

# *My Culinary Love Story*

*The Movie*

**From The  
Book Memoir  
of Pauline Parry**

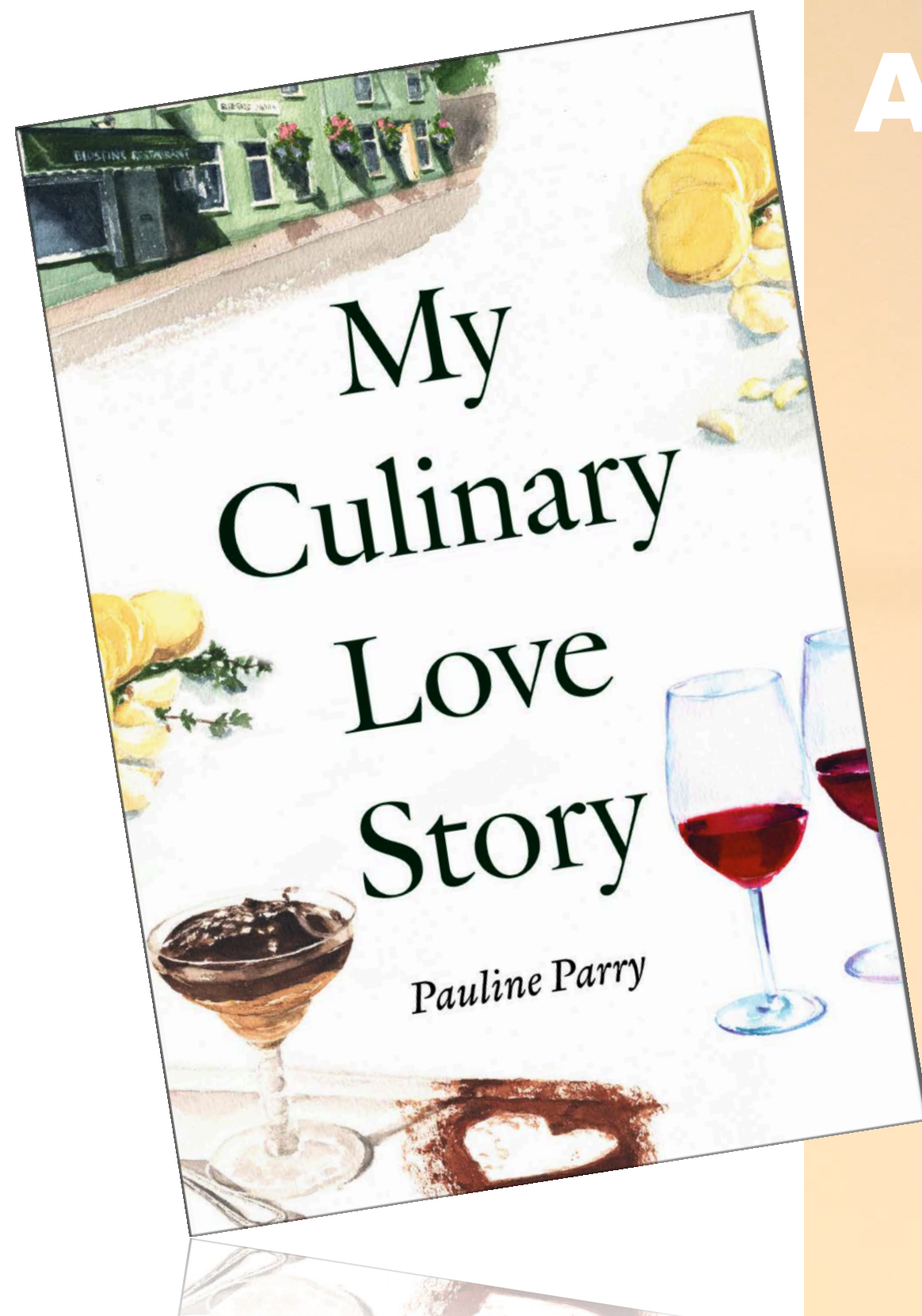


## OVERVIEW

<u>Genre:</u>	Drama
<u>Duration:</u>	105 Minutes
<u>Language:</u>	English
<u>Locations:</u>	Somerset, UK Malibu, CA
<u>Directors:</u>	TBD
<u>Writers:</u>	Sheri Smith Jeff Solema
<u>Producers:</u>	TBD
<u>Production Year:</u>	2024
<u>Rating:</u>	PG-13
<u>Budget:</u>	\$5M USD



# ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Pauline Parry founded Good Gracious! Events in 1983, the culmination of a passion for hospitality and food that began in a small bistro in England. Following a stint at a Michelin-starred restaurant in a castle, it was clear that food, fun and love was part of her DNA.

After moving to California with her husband Dennis and her two children, her talent for entertaining, imaginative menus and creative design quickly transformed Good Gracious! Events into one of the nation's premier catering firms. Pauline herself was inducted into the Hall of Fame for Events and Weddings and continues to mentor younger chefs and business owners.

When her daughter, Chef Joanne Purnell, joined her at the helm of Good Gracious! Events, Pauline began to put her talents down in writing. First with Food, Fun and Love: Party Styles, and next with her debut memoir, My Culinary Love Story, a nostalgic look back at her culinary apprenticeship and the early days of her romance with Dennis.

