

6 NOVEMBER 1987

LESS THAN ZERO

DRAMA/TEEN

College

Friendship

Drug abuse

The film Stars

Andrew McCarthy as Clay

Jami Gertz as Blair

Robert Downey Jr. as Julian

MOVIE

REVIEW & OVERVIEW

ACT ONE

Robert Downey Jr.

The character was an exaggeration of myself. Then things changed and, in some ways, I became an exaggeration of the character. That lasted far longer than it needed to last

Clay Easton (Andrew McCarthy) is a straitlaced college freshman on the East Coast of the United States, who returns home to Los Angeles, California, for Christmas to find things very different from the way he left them. His high school girlfriend and now model, Blair (Jami Gertz), has become addicted to cocaine and has been having sex with his high school best friend, Julian Wells (Robert Downey Jr.). Julian, whose life has gone downhill after his startup record company fell apart, has become a drug addict. He has also been cut off by his family for stealing to support his habit and reduced to homelessness. Julian is also being hassled by his dealer, an old classmate named Rip (James Spader), for a debt of \$50,000 that he owes to him.

ACT TWO

In 2010, Ellis Published a loose Sequel to *less than zero*

Imperial Bedrooms takes place 25 years after the events in *Less Than Zero*, and with the same cast of characters. Ellis got the idea to revisit the past after he re-read *Less Than Zero* “**I wanted to know where Clay was after I finished reading Less Than Zero,**” As it turned out, Clay is a screenwriter back in L.A., still haunted by his past.

Clay's relationship with Blair rekindles and Julian's behavior becomes more volatile. His addiction is worsening and since he does not have the money to pay off his debt, Rip forces him to become a prostitute to work it off. After suffering through a night of withdrawal and hiding from Rip, Julian decides to quit and begs his father Nicholas Pryor to help him. The next day, Julian tells Rip his plans for sobriety, which Rip does not accept. Rip soon lures Julian to a Christmas party for affluent gay men in palm springs. Clay finds Julian and rescues him; after a violent confrontation with Rip and his henchman, Clay, Julian and Blair all escape and begin the long drive through the desert so Julian can attempt to achieve sobriety once and for all. However, the damage has already been done; the next morning Julian dies from heart failure in the car.

