**Movie Review – Shake Hands with the Devil (2007)**

**Allura Bartlett**

After reading the novel and then watching the movie, I can say that I was not disappointed. The film stuck to the book, as best as it could. The main thing I noticed however was how “nice” the events were portrayed.

I felt that Romeo Dallaire's character was very well played by Roy Dupuis, and I especially liked the scenes with the therapist. It portrayed Dallaire’s pain and struggles following UNAMIR and what he went through (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, attempting suicide, etc).

The graphics were a little too toned down. The detail in the novel was very descriptive, and I know from having read about and seen documentaries, that they were far worse than what was shown in the film. Minus the church scene, everywhere else you are presented with toned down scenes. The reality was 100 times worse. I think it’s important to convey the message of what really happened. People died. Practically a whole race. This is not portrayed as it should be.

The civil war was also not present. Although it is mentioned, and you realize that Kagame's RFP eventually wins, the war is mostly absent from the movie (after researching the topic, it turned out to be a budget thing). I found the RPF and RGF conflict to be minimal, when in the novel it was a main conflict. In the novel, the civil war caused UNAMIR a lot of conflict, with road blocks and being caught in crossfire.

I found the following information online and agree with it. Some lines are just dead wrong. When asked by the CNN reporter why UNAMIR wasn't intervening to stop the carnage, Dallaire replies that he would be court martialed if he did. Dallaire would never have said anything like that. I never picked up on this until after I read about it online, but I certainly agree.

Repeatedly, Romeo Dallaire has mentioned that the film isn't true to what the mission's NY headquarters really lived. Maurice and his staff were much more stressed out than what is shown in the movie. Also Dallaire is very polite with NY headquarters in the movie, when in the book he flips out.

Although Dallaire was very grateful for the presence of the Belgian's paratroops among UNAMIR, he eventually grew a hatred for them when they left the mission, leaving Dallaire more short staffed when he needed more troops. This doesn't transpire in the film.

But overall, it was a good film and gets the general message out to the world. The main actor, Roy Dupuis, did a phenomenal job representing Romeo Dallaire.