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Kiss the Girls

Stars: Morgan Freeman, Ashley Judd, Cary Elwes, Tony Goldwyn

Director: Gary Fleder

Writers: David Klass based on the novel by James Patterson

Premiere: October 2, 1997

After watching "Kiss the Girls," the not-quite-suspenseful-nor-mysterious suspense mystery starring Morgan Freeman and Ashley Judd, I read the press notes Paramount Pictures released about the movie (you can read them yourselves at the [official Web site](#)). I found it interesting to read what the filmmakers intended to do versus the movie that actually got made.

"Kiss the Girls" is based on a best-selling novel by James Patterson about forensic psychologist Dr. Alex Cross (Freeman) who teams up with escaped kidnapping victim Dr. Kate McTiernan (Judd) to hunt the serial rapist who has abducted Cross' niece. Despite the enormous amount of integrity a skilled actor like Freeman brings to this movie and the tough intellect brought by Judd, "Kiss the Girls" lets both actors down because of its weak script.

Mostly what's wrong with the screenplay is that it doesn't tell us very much about Alex and Kate to help us understand them and their actions. In the production notes, Freeman says he was drawn to his role, in part, because Cross has a certain arrogance that comes from having been so successful with his work and having written a best-selling book. The kidnapping of his niece forces him to investigate based on emotion rather than "cold reasoning."