The constant gardener
Director: Fernando Meirelles
2005 (123’)

A British diplomat’s wife is found murdered in Kenya. The official line is that it was a crime of passion involving a jealous lover. But events soon lead her husband to question this line and we follow him as he begins his own investigation to find out what really happened. This leads not only to the murky world of big business and its marriage to the establishment but also to a rediscovery of his own marriage and the work his wife did which would ultimately lead to her death.
The Constant Gardener is based upon the novel by John Le Carré and directed by Fernando Meirelles whose previous film was Cidade de Deus (City of God).

Vocabulary and Expressions:

To skive: To do nothing when you should, for example, be working or studying
You caught me skiving.
Old chap: Form of address used by one man to another (dated expression often used by the upper classes in England)
Feeble: Weak; without strength or force
You tried to protect me
Very feebly
You weren’t feeble.
Dull: Boring; uninteresting
It was a dull lecture.
Bollocks: Rubbish; nonsense (offensive term)
It was absolute bollocks.
Flattered: Feel pleased, special or important by something that has happened
I’m flattered.
A Cock-up: When something is ruined or messed up by doing something wrong
Raving mad: Completely insane
She’s raving mad
To rein in: To control somebody or something that is considered to have had too much freedom
They’ve asked you to rein me in.
To rant: To say foolish things in a loud or angry manner
He’s just ranting.
Keep an eye on somebody or something: Pay attention to or watch carefully
I’m supposed to keep an eye on you.
I’ll be right down: I’ll be with you very soon
Staggering: Very, very surprising or shocking
Chuck in: Give up; relinquish; stop
Shambles: Complete mess or disorder
Chuck in your shambles of a marriage.
Likely: Probable
That’s looking likely.
To be cleared: To be proved not guilty of a crime or mistake
You’ve been cleared.
Crude: Unsophisticated; without delicacy
He’s a crude sort of chap.
To blub: To cry
Sorry about the blubbing.
Ravenous: Very hungry
I am ravenous.
Sweetheart: Term of endearment to a loved one (similar to darling)
To land on your feet: To come out of a situation successfully
I expect he’ll land on his feet.
To take kindly to something: To be pleased by something
To blackmail somebody: To threaten to do something unpleasant to someone unless they do something you tell them to do
I don’t take kindly to being blackmailed.
To betray somebody: To let down, hurt or disappoint somebody who trusts or loves you
I betrayed her.
Silly sod: Foolish person
Besotted: If you are besotted with someone, you like them so much that you seem foolish or silly
Silly sod was besotted with her.