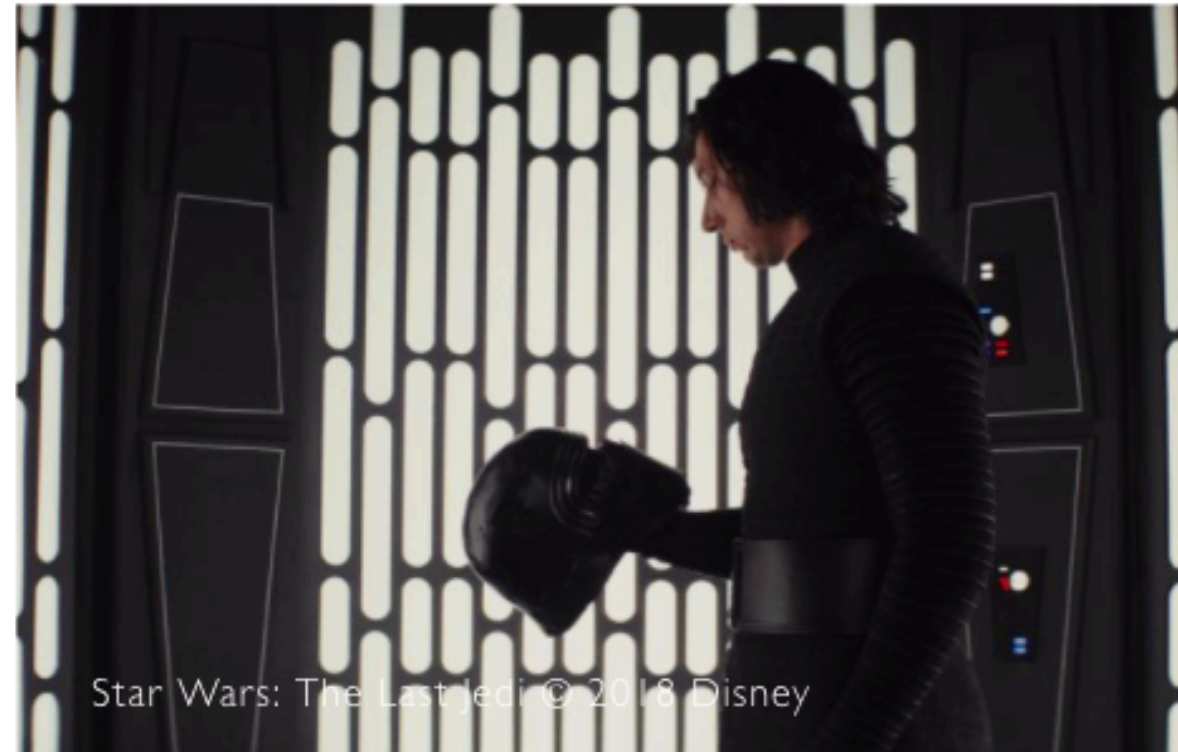




# CO-PRODUCTION



somersetfilm





# TEAM

Producers, Executive Producers to be Placed Here





## LOGLINE

Pauline Parry, a divorced mother of two, struggles to make a name for herself as she works to become a chef and learn about the restaurant business while finding love.

## SYNOPSIS

In the late 70s, society told women in the UK to stay home, be homemakers, or secretaries, with little or no pay. PAULINE PARRY (27), a divorcée and mother of two children, JOANNE (4) and ROSS (3) had a life decision to make; be one of those women who stayed home and cared for her children or do something special with her life. The choice wasn't easy, but Pauline believed in herself and had a dream of being a successful chef/restauranteur and coming to America.

In Somerset, England, opportunities were even more sparse for women who wanted more out of life. When opportunity came knocking, Pauline took full advantage of it. But it didn't come without risks, sacrifice, hard work, and tears.

Blostin's, a quaint little French bistro in the English countryside, would be the beginning of her culinary journey. BILL (40s), the chef and owner with his wife MONICA (40s), would give Pauline's passion for food inspiration and motivation. They offered her a job and the tiny apartment above the bistro to live with her children.

Blostin's would become the awakening and blessing Pauline needed. Bill would introduce Pauline to French culinary and show her around a commercial kitchen. Monica would teach Pauline about wines, the restaurant business, and dealing with customers. At the end of a long evening, she would go upstairs and tuck her children into bed for school the next day. It became a routine for Pauline as she would learn something new every day, whether it was a recipe for a great dish such as Coq au Vin, Rosemary Lamb Shanks, or having to make a business decision for the bistro. Her ex-husband DAVID (28), certainly didn't make things easy. He didn't approve that they lived above a restaurant, and he resented the fact that Pauline was moving on and doing well. He had no say in anything since Pauline caught him cheating with a younger woman. This event was soon to become a blessing. Pauline and David learn to work things out for the benefit of the children as her job and life become more demanding until David has to make a decision once more that will affect all their lives.

In the midst of Blostin's, love will also find a way into Pauline's heart. Although, that, too, did not come easy. After a few first dates, DENNIS (late 20s) comes into her life. A handsome craftsman, he was a regular at Blostin's, but a player who brought many dates in for dinner. Pauline, however, would leave an indelible mark on Dennis's heart from their first meeting. And just like Pauline's blossoming culinary career, Dennis was just as unpredictable.

Pauline's time, commitment, and effort are about to get rewarded as KENNETH BELL (50s) offers her a position to be an Assistant Manager at Thornbury Castle. The job and location would certainly be a step up from the bistro, and Pauline knew she had to take it, even if it meant leaving everything she built with Bill and Monica at Blostin's. Pauline would take all the knowledge and experience she had learned along with her kids and move onto the castle grounds. The job, of course, is a more significant challenge and would come with greater responsibilities that she and her kids would have to adjust to.