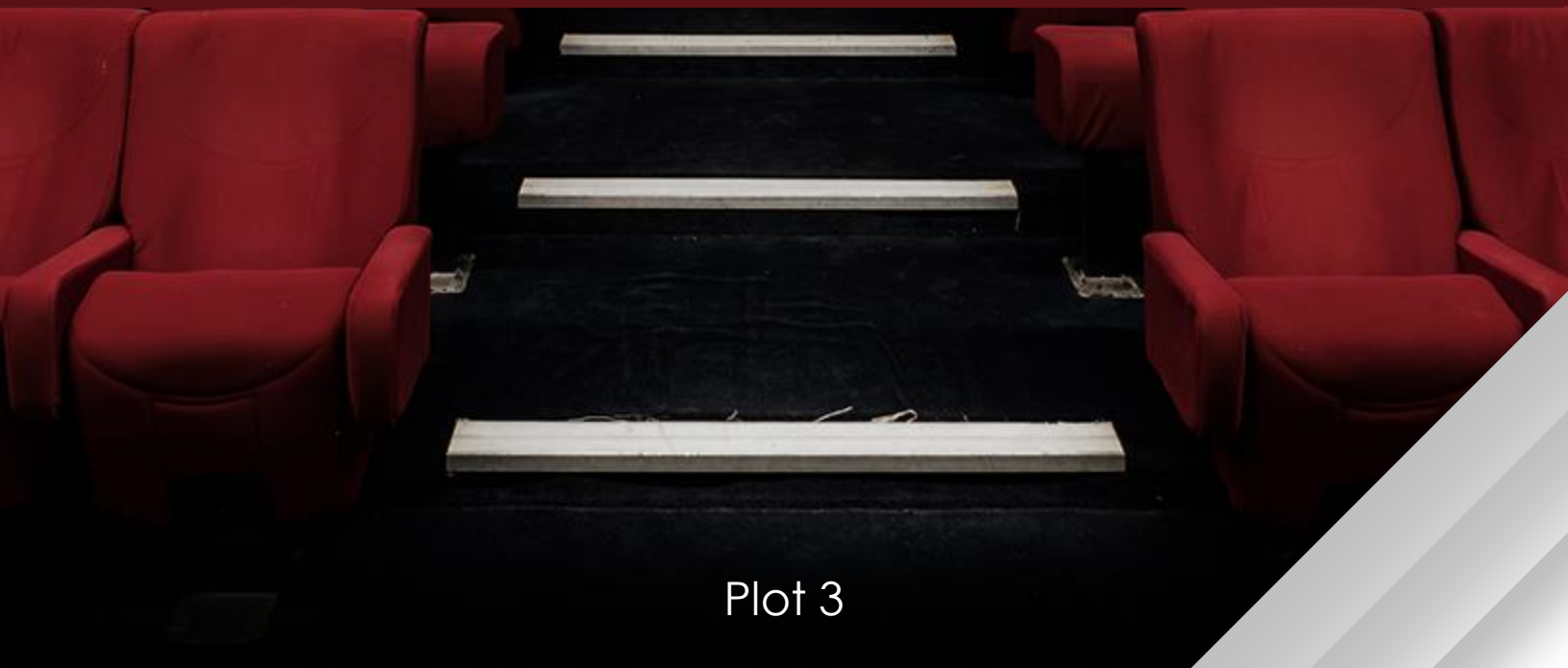
ACT THREE

My feelings

I found it relatable as a student and a millennial, its hard to keep track of time when people around you don't understand you and they don't see the world as you do, I feel stuck and I cannot do anything to change it as the result of what I am today is what I did in past, the guilt is heavy.

However life gives you chances and you need to learn how to adapt and keep moving forward in life.

After **Julian's funeral**, Clay and Blair are sitting on a cemetery bench reminiscing about him. Clay then tells Blair that he is returning to the East Coast and wants her to go with him. She agrees to his offer. The film ends with a **snapshot** of the three of them at **graduation**.



Tragic

THE END

Characters

Robert Downey Jr.

staring

as

Julian Jami

Jami Gertz

staring

as

Blair

Andrew McCarthy

staring

as

clay



Graduation

LOST IN THE CHAOS

EXPRESSIVE

I been going through it


This snapshot got my attention when for the first time I saw it on one of my accounts on Instagram which suggests movies which are made to feel.

Always wonder where the days go



*I would love to wake up and know where I am.
It'd be a nice change of pace for me.*

20th century Fox



CRITICS

IMDB

6.4 / 10

In Beverly Hills, you can have anything your heart desires.

You just can't have it the way it used to be.

It only looks like the good life.

Rotten tomatoes

5.1 / 10

A movie that knows cocaine inside out and paints a portrait of drug addiction that is all the more harrowing because

it takes place in the Beverly Hills fast lane, in a world of wealth, sex, glamour and helpless self-destruction.

NEW YORK TIMES

The Original Script Adhered To The Novel

Producer Marvin Worth optioned *Less Than Zero* before it was even published and hired Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Michael Cristofer to adapt the book for the big screen. In Cristofer's script, like in Easton's book, it's mentioned that Clay is bisexual and a casual drug user. "I think the script was commercial," Worth told [The New York Times](#), "

because it had something gripping to say about the dilemma of a generation to whom nothing matters.

It wasn't really a drug film. It was about people who were destroyed by having had everything."



NEW YORK TIMES

More Exotic and Less Nihilistic

The studio, on the other hand, thought the material was too dark to be a commercial hit and had producer Jon Avnet take over. "I had no interest in the Cristofer script," Avnet told *The New York Times*. "I felt it was so depressing and so degrading. A crucial element of the American dream had gone haywire, and you had to put it in recognizable form in a movie, not just shock people." Thus, Harley Peyton came onboard to rewrite the script and made Clay the clean-cut moral center.



MY PERSONAL VIEW

You can have everything in life and you would still be unhappy.

Feelings like love, hate and anger should be expressed through words and friendly gestures.

Friendship is really important in life, reading between the lines, empathy things like these helps you to keep moving forward in life

When you invest your whole life in something and it fails, that failure shatters you to the core, and that is called hurt, what you invest in might be career, goals, relationships and your dreams.

During this hurt we need love, affection, constant support & care from our loved ones those are friends and family to help us gather our shattered pieces and help us to get back on our feet.

30th April 2020

SOURCES

Mental Floss

<https://www.mentalfloss.com/article/501301/12-surprising-facts-about-less-zero>

New York Times

<https://www.nytimes.com/1987/11/06/movies/film-less-than-zero-young-lives.html>

Wikipedia

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Less_Than_Zero_\(film\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Less_Than_Zero_(film))

The Novel

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Less_Than_Zero_\(novel\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Less_Than_Zero_(novel))

The book cover features a high-contrast, black and white photograph of a man's face, which is mostly in shadow. The background of the photo is a bright, solid yellow. The man's hair is dark and slightly messy. The text 'LESS THAN ZERO' is printed in white, sans-serif, all-caps font across his face. The title 'BRET EASTON ELLIS' is in large, bold, pink, sans-serif, all-caps font, centered over the lower half of the image. At the bottom, a line of smaller, yellow, sans-serif, all-caps text reads 'THE SUNDAY TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF AMERICAN PSYCHO'. The right edge of the cover has a diagonal band of yellow, blue, and pink colors.

LESS THAN
ZERO

BRET EASTON ELLIS

THE SUNDAY TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF AMERICAN PSYCHO

THANK YOU

Submitted by:

Shreyansh Malewar

B.Tech. CSE

IV semester

A80105218021

Submitted to:

Mr Diptarup Ghosh Dastidar

Assistant Professor

Amity School of Languages

Amity University Chhattisgarh