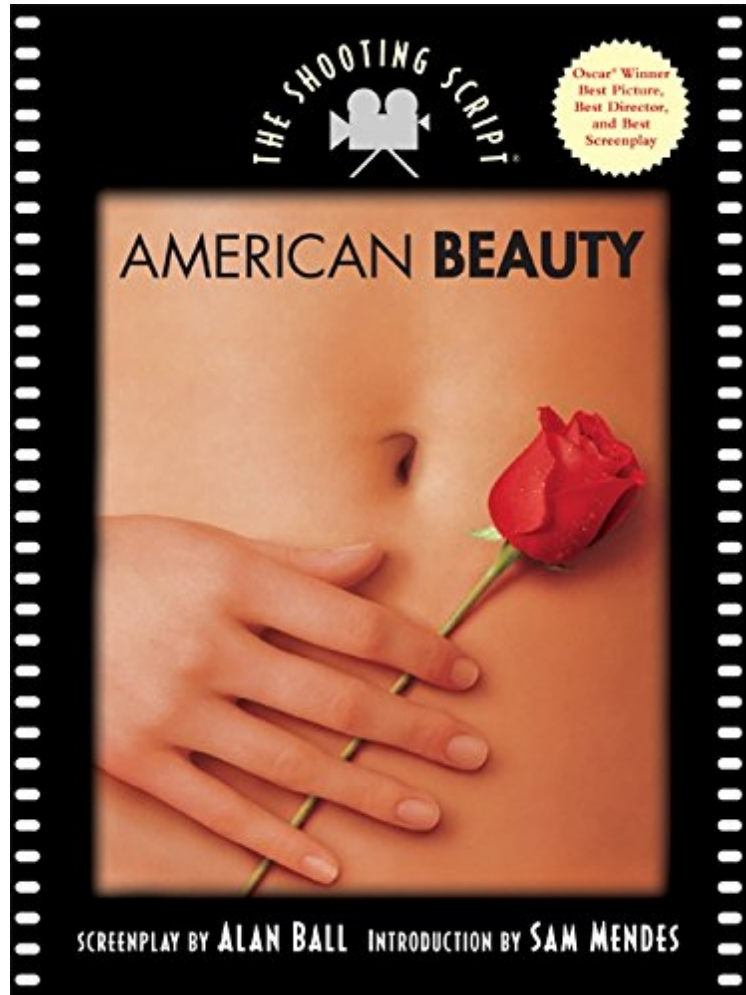


American Beauty: The Shooting Script

Alan Ball, Sam Mendes

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Alan Ball, Sam Mendes : American Beauty: The Shooting Script before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised American Beauty: The Shooting Script:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Surprisingly Captivating ReadBy Alexander K. FrenchI wasn't expecting this screenplay to be so good. I've read screenplays before but nothing flowed like this one did for me. I started reading it, thinking I'd read a few scenes and ended up reading the whole thing at once. I loved the movie but I didn't think I would enjoy reading the script so much. You can really see what the producers saw in this script and how it NEEDED to be made. There is something special here that I'm glad we got to see so expertly executed.4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. A New ClassicBy L. A. SmithThis script will be studied, debated, and praised for years to come. Alan Ball's insights into the human condition are at once both timely and timeless. Humanity is here, beautiful and terrible, brilliantly drawn.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great bookBy

maliante007Great book and shipping was really fast

On a typical suburban street in a typical suburban town, there is an ordinary family living the American dream. But look closer. Lester Burnham's wife, Carolyn, regards him with contempt, his daughter, Jane, thinks he's a loser, and his boss is positioning him for the ax. Captivated by Jane's sultry high school friend Angela, Lester decides to make a few changes in his mere existence that are less mid-life crisis than a life reclaimed. The freer he gets, the happier he gets, which is even more maddening to his wife and daughter. Complicating matters, Lester finds an unexpected ally in Ricky, the teenage son of the new next-door neighbors, who sees life through a camera lens that has lately focused on Jane Burnham. In pursuit of his new vision of the American dream, Lester is about to learn that the ultimate freedom comes at the ultimate price. The 1999 winner of five Academy Awards, including Best Picture and Best Original Screenplay, *American Beauty* boasts an accomplished cast led by two-time Academy Award Best Actor winner Kevin Spacey (*The Usual Suspects*) and Oscar nominee Annette Bening (*The Grifters*). The ensemble cast also includes Thora Birch (*Ghost World*), Wes Bentley (*The Claim*), Mena Suvari (*American Pie*), Peter Gallagher (*Mr. Deeds*), Allison Janney (NBC's *The West Wing*), Scott Bakula (NBC's *Quantum Leap*), Sam Robards (*A.I.: Artificial Intelligence*), and Chris Cooper (*Adaptation*). *American Beauty* marks the feature film directorial debut of award-winning theater director Sam Mendes (*The Blue Room*, *Cabaret*). The film is produced by Dan Jinks (*Nothing to Lose*) and Bruce Cohen (*The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas*) from an original screenplay by Alan Ball (HBO's *Six Feet Under*). Stan Wlodkowski (*One Hour Photo*) and Alan Ball are the co-producers.

.com "I read the screenplay and nearly fell out of bed. I thought I better meet him quick before someone else read it."-- Kevin Spacey Actors and critics alike have praised Alan Ball's first feature film screenplay, which tells the off-kilter story of a midlife crisis suffered by Lester Burnham (played by Spacey). For fans of the film's dialogue--and there will be many--the screenplay allows Ball's words as well as the film's inventive imagery, from flying rose petals to a dancing plastic bag, to be savored. Unfortunately for those wanting the inside scoop, this text is not the original shooting script but rather the screenplay of the final cut. But the script is so impressive, that's a minor quibble. The accompanying notes from Ball and director Sam Mendes are quite insightful, hinting at a different original ending and revealing Ball's odd inspiration for his idea: the tale of Joey Buttafuoco. Ball's TV background has made him an expert technical writer, and this book would serve as a great template for the fledgling screenwriter. It includes 20 black and white photos and a cast list. --Doug Thomas Although only a few people have seen the movie, the buzz about it has startled even DreamWorks . . . Mr. Spielberg has told colleagues it's one of the best films he's seen in years. After Ms. Bening saw the film, the actress was so overcome that she is reported to have burst into tears. -- Bernard Weinraub, *The New York Times*, 2 July 1999 About the Author Academy Award-winner for Best Original Screenplay, screenwriter Alan Ball counts *American Beauty* as his first produced feature film screenplay. He previously served as co-executive producer and writer for the television series *Cybill*, and also wrote for the sitcom *Grace Under Fire*. He was the creator of the critically acclaimed Golden Globe-winner for Best Television Series *Six Feet Under*, and served as the HBO series' executive producer. Sam Mendes made his Oscar-winning directorial debut with *American Beauty*. One of today's most celebrated theater directors, Mendes's stage triumphs include the Tony-award winning revival of *Cabaret*, *The Blue Room*, the revival of *Gypsy*, and the original stage production of *The Rise and Fall of Little Voice*. His latest films include *Road to Perdition* and *Jarhead*.