

Movies & Languages 2016-2017

The Dressmaker



About the movie (subtitled version)

DIRECTOR	Jocelyn Moorhouse
YEAR / COUNTRY	2015 / Australia
GENRE	Comedy / Drama
ACTORS	Kate Winslet, Judy Davis, Liam Hemsworth, Hugo Weaving

PLOT

After many years spent mastering the art of dressmaking at couture houses in Paris, Tilly Dunnage returns home in the tiny middle-of-nowhere town of Dungatar where she was banished from as a child after a tragic event. She plans to check on her ailing and mentally unstable mother and then leave. But Tilly decides to remain in order to reconnect with her mother and unravel the mystery of why she was banished and why she feels “cursed”... an obsession with the past that needs to be exorcised.

However, though regarded as an outcast and even a “murderess” by the town gossips, Tilly's exquisite fashion dresses prove irresistible to the town's drab womenfolk. But as her dresses begin to arouse competition and envy in town, causing resentments to surface, it becomes clear that Tilly's mind is set on a darker design: exacting revenge on those who wronged her, in the most spectacular fashion!

LANGUAGE

English (Australian accent).

GRAMMAR

WISHES

A WISH states the opposite of reality. Therefore, use the same verb forms after the verb WISH as you use after clauses for unreal conditions.

	REAL SITUATION	WISH
Present Time	I'm taking five courses. I can't concentrate today! I have to write a paper.	I wish (that) I weren't taking so many courses. I wish (that) I could concentrate today! I wish (that) I didn't have to write a paper.
Future Time	My boyfriend won't call tonight.	I wish (that) my boyfriend would call tonight.
Past Time	I ate too much!	I wish (that) I hadn't eaten so much!

We often use **I wish.....would** and **I wish.....wouldn't** to express a REQUEST or a COMPLAINT.

I wish you would call more often (request)
I wish he wouldn't drive so fast! (complaint)

WISH vs HOPE

WISH states a future situation that will probably **not** happen, so after WISH, use **would** or **could**.
HOPE states a future situation that **may** happen, so after HOPE, use **will**, **can** or the simple present tense.

WISH

I wish (that) my boyfriend **would call** tonight (He probably won't call)
 I wish (that) you **could come** to my party (You probably can't come)

HOPE

I hope (that) my boyfriend **will call** tonight (It's possible that he will call tonight)
 I hope (that) you (**can**) **come** to my party (It's possible that you can come)

VOCABULARY

Singer sewing machine: machine to sew clothes	Boarding school: a school where pupils live in the school during term time
Constable: policeman, police officer	Dressmaker & seamstress: a woman who makes clothes and sews as her job
Fat chance: no chance / no possibility. For example: "You think you'll get the promotion?" "Fat chance!"	To run away out of the blue: run away suddenly, unexpectedly
It stinks!: it smells extremely unpleasant	Awkward: clumsy, maladroit
To rape: having sex against one's will	To be a sight for sore eyes: a person or thing that is extremely pleased or relieved to see. For example: "The many taxis in the city are a sight for sore eyes when it's raining!"; "Oh, am I glad to see you! You're a sight for sore eyes!"
Sock it all over town: spread the word in town	To look sharp: to look elegant
Pet: darling, sweetheart, sweetie, honey	Frocks: clothes
An old maid: a spinster, old or middle-age woman who never married	