

TRAVELING WITH MR T

Synopsis

Logline

Danish Gonzo-writer signs a diabolical pact with his closest friends: His debut novel must be finished within a year. But his maniacal alter ego Mr. T gets in the way...

Short Synopsis

Writing. Love. Pain. Nothing in Troels' life is small or easy. He dreams, thinks and feels in capital letters. Troels is approaching 30, with very little to show for it. His successful, well-meaning friends take action and make Troels sign a contract. He is to finish his book, 'Traveling with Mr. T' within one year. Troels is determined to do so, but his alter ego Mr. T is taking over. Mr. T sees pain and drunkenness as the keys to writing. The project that was supposed to help Troels find direction in his life, is leading him off track...

Synopsis 1000 characters

Writing. Love. Pain. Troels dreams, thinks, and feels in capital letters. He's approaching 30, with very little to show for it. Born in a country where living is easy and success is mandatory, he dreams of escape. Troels spent his teenage years and early twenties fearing that his cancer stricken mother could die any day. Since her death he has fallen deeper into self-loathing and fear.

Just like his life, Troels' writing is chaos – his dreams of writing the great novel of his generation have not manifested into anything but promising sentences. His successful, well-meaning friends take action and make Troels sign a contract. He must finish his book 'Traveling with Mr T' within a year.

But Troels' alter ego Mr. T sees pain and drunkenness as the keys to writing, and Mr. T is taking over. Troels hits rock bottom when his girlfriend Louise leaves him. It is time for Troels to fight for what is important for him, if he can find the courage.

Medium synopsis

Writing. Love. Pain. Nothing in Troels' life is small or easy. He dreams, thinks, and feels in capital letters. He's approaching 30, with very little to show for it, except a big talent for writing and perhaps an even bigger one for making chaos out of life. Born in a country where living is easy and success is mandatory, he dreams of escape. When Troels was 13 his mother fell sick with cancer. Troels spent his teenage years and early twenties with the imminent threat of her death hanging over his head. She died a few years back. Instead of facing her death Troels falls deeper into self-loathing and fear. And just like his life, Troels' writing is chaos.

His successful, well-meaning friends take action and make Troels sign a contract. He is to finish his book 'Traveling with Mr T' within one year. But Troels' alter ego Mr. T sees pain and drunkenness as the keys to writing, and Mr. T is taking over. The project that was supposed to help Troels find direction in his life, is leading him off track.

Troels hits bottom when his girlfriend Louise through 6 years leaves him. It is time for Troels to grow up, take the lead of his life and fight for what is important for him, if he can find the courage.

Long Synopsis

Traveling with Mr. T by Andreas M. Dalsgaard & Simon Lereng Wilmont

Writing. Love. Pain. Nothing in Troels' life is small or easy. He dreams, thinks, and feels in capital letters. He's approaching 30, with very little to show for it, except a big talent for writing and perhaps an even bigger one for making chaos out of life. Born in a country where living is easy and success is mandatory, he dreams of escape. When Troels was 13 his mother fell sick with cancer. Troels spent his teenage years and early twenties with the imminent threat of her death hanging over his head. She died a few years back. Instead of facing her death Troels falls deeper into self-loathing and fear. And just like his life, Troels' writing is chaos - incoherent fragments from an obviously talented but bewildered young man.

His successful, well-meaning friends take action and make him sign a contract. He is to finish his book 'Traveling with Mr T' within one year.

Troels throws himself over his work. The book is an autobiography about young Troels traveling around the world in escape from his mother's sickbed, hunting for happiness and release, surrounded by pain. His travel companion is the fearless Mr T, Troels' alter ego. His writing reveals a portrait of a young man with a heavy load to carry. A lonely childhood spent in the shadow of his mother's impending death. Through his writing he can express himself and be seen. Here, the pain can be released.

But Mr T is taking power over Troels who sees pain and drunkenness as the keys to writing. The project that was supposed to help Troels find direction in his life, is leading him off track.

Troels hits bottom when his girlfriend Louise through 6 years leaves him. It is time for Troels to take the lead of his life and fight for what is important for him, if he can find the courage...

This is a story about being human - tiny and big in one. About having no limits, yet being totally stuck. About growing up, dreams and identity, of letting go and being found. It is a story about going to the edge - and finding ones way back.

THE FILM

The filmic approach playfully balances on the edge between documentary and fiction, thereby both underlining and adding to the theme of the film. The two directors have filmed Troels for 4 years, capturing all his ups and downs, the defining moments, both the hilarious and the sad. This material is combined with Troels' video diary where we get even closer, and animation brings life to Troels' text and inner universe in a compelling and humoristic way. The animation is done by the artist Carl Krull whose very distinctive style matches Troels' story and personality, combining darkness and humor, the grotesque and the beautiful. It is subtly integrated into the filmed material, at times taking over completely. The story of Troels and the visual approach melt together.

The narrative is a coming of age story of a young man, who dreams of becoming an author. The extensive material and the honest and raw authenticity of it, combined with the fictional layers and strict narrative, makes it a film not only for those who can identify with being a troubled young artist, but touches upon something more universal about necessity, identity and life choices, on being a human surrounded and dependent on other people - whether we want to or not.