

Title: The pursuit of happiness

Director: Gabriele Muccino

Text type: film

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At first I felt sorrow for Chris because nothing seemed to be going his way. All Chris Gardner wanted was to be happy. But he loses his car, his wife left him, he had no money, his last bone density scanner broke, and he was trying to raise his son in a soup kitchen. However I came to realize that

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worrying about your problems is not the answer, and not the way Chris worked. Although Chris has no money and his wife has just left him he chooses to take on the 6 months of unpaid training for a stockbroking internship, knowing that the chances of him being selected are only one in twenty. He manages to barely survive through the use of homeless shelters and his few bone density scanners. He saw each challenge as a task to overcome and didn't stop until he was past it. This changed my

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opinion of Chris and I came to admire him rather than feel sorry for him. For example we see him teaching himself how to mend the broken scanner and even selling his own blood so that he can buy replacement parts for it. It's hard to imagine how strong you'd have to be to not lose hope and just

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give up when in these circumstances. This is much like our society; people who seize challenges and achieve their goals are sometimes celebrated because most other people get overwhelmed by all the difficulties that are in their way. In a way, Chris is a bit like Mark Inglis, the double amputee who climbed Mt Everest. Both of them seemed to have so much going against them – no home or

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money for 6 months for Chris – no legs for Mark! – but they did it. It's amazing because most

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people are really more like Chris's wife, who doesn't believe it's possible for him to get such a great job.