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“My Sister’s Keeper” Film Review

“My Sister’s Keeper”, by Nick Cassavetes, shows the story of Anna Fitzgerald (Abigail Breslin) and her older sister Kate(Sofia Vassilieva). Kate has leukemia and Anna was made to be a genetic match to her. Audiences will have a great sense of sadness as they understand the struggle of these characters. Nonetheless, I would recommend this movie to all because it brings us on an emotional rollercoaster of the lives of the Fitzgerald’s, and although there is no happiness in the end for the audience, there is relief for Anna and her family.

Throughout the story it shows Anna constantly trying to be persuaded to give Kate her kidney. Anna knows that by giving Kate the kidney, it will limit the life she wants to live. Anna will not be able to drink alcohol, play sports, or have kids, so she sues her parents for medical emancipation and for the rights for her own body. As a result of the lawsuit, various problems are created for the Fitzgeralds.

Even though there is not an overall happiness for the audience, importantly, there is for the characters. In the story we see a plot twist because it is said that Kate told Anna not to do the surgery. Anna’s brother Jesse tells the court that Kate no longer wants to live and Anna is only acting under her instruction because their mom Sara wouldn’t listen to her because she is too narrow minded. Another aspect of this film is the character development of the mom, Sara. Throughout the film Sara can be seen as the antagonist. For most of the movie she has been fighting to keep Kate alive, even though the rest of the family might not agree with her. Towards the end of the movie, Sara comes to realize that Kate is ready to die and she will have to accept it whether she likes it or not. The final aspect of a good movie is relatable characters. Throughout the movie Kate explains how her illness affected everyone in her family. One clear example of this is a flashback of Jesse and the parents explaining to him that they are gonna send him to camp for his dyslexia and Kate says to herself that she is sorry that she took the attention when Jesse was the one that needed it the most. This is relatable to all people because at one point or another, we’ve had to give up something even if it doesn’t have the best outcome.

This film is recommended to all because even though we are not happy with the ending, it helps the Fitzgeralds be in a happiness they haven’t had for a while. The emotional moments throughout the the movie have the audience coming back for more. Also, it keeps us thinking about how Kate’s cancer has not only affected Anna but the different perspectives of her other family members and how they were affected, and because all families have challenges, this movie appeals to everyone.