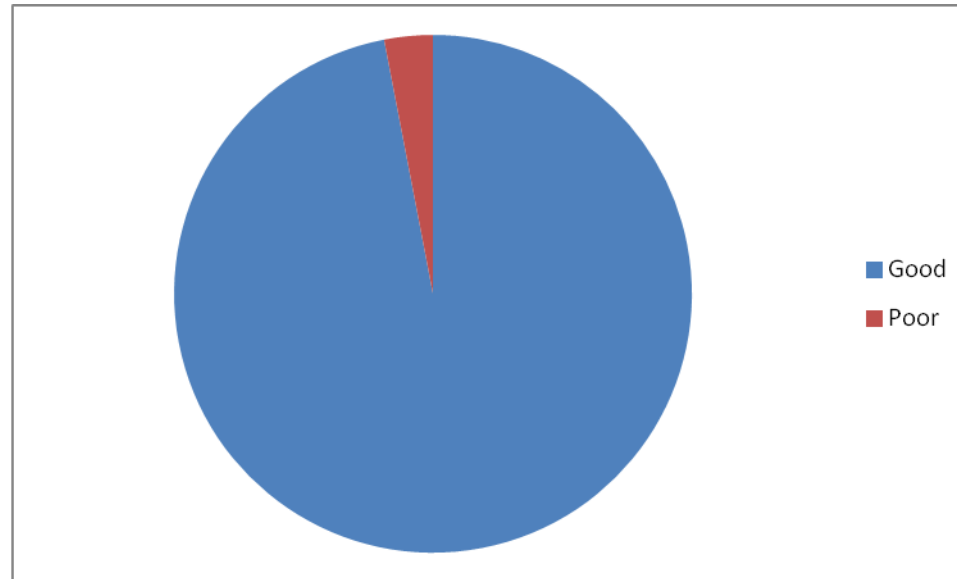


## Review – The Handmaiden



Good – 32	Poor – 1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• I brought my husband along and we both thought it was very good.</li><li>• We thought it was good. The telling of the tale from 2 perspectives was interesting as was the duality of many features.</li><li>• Excellently shot, lovely soundtrack - Japanese/Korean relationship difficult to evaluate. Use of flashbacks confusing at times. Mesmerising. A tad OTT in places, perhaps, but very enjoyable.</li><li>• Wow! Totally engrossing. My customary bar of chocolate lay untouched.</li><li>• I enjoyed the atmospheric photography and clever plot development. I'm not easily shocked but I did begin to wonder if the camera lingered a little too long and</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• It has been labelled a masterpiece in reviews but I didn't like it at all. The sadomasochism, the reading of the books to the ghastly men; the long soft porn ending became boring: perhaps we were supposed to laugh? The film was far too</li></ul>

gratuitously on some of the repeated sex scenes?

- A bit long but a very powerful film so never bored.
- Excellent. Deception and cruelty. Men came off badly but poor, little rich girl was no better. The Count gave her her freedom and all the money. Don't think she needed to hand him over to her insane uncle. Sookee the only character who we felt was sympathetic. Also felt some of the sex scenes were too long and pandered to the worst tastes of some in the international cinema audience.
- Very good. A gripping story, with many twists and turns, which kept you on your toes. All 3 of us enjoyed it immensely.
- Amusing double crossing everywhere! And the sex was so striking that I couldn't remember where I'd left the car.
- We all really enjoyed the twists and turns of this film- it had such a complicated plot, but explained it all really well, so you weren't left wondering how the two women had finally managed to be together. The explicit nature of the sexual scenes seemed appropriate to the nature of their relationship, and seemed to portray their feelings for each other, rather than being simply a gratuitous display of girl on girl action. This seemed appropriate when set against the background of the sexual fantasies of the perverted uncle and the cronies who attended the book readings. Altogether we really enjoyed it, so thanks for showing it. We're looking forward to what the rest of the (noticeably large!) audience thought of it !
- Brilliant movie. Not sure that the connection to the Fingersmith was that important. After the first hour and the first betrayal I thought the film was very good, by the end of the movie I thought it was amazing. I thought that the sex scenes had to be realistic to contrast with the creepiness of the men listening to erotic literature being read to them. I even thought that the subtitles worked well.
- An interesting film: very disturbing at times, such as the cruelty of the uncle. We saw the men enjoying the erotic, but stylised, readings and disapproved, yet we were voyeurs to the scenes between the two women. The versions of the events by the two women, gave a fuller picture of events. The film should have ended on the boat when the moustache was taken off – we knew then they would be together in future.
- I liked the way the story unfolded, with the double dealing. The pace was just right, even though it was a long film. The film highlighted the cruelty of the Japanese and

long. I couldn't feel sympathy with any of the characters. I think the Committee went over the top with this one. Never said this before. The best bit was the sliding doors.

their hatred of the Koreans, and Park Chan-Wook is brave to direct this film.

- I thought it was a brilliant film. Certainly extremely well filmed, with a clever plot and interesting storyline though sometimes a little confusing with regard to its place in the sequence of events. The erotic scenes were obviously necessary to convey the story and were not too excessive. The whole thing captured the time and place superbly. I look forward to the next Korean film!
- My husband had already see the film and raved about it. He was keen to watch it again, which he rarely does. For me, the film had less impact than I had expected, and I thought it would be one I would continue to think about, but this did not prove to be the case. An intriguing and complicated exploration of power and control. A brave choice by the programming group. Thank you.
- I thought the film was good, quite a complex one to follow with subtitles but the original setting of Victorian England translated well to the Korean/Japanese setting with good tension between colonised characters and those in power. It's quite a nasty story in places but, as if often the case with Sarah Waters, the women triumphed against all odds. It looked gorgeous and was really well acted. I liked the music although at times it was a bit intrusive.
- We though The Handmaiden was excellent - so good, in fact, that we immediately bought both the extended version of the film and Sarah Waters' novel on which it was based. It was one of those rare things - a film that was almost a literary experience, especially in the way it had you continually re-evaluating everything you thought was going on and everyone's motives. You may receive some complaints about the sexual content, but we felt it was perfectly in keeping with the sumptuous visuals and overall atmosphere of the film. I don't think you'll be receiving any complaints about the subtitles this month, however! A wonderful film - and one of those rare ones that demand a second viewing almost immediately to appreciate all the nuances and subtleties. We loved it.