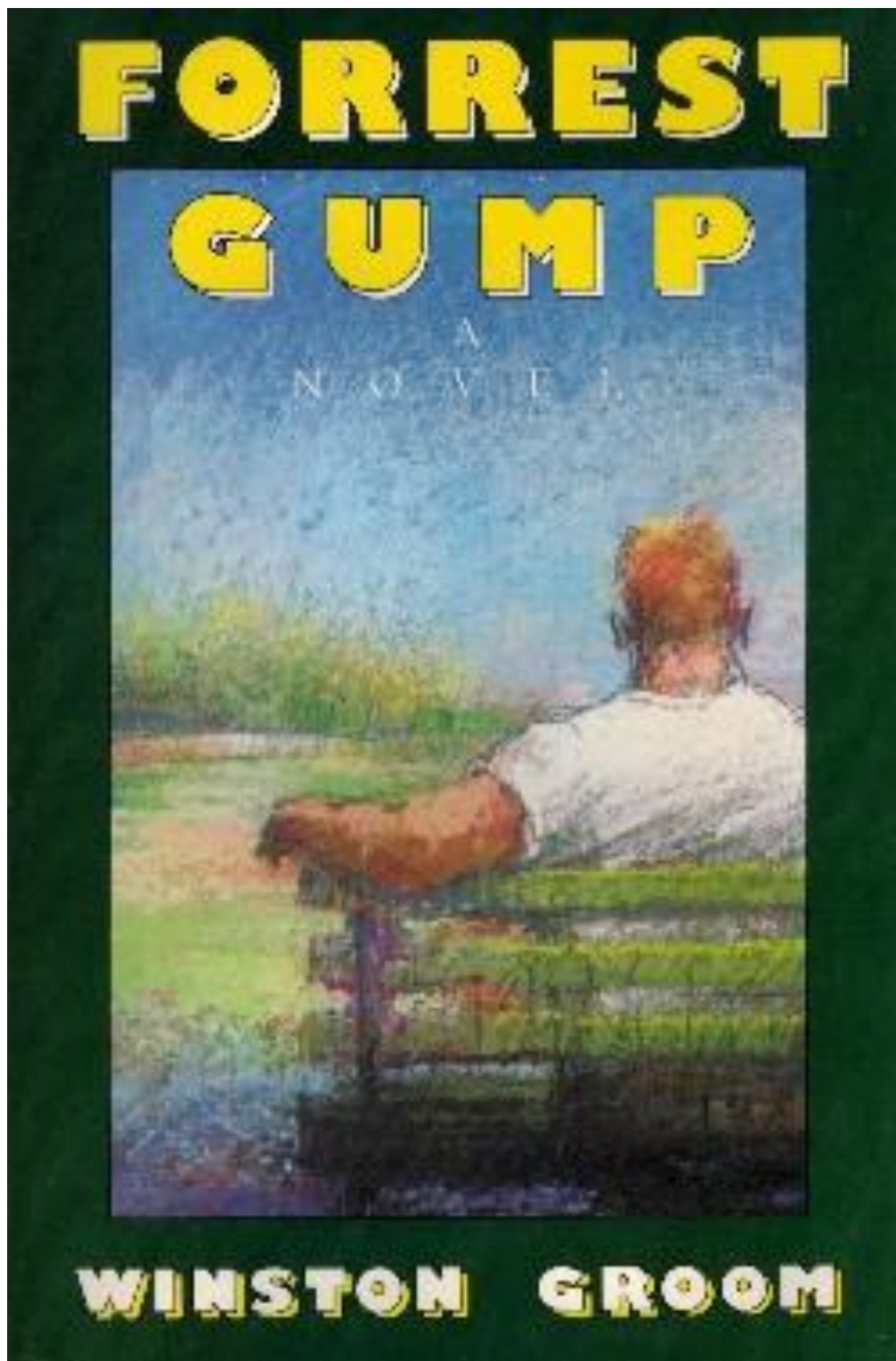
to visit the set but did not. I have had other movies made from books of mine and I find the actually movie shoots boring.

