

Revolutionary Road

Director: Sam Mendes
2007 (109')



Frank and April Wheeler are the cool young couple that other couples aspire to be and parents want their kids to grow up to be. Or so it seems from the outside looking in. Falling in love, getting married, having children and moving to a lovely house with a garden in the suburbs – who could ask for more? Frank and April ask for more and their failure to get it leads to boredom and despair. If only they could break out of their perfect trap and be different! Maybe they can and soon they hatch the plan to escape their monotony and save their marriage. If only...

Revolutionary Road is based on the novel by Richard Yates and is set in mid-1950s USA when people were supposed to believe in the American Dream. In Yates' version the dream turns to disillusionment and the perfect couple begin to tear each other apart.

Vocabulary and expressions:

Longshoreman: Person who works on the docks loading and unloading ships (US)

Pass something (e.g. information) along: Tell or send something you have learned to another person

You have a very talented wife

Well, I'll pass it along

Get or become mixed up in something: To become involved in something that is negative or has negative consequences

I shouldn't have let you get mixed up in the damned thing!

Show somebody the ropes: To show someone who is new to a situation how things are done

I can show you the ropes

To do somebody the world of good: To describe a situation or action which is very beneficial to someone

It would do him the world of good to meet a young couple like you

To be off: This is often said just before you leave a place

Well, I must be off

To scoot: To go or leave (inf.)

I must scoot

Toodle-oo: Sometimes used to say goodbye (inf.)

To cut out: To leave (inf.)

I guess I'd better be cutting out

Swell: If you say that someone or something is swell you say that is very nice or good

It was a swell breakfast

To figure something out: To understand how something works or functions

I suppose I'm going to finally figure out what I want to do with my life

To be tickled to death: To be very happy about something that has happened

They are tickled to death in Toledo

A horse's ass: If you say someone is a horse's ass you are saying they are an idiot

What a horse's ass!

The funny farm: An informal term for a mental hospital

To take off: To leave (usually on a journey)

I'm quitting the job in the fall. We're taking off

Guts: Courage or bravery

It takes real guts to see the hopelessness

Sleep on it: Used when telling someone to think something over with time before making a decision

I guess: 'I guess' is used frequently in US English instead of 'I suppose'

I guess your dad would have been real proud, huh?

Yeah, I guess so

To get cold feet: Expression used when saying someone has changed their mind about something because they are a bit nervous or afraid of what will happen

To give somebody a lift: Used here to describe a situation that has made you feel more positive

It gives me such a lift to see it all perked up and spanking clean again

Whimsical: Unusual; playful; unpredictable

They were a bit whimsical for my taste. A bit neurotic.

Trying: If someone or something is trying it is problematic or difficult to deal with

They were very trying people to deal with in many ways.

In collaborazione con
In Zusammenarbeit mit

