

The Differences and Similarities Between the Printed Copy and the Movie of The Painted Door

Part 1

Introduction: The Painted Door was written by one of the renowned Canadian writers who was Sinclair Ross. This short story gained popularity when it was written in 1939, and afterward, the movie adaptation of the book came out in the theatres in 1984. There are two similarities and a difference which can be seen between the short story and movie adaptation. Both versions of the book have similarities in plot and theme, whereas the difference is seen in the style and some parts of the sequence.

Subtopic 1: The first similarity that both printed copy and movie version has is the plot.

Point 1: In the printed version, the conflict starts as Ann's objection to John's going to his father's home. It can be seen in this prose, "There was a double wheel around the moon last night. It isn't right to leave me here alone. Surely I'm as important as your father." (Ross, 1939, p.1). This example means that Ann is worried about him going there in the upcoming storm, and this example also shows that Ann doesn't want to be left alone and doesn't want him to go in this snowstorm. She wants to be valued and get affection from John. Likewise, in the movie, the conflict initiates as Ann's disapproval of John's departure to his father's home. This conflict also indicates that John neglects Ann's emotions and thinks about materialistic things, feeding the house's stable or heating.

Point 2: Another similarity is the climax part of the story. In the print copy, the climax starts with Ann cheating John with Steven. After her affair with Steven, she felt guilt and fear of getting caught by John. While they were looking at themselves in the bed, Ann mentioned, "But he always came. The wildest, coldest nights—even such a night as this." (Ross, 1939, p. 6). This example shows that Ann believes that John will return home and she is afraid of getting caught. Similarly, the movie has the same sequence of the climax. Ann's cheating on John and Ann's guilty behaviour are also seen in the film. However, it is displayed as a facial expression in the Ann. After Steven falls asleep, Ann looks at John and her wedding picture, and the guilt rushes to her in a moment. These examples show that the climax is displayed under the same meaning in both types.

Point 3: The last similarity which is indicated in the plot is the conclusion. The short story concluded by John's death by freezing. When he died, Ann realized that "On the palm, white even against its frozen whiteness, was a little smear of paint." (Ross, 1939, p.7). Therefore, this indicates that John saw everything that they did. The movie also sticks with the same conclusion as well. In the film, John is found dead with the stain of the bedroom door's colour, which Ann painted while he was away.

Subtopic 2: Another similarity between the print copy and movie version is the theme.

Point 1: The theme mentioned in the printed copy of the book is show people how you are feeling and caring about them because you never know what they are thinking or what may happen. In the beginning, it is mentioned, "It isn't right to leave me here alone. Surely I'm as important as your father." (Ross, 1939, p.1). This example shows that Ann wants to get affection and caring from John. She wants to be valued and be essential as his father. Also, it is seen "When John got up at five to attend to the fire he wanted to stay up and go out to the stable. When he sat down to a meal he hurried his food and pushed his chair away again, from habit, from sheer work-instinct, even though it was only to put more wood in the stove, or go down cellar to cut up beets and turnips for the cows." (Ross, 1939, p. 2). This example indicates that Ann and John barely talk at the dining table, and John has no effort of talking and asking how Ann feels about. Similarly, the movie also refers to this theme. At 7:55 in the film, it's seen

they don't look at each other when they are sitting at the dining table. While talking with each other, John always looks at somewhere. These examples refer to the theme that is show people how you are feeling about them because you can't know how they are feeling about you or what they may do.

Point 2: Another theme that has similarity between the book and the movie is think carefully before taking action because it may be something you will regret or it may hurt somebody. In the book, Ann's cheating mentioned: "It was only fear, morbid and irrational" and "She had not let herself understand or acknowledge it as guilt before, but gradually through the wind-torn silence of the night his face compelled her." (Ross, 1939, p.6). These examples show Ann's immediate behaviour caused her guilt and hurt John. At 19:16 in the movie, the same theme is seen, and it's observed that Ann didn't feel any regret before making that mistake, and she was willing to do it. After she had made a mistake, Ann felt guilty and hurt John. These examples verify the theme of thinking carefully before taking action because you may never know what it will cause.

Point 3: The last similar theme is that some people don't appreciate things until it's gone. Appreciate it while you can. In the printed copy, Ann wept after she had seen the dream in which John caught them sleeping. She realized John was the man compared to Steven. Even though she was committed not to do, she caused John's death and lost him forever. Ann didn't appreciate and didn't like what he became. However, she understood that it was the things which she should have given more care and appreciation. Similarly, at 21:59 in the movie, the audience sees Ann crying beside John's frozen body. She realized she should have cared more and know his value in her life. She understood his importance when he is gone. These examples refer to the theme of appreciating things in life.

Subtopic 3 The differences between the printed copy and the movie are in style and the plot's detailed parts.

Point 1: Literature and literary devices are more used in the book than movie adaptation. In the book, the writer tried to use more literary devices of the environment. He mostly personified places with human figures. For example, it is stated, "She lifted the stove lid and fanned the embers till a last a swift little tongue of flame began to lick around the wood." (Ross, 1939, p. 6). This example shows that the writer personified flame to human activity, which is licking. Moreover, the author used imagery to describe things. For instance, it is mentioned, "Windows open, sun and thawing earth again, the urge of growing, living things." (Ross, 1939, p. 2). In this line, the author described and talked about spring. In contrast, the movie didn't show literary devices or literature so often as in the book. Instead of using those, the film is mostly made up of actions and incidents.

Point 2: The other difference between the book's style and the movie's style is using descriptive language and detail-based language. The author's style in the printed version emphasized exploiting descriptive language and an affluent amount of words. For example, as it's stated in the book, "He was a slow, unambitious man, content with his farm and cattle, naïvely proud of Ann. He had been bewildered by it once, her caring for a dull-witted fellow like him; then assured at last of her affection he had relaxed against it gratefully, unsuspecting it might ever be less constant than his own." (Ross, 1939, p.1). In this example, the author described John's characteristic traits so that the reader doesn't have any question of him in mind. In the book, the author also pointed out the underlying reasons for John's hard work were paying off the mortgage and buying Ann's pretty clothes to wear. As the example showed, there is high use of words and adjective to describe him. However, the movie version didn't mention this issue at all. Also, the movie stuck out with more visualization and less verbalization.

Point 3: The last difference between the two versions is the importance of the plot's minor parts. For example, the author emphasized the shaving part in the beginning. The sequence is that Ann is notifying John to shave because Steven is coming, and she wants John to spare time for himself. John disagrees with shaving due to cold weather. The underlying cause was Ann wants to see John as Steven. However, the shaving conversation didn't go that way and mentioned little about it in the story. Even though this part was an important description of Ann's thoughts, the movie gave a little part. Furthermore, the short story gave a part to the place where Ann watched Steven while asleep. In that scene, the author carefully visualized and analyzed Ann's thoughts and feelings. In contrast, the movie didn't mention that scene. The film only displayed Ann's guilt after her mistake.

Conclusion: There are similarities and differences between both versions of the short story, *The Painted Door*. The plot and the theme are the two things which is common between the printed version and the movie version of the book. On the other hand, the minor parts of the plot and the style are different from each other.

The Painted Door was written by one of the renowned Canadian writers who was Sinclair Ross. This short story gained popularity when it was written in 1939, and afterward, the movie adaptation of the book came out in the theatres in 1984. There are two similarities and a difference which can be seen between the short story and movie adaptation. Both versions of the book have similarities in plot and theme, whereas the difference is seen in the style and some parts of the sequence.

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