

Marley & Me

Film Review

By Rachel Day



A family is brought together by their adorable, but disobedient dog in a hilarious yet emotional story.

It's rare for a film to make you laugh until you cry and pull on your heart strings all at once, but David Frankel's (*The Devil Wears Prada*) *Marley & Me* does just that. The gripping comedy drama tells the tale of the mischievous yet loveable Labrador Retriever, Marley, who is adopted by newlyweds John (Owen Wilson) and Jenny (Jennifer Anniston).

Based on the best-selling memoir by John Grogan, the movie is set in sunny Florida after John, an ambitious writer, begins his new job. Unluckily for him, his dreams of writing for the *New York Times* are crushed when he is left to write insignificant stories for the local paper.

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Fortunately enough, his editor finally gives him his own column, where he finds himself writing stories about his life.

Everything is going to plan until Jenny's maternal instincts kick in. John's co-worker suggests that he buys her a puppy to make sure they are ready to raise a family, which is when they pick out

Marley from a litter of puppies. From the moment they bring him home, he immediately causes trouble, which many puppy owners can relate to. John realises how the uncontrollable adventures of his troublesome pup would be the perfect topic for his column, proving that there really is a positive for every negative.

Throughout the movie we watch the Grogan family grow and we begin to love Marley, despite his destructive nature which gives us plenty of laughs. Wilson and Anniston prove why they are some of the best comedy actors as they show that there are imperfections in every happy family life, all while adding a touch of humour. Not only is it a hilarious story but it is relatable and heart-warming altogether.

The ending of the film contrasts the beginning and we see a true connection between man and



man's best friend. In a tear-jerking scene between only Wilson and Marley, it is proven that the love of a dog should never be taken for granted.

It is certain that this is a film that will bring a tear to my eye every time I watch it. If you're willing to shed a tear or two yourself, *Marley & Me* is an unforgettable family movie that any dog lovers must see.

