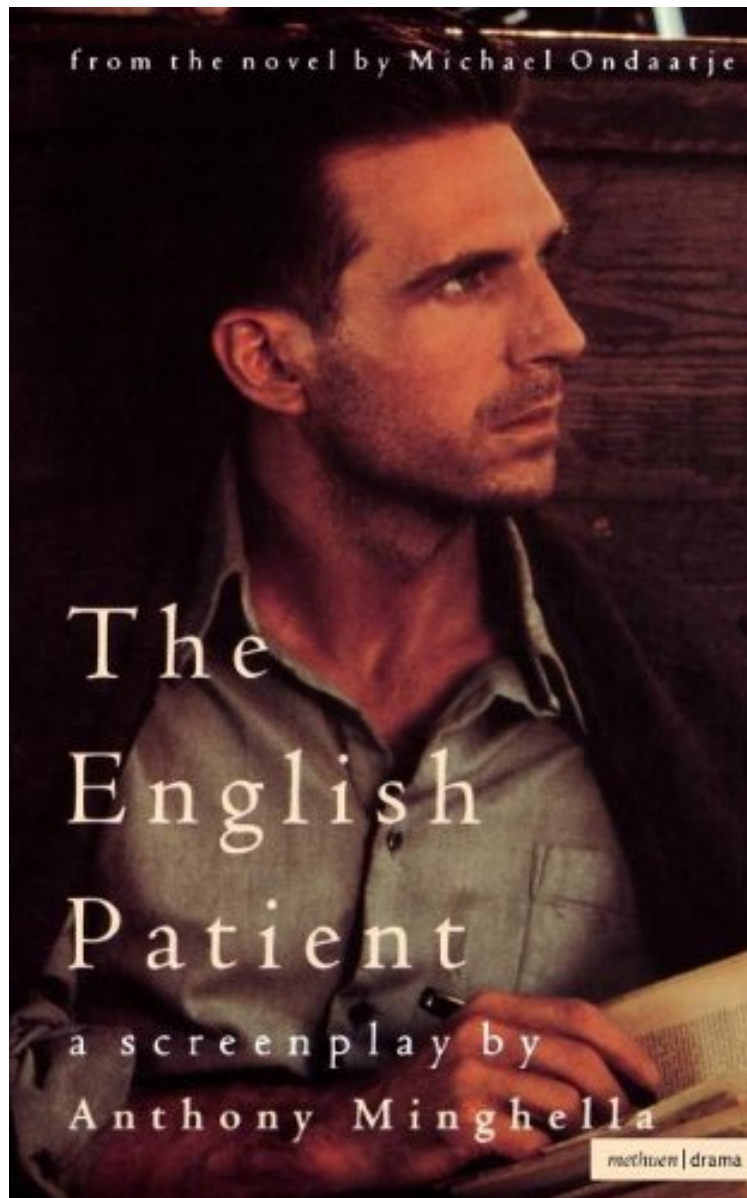


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The English Patient: Screenplay (Screen and Cinema)

Anthony Minghella, Michael Ondaatje
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Anthony Minghella, Michael Ondaatje : The English Patient: Screenplay (Screen and Cinema) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The English Patient: Screenplay (Screen and Cinema):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. deliciousBy curlyred17A true masterpiece...some may say too long,

however I say not long enough. So sad to say goodbye to these characters and so sad to say goodbye to Anthony Minghella. What gifts you have left this world with your brilliance. Bravo! He had a wonderful book by Michael Ondaatje to muse upon, together they've cast a magical spell on us.² of 2 people found the following review helpful. Lost in Translation! By Judith Johnson In my opinion, the screen adaptation did not do justice to this Booker prize winning novel although Ralph Fiennes and Kristin Scott Thomas were beautifully cast. Author Michael Ondaatje's tale of the remembrance of an adulterous romance juxtaposed with the horrors of WWII loses some of its magic in the transition to film. Sadly, the author's arcane knowledge about the Great Silk Road, the Florentine Madonnas, various desert winds and the great Django Reinhardt have been severely compressed or omitted. Told from the P-O-V of a dying protagonist under the influence of morphine, the sweeping story is revealed in numerous flashbacks. The locations alternate between a ruined villa in war torn Italy, glamorous Cairo, Egypt at Christmastime, 1938 and archaeological ruins in the uncharted North African desert. The Oscar nominated screenplay actually begins three-quarters through the book with aristocratic Hungarian explorer Lazlo Almaszy falling aflame from a burning plane into the Saharan desert. His rescue by Beoudins who save his life is both haunting and original. The tragically disfigured Almaszy is dubbed the English Patient when he ends up in a British field hospital where he refuses to reveal his identity. A skilled linguist, they think he is one of them, however, Almaszy has good reason to conceal his true identity. There the shell-shocked nurse Hana starts caring for him and they end up in a villa where they are slowly joined by a few other characters. There the brilliant, anti-social Count recounts the story of his doomed love affair with Katharine Clifton, a colleague's charming wife. Poor Almaszy is a man who "fasted until he found what he wanted" and when he finally finds her, he is obsessed. For the love of K, he ultimately betrays his friends, his country and is forever haunted by their tragic destiny. The screenplay does do an excellent job of making coherent the dual plot lines and numerous flashbacks. It is all here-adultery, homosexuality, necrophilia, drug addiction, treason, torture and murder in a story so compelling and so tragic one actually pities these fictional characters.³ of 3 people found the following review helpful. The best adaptation is not always the most faithful. By A Customer Adapting novels to screenplays is fraught with perils - the expectations of readers who want to see the movie as they imagined the story when reading the book; trying to condense hundreds of pages of prose to 120 pages of sparsely written screen directions and (one hopes) pithy, memorable dialogue; and not least, dealing with an author resentful of the screenwriter's "messing around" with his or her work. But in "The English Patient", a screenplay by Anthony Minghella, who also directed the film, we have an adaptation brilliant in its execution, one which the author actually praises in a prologue to the published script (Miramax Books). The script is based on Canadian author Michael Ondaatje's novel of the same name. The novel is quite different, an amazing, drug-hazed trip in its own right. When Minghella decided to do the film version, he read the book once, then put it away and began afresh. He's taken the sense of the book, the emotional core of it, and brought that forward, using elements from the novel and inventing a few of his own. Both men have nothing but admiration for each other, and Ondaatje was on the set of "The English Patient" much of the time. For anyone interested in filmmaking, scriptwriting, adaptations, or just a good read, both the novel and the screenplay will not disappoint. -michael cox.

From the novel by Michael Ondaatje. Anthony Minghella's screenplay is a gripping adaptation of Michael Ondaatje's Booker Prize-winning story of love, betrayal and loss set against a background of war, spies and intrigue. "Here is a work of art to break your heart." Time "The current movie versions of books are well-meaning, but none comes close to The English Patient in their ability to turn literary prose into cinematic gems." New York Times