## SYNOPSIS (CONTINUED)

As Pauline's and Dennis's relationship blossoms, she finally introduces him to Joanne and Ross after a few years of dating. Dennis will do anything to gain the kids' approval. Trips to London together lead to talking about their life together, but Pauline is not ready. She rejects Dennis's proposal for them to move in with him. She is focused on her career as she does not want to depend on another man again, even if it is Dennis. But both realize there's much work in their careers left before they can seriously discuss living together. This will lead Dennis to accept a once-in-a-lifetime job on the other side of the world in Malibu, California, to build an English-style windmill. The first true test for both Pauline and Dennis, as they will be apart for months.

Pauline focuses on her work, not knowing what will happen between her and Dennis. Her new boss, Kenneth Bell, is much harder on her than Bill and Monica ever were at Blostin's. Her job is more challenging now on a bigger scale as Thornbury Castle is busier and a more recognized establishment. The position also tests her desire and commitment to her passion for food. Pauline is pushed to her limits at Thornbury Castle and begins to question everything.

Pauline and Dennis write letters to each other every day and talk once a week. It's not enough for both of them, especially for Dennis. He proposes that Pauline and the kids come to California and move there with him. Pauline has been in the English countryside all her life, so going to California, much less living there, might as well be a dream. Dennis buys Pauline a ticket to Malibu to see everything California has to offer. It will also be a good break for Pauline from the everyday stress of Thornbury Castle, and Kenneth Bell knew she needed a break. But even going to California to see Dennis did not come easy. Her flight to Los Angeles got canceled, so Pauline jumped on a flight to San Francisco instead, not realizing how far it was from Los Angeles. Dennis was there waiting for her. As they make their way south through Napa on the Pacific Coast Highway, Pauline begins to see a life for her and her kids along with Dennis. After a few weeks together in California, their minds are made up about the move, but not before Dennis proposes to Pauline for the third time. This time Pauline accepts.

Pauline is excited and nervous to get back home and tell her family that she's engaged to Dennis. She's afraid to tell them that they've also decided to move to California. Pauline also knows she must get full custody of Joanne and Ross to make California a reality, which will require her ex-husband David to agree or be forced to by the legal system. David wasn't about to give up his kids that easily.

Dennis's family disapproved of him marrying Pauline. They didn't like that Pauline was a divorcée with two kids. But Dennis didn't care what his family thought or if his family would come to their wedding or not. It mattered to Pauline and bothered her that Dennis's parents disapproved of her, and they didn't even get a chance to get to know her yet.

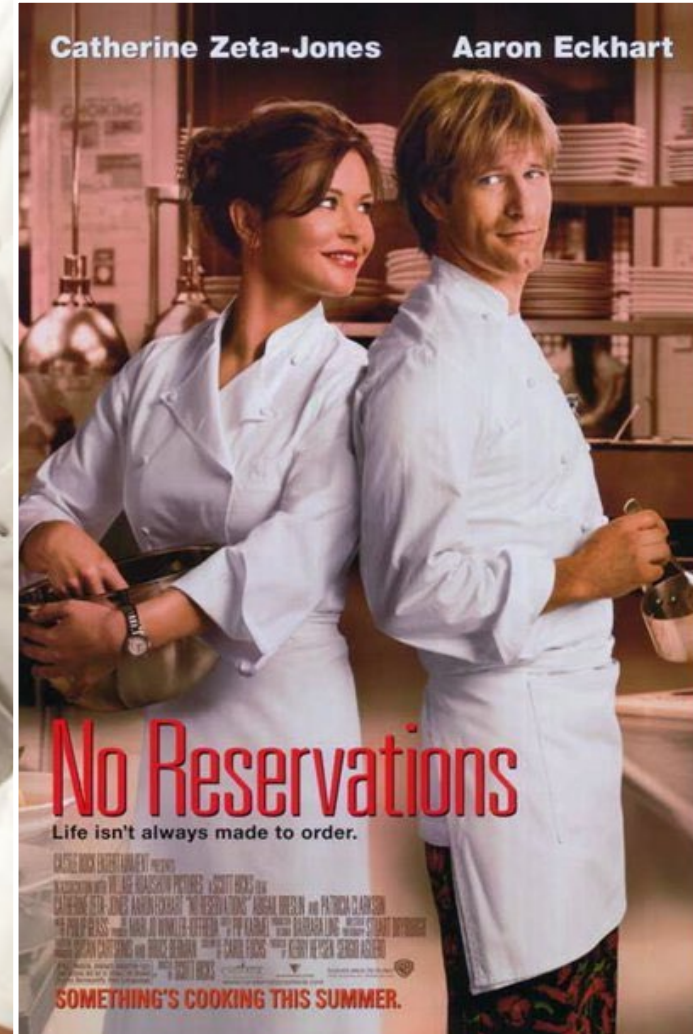
Nevertheless, Pauline and Dennis are married without his parent's blessing and David's decision of the kids' futures hovering above them. It wasn't until weeks later that Pauline will finally get the approval from Dennis's parents she so badly wanted. The judge also grants Pauline full custody of Joanne and Ross so they can move to California. Pauline doesn't want to take the children from David's life entirely, so it was decided that they would spend six to eight weeks every summer with him. Pauline also got Kenneth Bell's blessing and recommendation to continue to do the work she's so passionate about in California. So ultimately, in the end, love and goodwill prevail.

Pauline's culinary story reads like a recipe. Each ingredient makes up a different part of her life, with each step signifying moments and decisions made. Ultimately, the food that Pauline makes becomes part of what defines her, interwoven in her life story. It's all part of a great recipe that makes her story a one-of-a-kind recipe.