6. Why is the movie completely different from the novel? Did you agree with these changes?

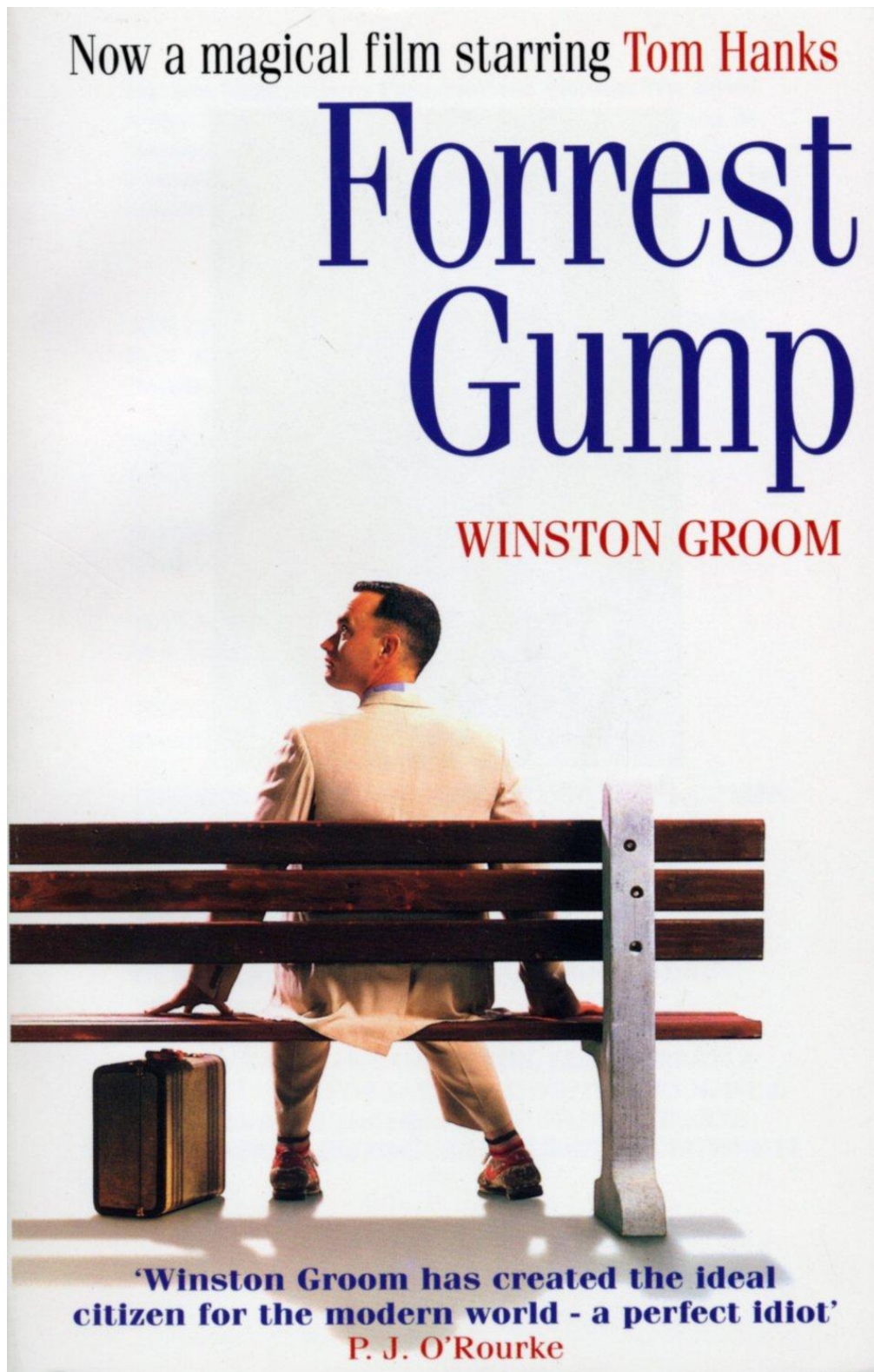
The movie is not completely different from the novel. A novelists would like movies of their books to be just like the book- in which case the movies would be three or four days long.

7. Are you satisfied with the movie?

Who could not be satisfied with a movie that earned \$1 billion? I think they did an excellent job.



The first edition



Book cover after movie

Appendix 4

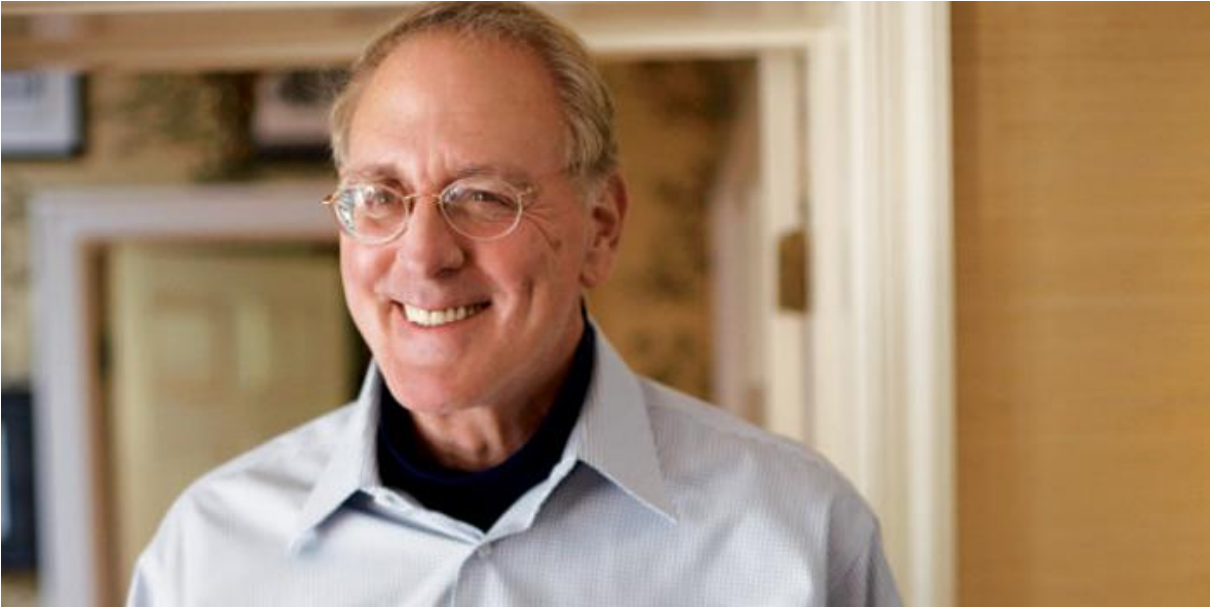


Movie poster



Robert Zemeckis

Appendix 6



Winston Groom