

ETHAN FROME: MOVIE VERSION

**Study Guide compares the book *Ethan Frome* by Edith Wharton to the movie *Ethan Frome* (1993) starring Liam Neeson, Joan Allen, and Patricia Arquette. Directed by John Madden.
A Miramax Films Picture.**



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SAMPLE ETHAN FROME: MOVIE VERSION

THE MOVIE VERSION OF *ETHAN FROME* IS NOT LIKE THE BOOK by Edith Wharton

RECOMMENDED MOVIE: *Ethan Frome* (1993) starring Liam Neeson, Joan Allen, and Patricia Arquette. Directed by John Madden. A Miramax Films Picture. This is the ONLY film of the book. The movie adds some characters and changes the plot a little, but Liam Neeson is perfect as Frome.

HOW ACCURATE IS THE MOVIE VERSION OF THE BOOK?

Plot: ★★☆☆☆ Characters: ★★☆☆☆ Setting: ★★★★★

Structure: ★☆☆☆☆ Symbols: ★★☆☆☆ Theme: ★★☆☆☆

THE MOVIE: SUMMARY

The following is a scene-by-scene comparison of the movie to the corresponding chapters in the book.

THE MOVIE: PROLOGUE/INTRODUCTION

OPENING SCENE: The new minister arrives in Starkfield, Massachusetts on a train. (**ERROR:** *This character is not in the book. In the book the narrator is an engineer*) As he rides into town on a sleigh he sees a crippled Ethan Frome walking along the side of the road (**ERROR:** *Not in the book*)

Ned Hale meets Reverend Smith at the train. (**ERROR:** *Not in the book*) They drive off in a horse-drawn buggy. As they pass Ethan, Rev. Smith says “shouldn’t we give him a ride?” Hale says, “Naw – he wouldn’t take it.” (**ERROR:** *Not in the book*)

Rev. Smith attends a party hosted by his new congregation. (**ERROR:** *Not in the book*) The next day Rev. Smith goes to the general store/Post Office. (**ERROR:** *Not in the book*) A man named Harlan Gow observes: “Most of the smart ones get away.” (**ACCURATE QUOTE** but Gow says it to the engineer) Rev. Smith sees Ethan Frome at the Post Office window and walks over and introduces himself. Ethan replies “Frome.” (**ERROR:** *Not in the book*) Frome is a tall, muscular man who is severely crippled on his right side. (**ACCURATE**)

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QUIZ

This quiz compares the movie *Ethan Frome* (1993) starring Liam Neeson, Joan Allen and Patricia Arquette to the novel *Ethan Frome* by Edith Wharton.

- ____ 1. The opening scene of the movie shows the new minister arriving by train in Starkfield. The opening scene of the book tells how the narrator met Ethan Frome in the
a. church b. post office c. lumber mill d. general store
- ____ 2. In the movie and the book, the story takes place in Starkfield, Massachusetts in
a. summer b. spring c. autumn d. winter
- ____ 3. In the movie Reverend Smith asks Ethan Frome to serve as his driver. In the book the person who asks Ethan Frome to be his driver is
a. Ned Hale b. the engineer c. Ruth Varnum d. Harmon Gow

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