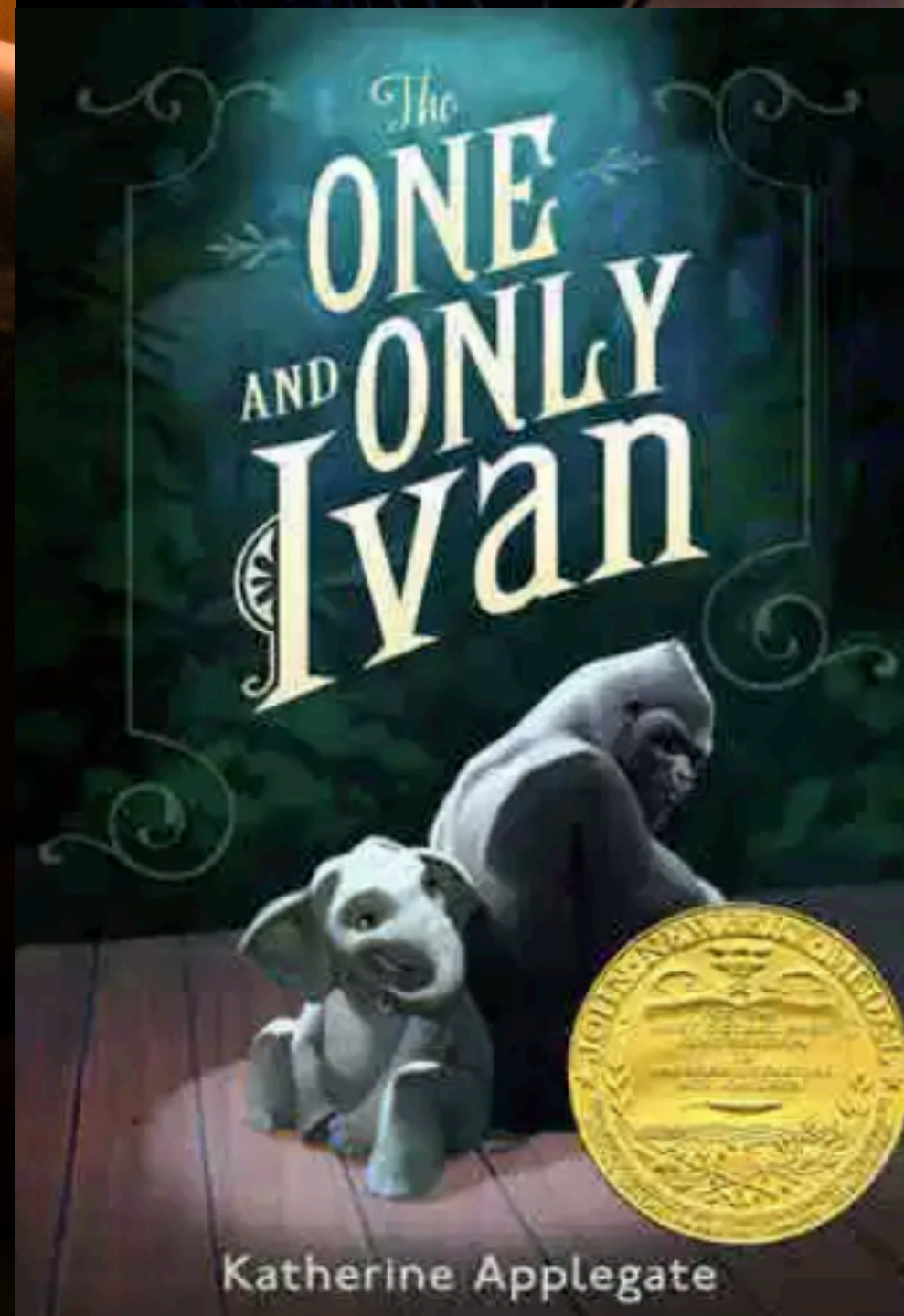
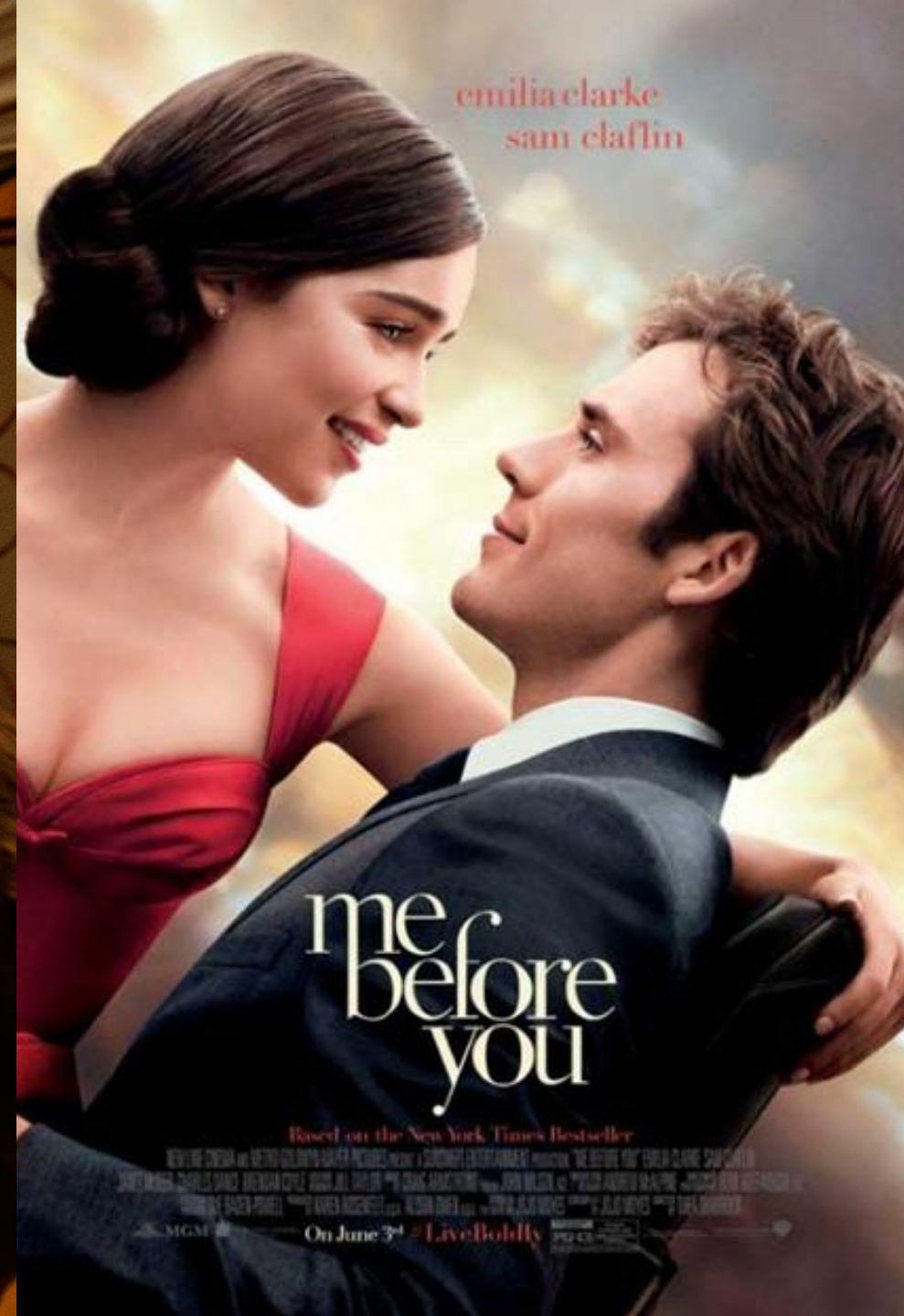
# COMPARABLES





