

**“Ever After” starring Drew Barrymore, Anjelica Huston, Dougray Scott, 1998, PG-13, 121 minutes**

### **Major themes:**

- Love
- Family
- Passion
- Sowing & reaping
- Abuse
- Forgiveness
- Honor
- New life
- Fairy tale

### **Major characters:**

- Danielle de Barbarac
- Auguste
- Gustave
- Baroness Rodmilla de Ghent
- Marguerite
- Jacqueline
- Prince Henry
- King Francis
- Queen Marie
- Leonardo da Vinci

### Background info:

- The remark that some versions of the Cinderella story include fur slippers refers to Charles Perrault's version of the story, which was the first to introduce the glass slipper (which in French is "*pantoufle de verre*"). It has been suggested that this may have been a misinterpretation of "*fur slipper*" ("*pantoufle de vair*").



Normal Reaction

- A mechanical engineer, Antariksh Bothale, calculated what kind of glass Cinderella's slippers would have to be made of in order to allow her to both walk and dance comfortably in them. The estimates he used in his calculations gave her a weight of 50kg, a 2cm wide heel, a 6cm long sole, and a 30-degree stepping angle, resulting in a compressive stress (force / area) of approximately 33 kPa, enabling him to reach his conclusion that the slippers would have to be made of thermal toughened safety glass. He also calculated that her dress would likely prevent her from making long strides, keeping her stepping angle within safe limits and ensuring the shoes don't shatter. He noted that the princess-to-be would be "*well-advised to develop a toe-first foot strike, which would totally solve the problem.*"

## Movie Nights for Thinkers and Seekers

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- “*Utopia*” (“*Libellus vere aureus, nec minus salutaris quam festivus, de optimo rei publicae statu deque nova insula Utopia*”) is a work of fiction and political philosophy by Thomas More, published in 1516 in Latin.
- Leonardo da Vinci’s (fictitious) portrait of Danielle is modeled after his 1508 painting, “*La Scapigliata*” (translated “*Head of a Woman*”).
- When Danielle swims in the lake, she uses the inverted breaststroke. It was popular in medieval Europe, and is still commonly taught as a survival stroke. In Australia, it is called the “*survival backstroke*.”
- In 1140 a historical event occurred that is referenced in this film: King Conrad III defeated a castle in Weinsberg (present-day Germany). According to the report of the “*Chronica regia Coloniensis*,” the women of the castle were granted free departure and allowed to take what they could carry on their backs. They carried down their husbands, and so saved their lives, since the king adhered to his word.
- The glass slippers were made by Italian shoe designer Salvatore Ferragamo (1898 – 1960).

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### Scriptures:

Galatians 6:7 – 10 (The Message) – *“Don’t be misled: No one makes a fool of God. What a person plants, he will harvest. The person who plants selfishness, ignoring the needs of others—ignoring God!—harvests a crop of weeds. All he’ll have to show for his life is weeds! But the one who plants in response to God, letting God’s Spirit do the growth work in him, harvests a crop of real life, eternal life. So let’s not allow ourselves to get fatigued doing good. At the right time we will harvest a good crop if we don’t give up, or quit. Right now, therefore, every time we get the chance, let us work for the benefit of all, starting with the people closest to us in the community of faith.”*

Psalms 68:5 – 6 (NLT) – *“Father to the fatherless, defender of widows—this is God, whose dwelling is holy. God places the lonely in families; he sets the prisoners free and gives them joy. But he makes the rebellious live in a sun-scorched land.”*

Job 1:1 (The Message) – *“Job was a man who lived in Uz. He was honest inside and out, a man of his word, who was totally devoted to God and hated evil with a passion.”*

Lamentations 3:25 – 32 (NLT) – *“The LORD is good to those who depend on him, to those who search for him. So it is good to wait quietly for salvation from the LORD. And it is good for people to submit at an early age to the yoke of his discipline: Let them sit alone in silence beneath the LORD’s demands. Let them lie face down in the dust, for there may be hope at last. Let them turn the other cheek to those who strike them and accept the insults of their enemies. For no one is abandoned by the Lord forever. Though he brings grief, he also shows compassion because of the greatness of his unfailing love.”*

2 Peter 1:5 – 7 (NLT) – *“. . . make every effort to respond to God’s promises. Supplement your faith with a generous provision of moral excellence, and moral excellence with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with patient endurance, and patient endurance with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love for everyone.”*

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### Discussion points:

1. Danielle's passion for life and learning and truth and justice awakens Henry's curiosity. What are some of the ways in which Henry responds?
2. Instead of waiting to be rescued, where do we see Danielle actively seeking justice on behalf of others? How did these actions work towards setting her free?
3. *"To encourage" is defined as "to inspire with courage, spirit, or confidence; to promote, advance, or foster."* Where do we see true encouragement in this film? How can encouragement be false?
4. Discuss these (fictitious) Leonardo quotes, *"You learn to pay attention"*, *"I shall go down in history as the man who opened a door!"*, *"When you're as old as I am, son, now is all you've got."*
5. Where in this film do we see someone breaking away from others expected them to do / be and becoming more their true selves?
6. What role does forgiveness have in starting a new life? Is it possible to move forward without extending forgiveness to others?