ETHAN FROME:
MOVIE VERSION

Study Guide compares the book *Ethan Frome* by Edith Wharton to the movie *Ethan Frome* (1993) starring Liam Neeson, Joan Allen, and Patricia Arquette. Directed by John Madden.
A Miramax Films Picture.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

**THE MOVIE VERSION OF *ETHAN FROME*
IS NOT LIKE THE BOOK by Edith Wharton**

RECOMMENDED MOVIE: *Ethan Frome* (1993) starring Liam Neeson, Joan Allen, and Patricia Arquette. Directed by John Madden. A Miramax Films Picture. This is the ONLY film of the book. The movie adds some characters and changes the plot a little, but Liam Neeson is perfect as Frome.

HOW ACCURATE IS THE MOVIE VERSION OF THE BOOK?

Plot: ★★☆☆☆   Characters: ★★★☆☆   Setting: ★★★★★

Structure: ★☆☆☆☆   Symbols: ★★☆☆☆   Theme: ★★☆☆☆

WHAT'S IN THE BOOK THAT'S NOT IN THE MOVIE?
the engineer . . . the graveyard . . . the suicide pact . . . Ethan's red scar . . . Mattie's red hair ribbon . . . the church picnic . . . the pillow . . . Ethan's study . . . the shaving scene . . . Ethan's letter to Zeena . . . Mattie's note to Ethan . . .

WHAT'S IN THE MOVIE THAT'S NOT IN THE BOOK?
Reverend Smith . . . Ruth as narrator . . . the pump scene . . . the love scenes . . . the fox . . . the poison . . . the gift from Denis . . . the comb . . . Mattie's singing . . .

WHAT'S THE SAME?
the dance . . . the search for the key . . . Zeena's trip to the doctor . . . the pickle dish . . . the sawmill . . . the smash-up . . .

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THE MOVIE: SUMMARY
The following is a scene-by-scene comparison of the movie to the corresponding chapters in the book.

THE MOVIE: PROLOGUE/INTRODUCTION

OPENING SCENE: The new minister arrives in Starkfield, Massachusetts on a train. (***ERROR:*** *This character is not in the book. In the book the narrator is an engineer*) As he rides into town on a sleigh he sees a crippled Ethan Frome walking along the side of the road (***ERROR****: Not in the book*)

Ned Hale meets Reverend Smith at the train. (***ERROR:*** *Not in the book*) They drive off in a horse-drawn buggy. As they pass Ethan, Rev. Smith says "shouldn't we give him a ride?" Hale says, "Naw – he wouldn't take it." (***ERROR:*** *Not in the book*)

Rev. Smith attends a party hosted by his new congregation. (***ERROR:*** *Not in the book*) The next day Rev. Smith goes to the general store/Post Office. (***ERROR:*** *Not in the book*) A man named Harlan Gow observes: "Most of the smart ones get away." (***ACCURATE QUOTE*** *but Gow says it to the engineer*) Rev. Smith sees Ethan Frome at the Post Office window and walks over and introduces himself. Ethan replies "Frome." (***ERROR:*** *Not in the book*) Frome is a tall, muscular man who is severely crippled on his right side. (***ACCURATE***)