# PROPOSED DIRECTOR

Thea Sharrock

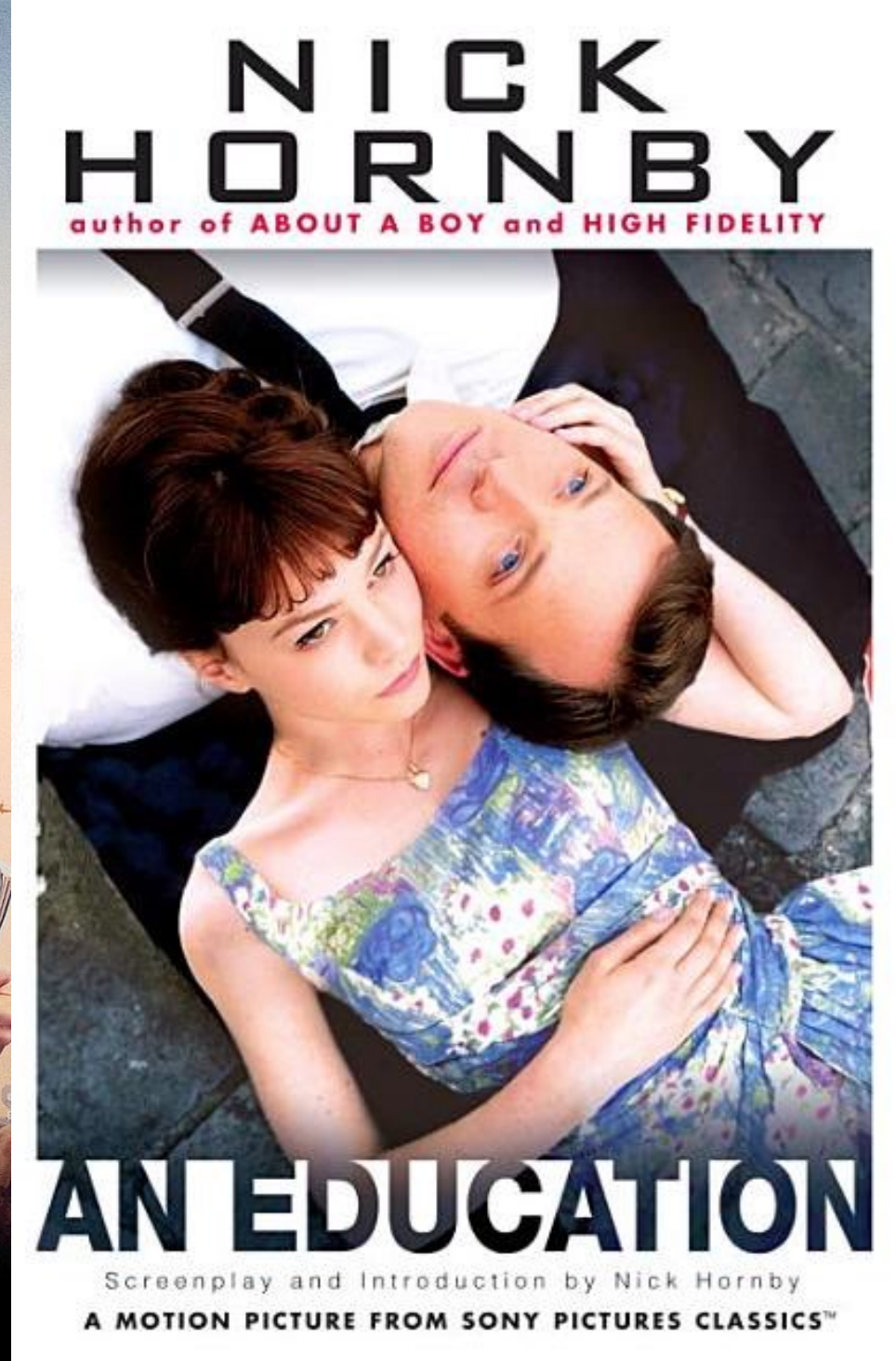




# PROPOSED DIRECTOR



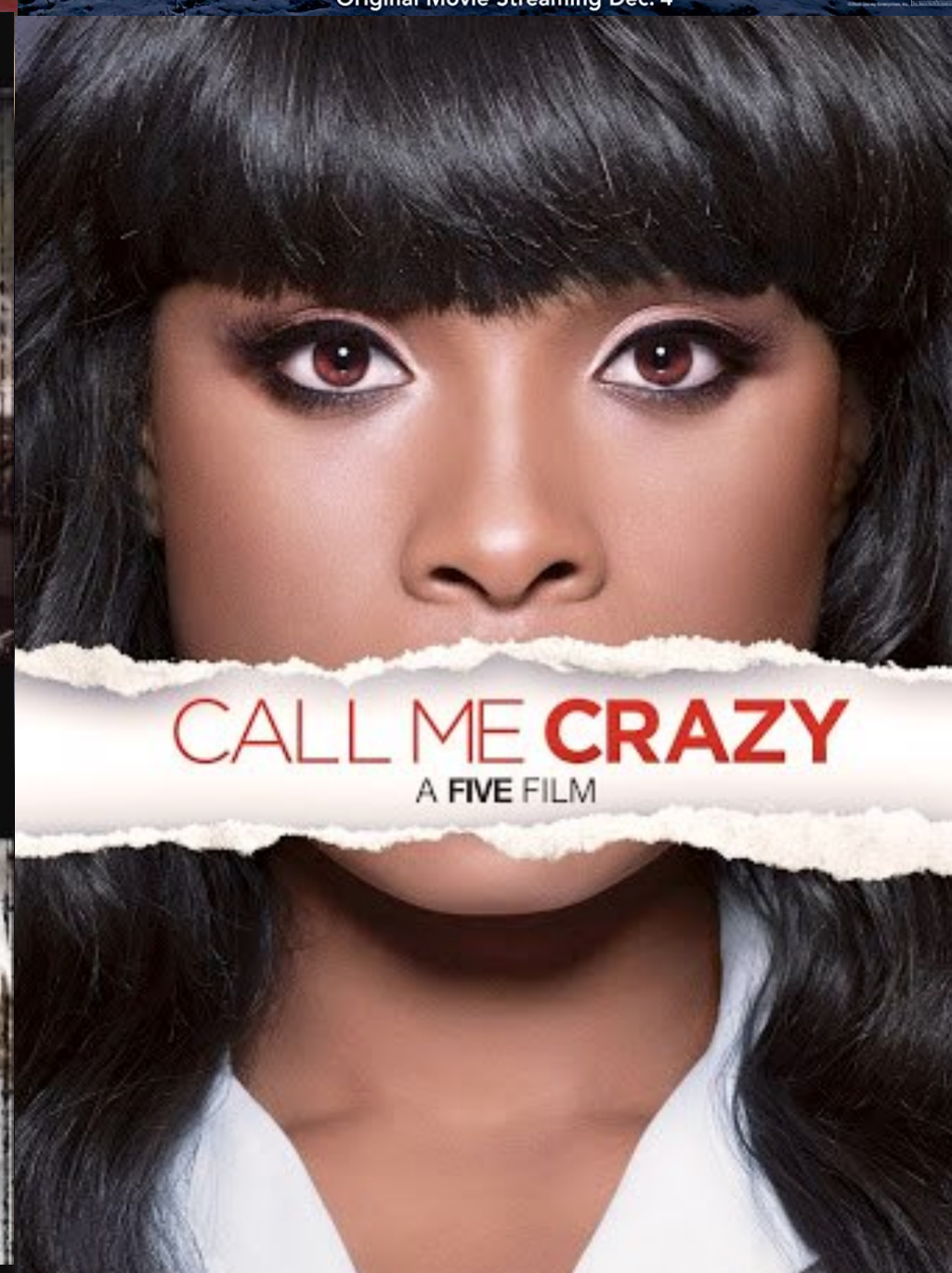
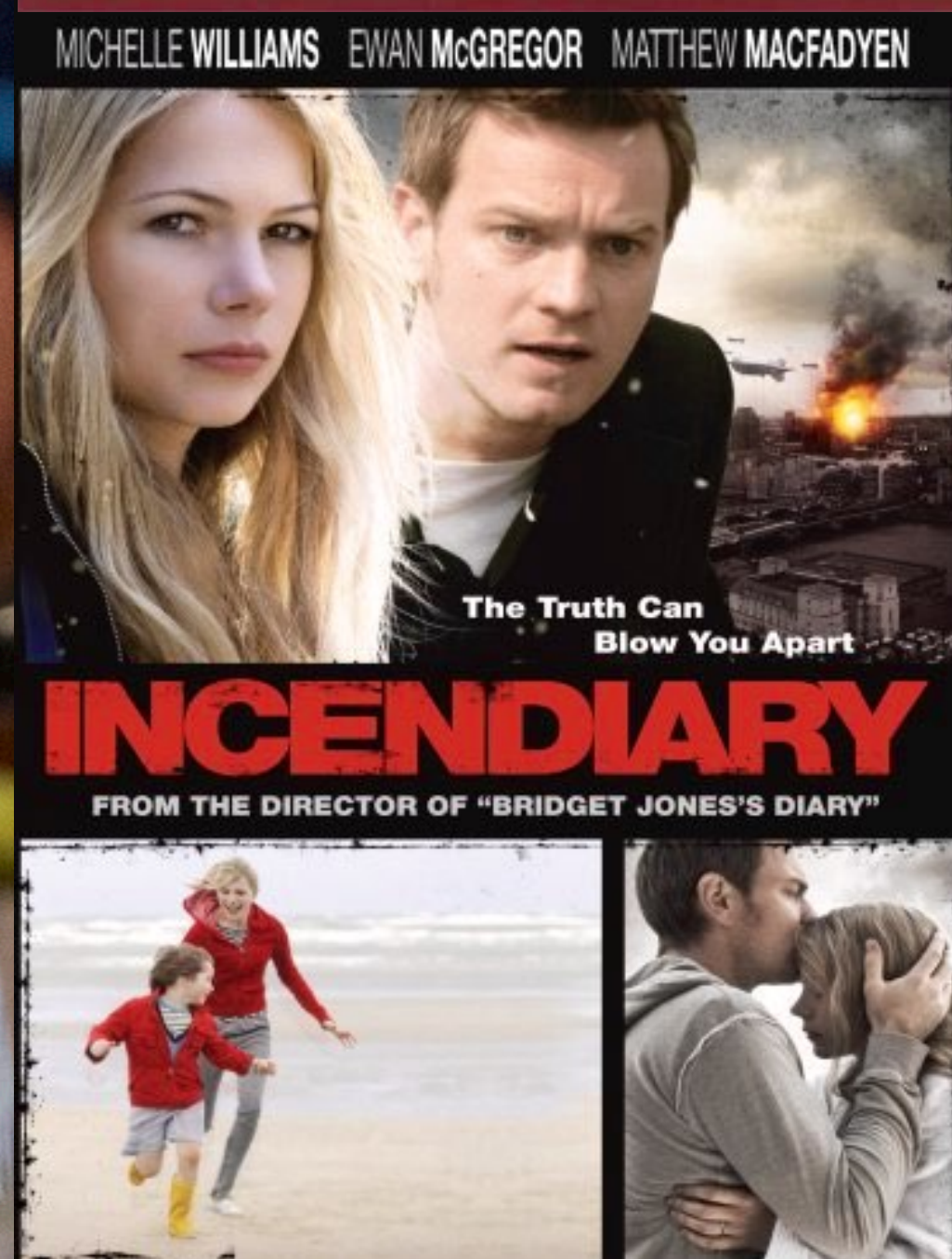
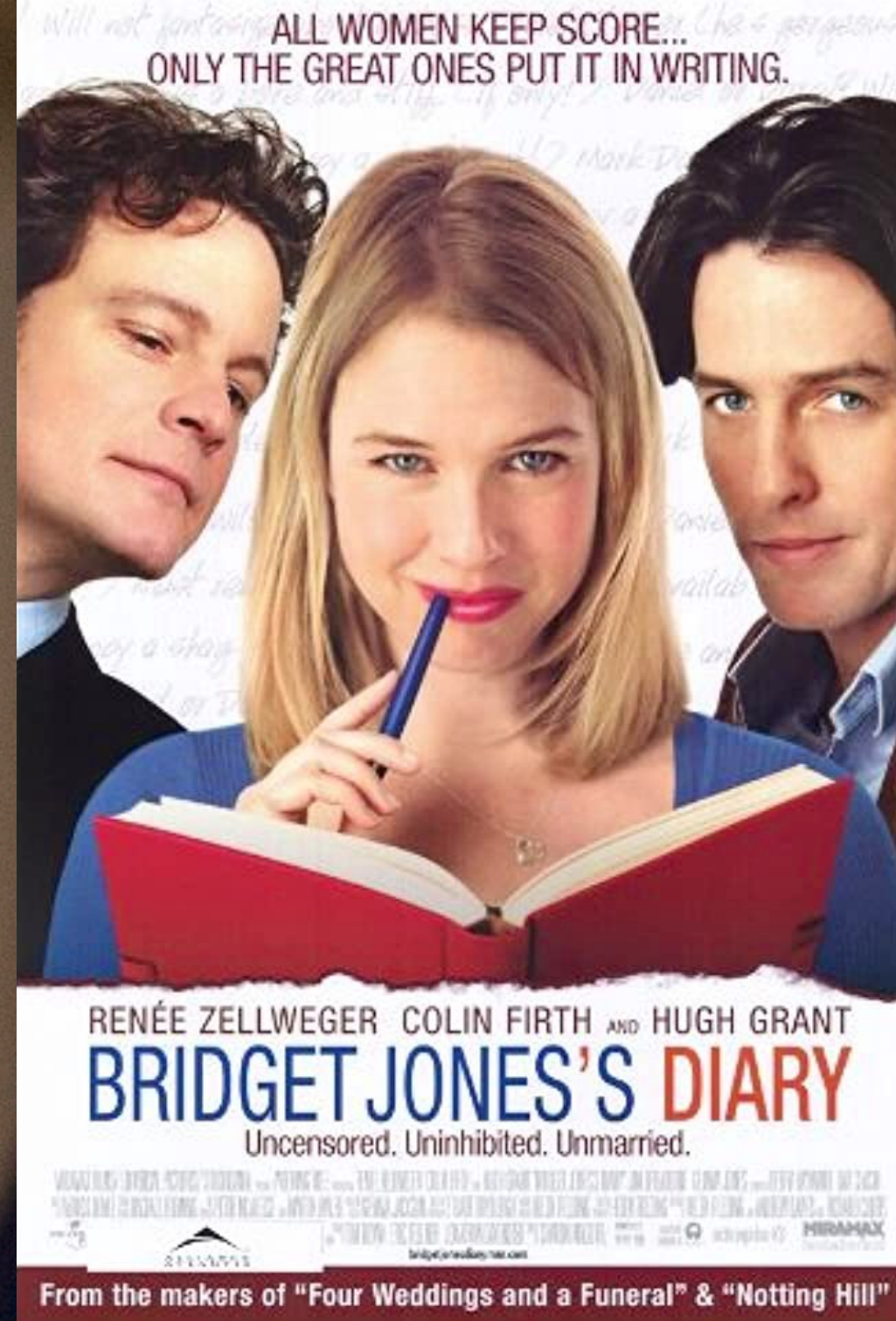
Lone Scherfig





# PROPOSED DIRECTOR

Sharon Maguire





# PROPOSED CAST

Ellise Chappell for Pauline



**PAULINE** - is a homemaker and a charismatic food and wine enthusiast, a stylish, petite woman who wears signature Max Factor red lipstick and three inch heels. She is a mother of two young children, Joanne and Ross. After she discovers her husband David cheated on her, she is faced with difficult life decisions at the tender age of 27. She finds the strength to tell him to leave the marital home. She will do everything in her power to protect her children. After tentatively entering the dating scene. At first insecure, she blossoms into a confident restaurateur and chef after on the job training at a bistro, then a Michelin star restaurant, determined never to depend on a man again. She is provided a chance at a career most women weren't privy to back in the 70's and she takes full advantage of it, learning as much as she can as she goes.

Pauline falls in love with her job and is attracted to a dashing bloke, Dennis, after seeing him at the bistro, despite best efforts not to get entangled at this stage of her life. She juggles career, children, and love as she continues to grow and follow her dreams of coming to America, becoming more confident in herself and her abilities.





# PROPOSED CAST

Synnove Karlsen Also For Pauline





# PROPOSED CAST

Joe Alwyn for Dennis

**DENNIS** - is a confident young man, known to be a flirt and a player. He brings his dates to the restaurant where Pauline works and his wandering eye lingers on the hot, petite Pauline with slim ankles in 3 inch high heels. He is a larger-than-life character, very handsome and direct who always seems to know what he wants and goes for it. He is pursuing his career as an architect and craftsman. Dennis' reputation leads to an offer from a man in Malibu to build a windmill on his estate.





# PROPOSED CAST




Theo James Also For Dennis



# PROPOSED CAST

Tobias Menzies for Bill


A man with short dark hair, wearing a white dress shirt, a dark tie, and a grey vest, stands in a room. He is looking slightly to his left with a serious expression. His right arm is extended, and he is holding onto a dark wooden door handle. The room has a warm, dimly lit atmosphere with a lamp on the left and a framed picture on the wall behind him. In the foreground, there is a white ceramic pitcher on a tray with a floral pattern.

**BILL** - is the chef and owner of Blostin's and married to Monica who is his partner. Bill is very knowledgeable about French food and no nonsense type. He teaches Pauline about classic French dishes and he and Monica are very influential in Pauline's start in her culinary endeavor.



# PROPOSED CAST

Natascha McElhone for Monica




**MONICA** - is Bill's wife and co-owner of Bolstin's. Monica takes Pauline under her wing and teaches her how to run a restaurant. She is a lively character with a hearty laugh. She is always talkative, and ready to entertain.



# PROPOSED CAST

Rhys Ifans for Kenneth Bell


A photograph of Rhys Ifans, a man with short, light-colored hair, wearing a dark suit jacket, a light-colored shirt, and a dark tie. He is sitting at a table with his hands clasped in front of him, looking slightly to the right of the camera with a serious expression. The background is dark with several horizontal, glowing light fixtures, suggesting an indoor setting like a restaurant or office.

**KENNETH BELL** - is a restaurateur who owns Thornbury Castle. He pulled Pauline away from Bolstin's after meeting her and offered her a job at the castle, a Michelin star restaurant that he intends to turn into a hotel, so the pressures are quite different than those at Bolstin's. Kenneth gives Pauline a more challenging position that will test her desires and dreams of being in the restaurant business. Kenneth gives tough love while teaching Pauline everything she needs to know.



# PROPOSED CAST

Matthew Goode for John



**JOHN**- the entrepreneur from London who bought property in Malibu and moved there with his family. He offers Dennis a job to come to come and build him a windmill as part of his American English estate. Ultimately he entices Dennis to come and live there.



# CHARACTER TONE





# LOCATION TONE

Somerset, England





# LOCATION

Thornbury Castle Hotel is a true luxury B&B retreat at the edge of the South Gloucestershire Cotswolds and one of the finest examples in England of a genuine, immaculately preserved Tudor castle.

You can soak up history with a stroll through the castle itself and its beautifully tended grounds which include, surprisingly enough, a 500-year-old vineyard, or treat yourself to a massage in the privacy of your own bed-chamber and also enjoy some of the Cotswold's very best food at the castle restaurant.





# CONTACT

For More Info  
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