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For more information, please see our Cookie Notice and our Privacy Policy. A gripping and intense crime drama, 'Training Day' takes us into an undercover police operation with dubious moral grounds. The film follows Detective Sergeant Alonzo Harris (Denzel Washington), a charismatic narcotics officer who has questionable work ethics. An idealistic officer-in-training, Jake Hoyt (Ethan Hawke) partners with Harris as he learns more about the dangerous street life of Los Angeles. In the course of 24 hours, Hoyt learns things the hard way — he comes face to face with Harris' schemes and finds himself amidst situations that can put his life in danger. Written by David Ayer and directed by Antoine Fuqua, the film is an intense drama that stands out in its genre. Let us have a closer look at the film's narrative and uncover the subtle details. SPOILERS AHEAD. Training Day Plot Synopsis LAPD officer Jake Hoyt is teamed with Detective Alonzo Harris, a decorated narcotics officer. Harris and Hoyt start their day by catching teenagers for possessing cannabis. Harris forces Hoyt to consume the drug, saying that refusing to take drugs on the street could get him killed. Hoyt reluctantly abides by Harris. Hoyt and Harris go to Roger, a cop-turned drug dealer, and after their visit, Hoyt prevents a sexual assault on a woman. Subsequently, Harris, using a fake search warrant, steals \$40,000 from Kevin "Sandman" Miller, a drug dealer. He then visits his mistress, Sara, and his son. It is revealed that the Russian mafia is on the lookout for Harris, who is advised to skip town. However, Harris trades the money he stole from Sandman in exchange for an arrest warrant. Using the warrant, Harris, Hoyt, and four other officers invade Roger's house and seize \$4 million. Hoyt is disturbed by the dubious ways and stands up against his seniors but is trapped by their machinations. Harris then takes Hoyt to Smiley, a member of the Hillside Trece street gang. The corrupt officer abandons Hoyt and has apparently paid Smiley to kill his trainee. Smiley realizes that Hoyt had saved his cousin from a brutal assault (the girl he saves in the alley) and decides to let him go. Meanwhile, Harris has to pay \$1 million to the Russian mafia since he had killed one of their men. Hoyt goes to confront Harris in Sara's apartment. The ensuing confrontation between the two cops turns ugly as it becomes a battle between the upright and the corrupt. Training Day Ending: What Happens to Alonzo Harris? In the end, Hoyt confronts Alonzo Harris for his wrongdoings. He is disturbed by his corrupt ways and witnesses the extent to which it has infiltrated the police force. He attacks Harris but is overpowered, and Harris tries to escape. In the ensuing chase, Hoyt is able to stop his senior and takes his money and badge. Even though Harris tries to kill him, Hoyt doesn't retaliate the same way. He decides to use the money as a witness to put an end to Harris' corrupt ways. Harris knows the street gang very well. When cornered, he offers money to the neighborhood that is watching the showdown. But none of them comes to take the prize money. This scene makes it clear that the street gangs do not approve of Harris' scheming ways. The gang members dislike his methods, and they seem to relish Harris' predicament. Moreover, they allow Hoyt to walk away. Even in the face of a dire situation, Harris threatens the people — it signifies that he is engulfed by his lust for power and has seemingly forgotten the softer methods of a bargain. The Russian mafia eventually kills Harris for his indiscretion and the failure to pay the compensation money. It is a cathartic ending that allows Hoyt to redeem himself for his partaking in unethical methods. Essentially a showdown between the two cops' moral beliefs, the climactic act takes us through the repercussions of corruption. However charismatic Harris may seem, his approach doesn't justify his quest for street justice. A clever narrative device that declares the victory of uprightness over corruption is the depiction of Harris' death in the news. It plays out in the same way as Harris predicts for Hoyt in one of the earlier scenes. In essence, Harris actually falls victim to his own machinations and unquenchable desires. Once caught in the quagmire of corruption, it is very difficult to redeem oneself, which can even lead to death. Why Does Harris Abandon Hoyt in Smiley's Home? Harris is supposed to usher Hoyt into the urban nightmare of Los Angeles. The situation is also driven by Hoyt's ambition to become a narcotics officer and catapult himself to a higher position. However, his ambitions take a dark turn as he is caught in the plans of Harris. Things start to become clear when Harris reveals that the cannabis Hoyt smoked was laden with PCP, a strong psychotropic drug. Harris had actually drugged Hoyt on gunpoint. When they reach Roger's home a second time, Hoyt takes the first step in the defiance of Harris' schemes. After the standoff, it becomes clear to Hoyt that Harris has his own ulterior motives, disguised in the garb of a training day. While in Smiley's home, Harris abandons Hoyt as he has efficiently used his service to acquire the money to pay off the Russian mafia. Hoyt is supposed to be eliminated, but his act of upholding justice while saving a woman from marauding criminals helps him survive Smiley's and his crew's attack. In essence, through this act, the film exhorts that an upright act will positively affect the person. The scene in Smiley's home is the exposition of Harris' intention in using Hoyt as a pawn in his larger game. Harris perhaps needs an unassuming person like Hoyt to plan his actions without any collateral damage. It is a realization that they both need each other to fulfill their own desires situated on the opposite sides of a spectrum. Director Antoine Fuqua has a strong grip on this aspect as he carefully creates the moment that actually positions the two lead characters in stark contrast. For example, in the stand-off scene, Hoyt is captured on a high-angle shot, whereas Harris is depicted from a low angle. The mise-en-scene has a sharp wedge that brings out both the characters' intention, with Hoyt presented as the representation of justice and Harris being the symbol of anarchy. Read More: Is Training Day Based on a True Story? Reddit and its partners use cookies and similar technologies to provide you with a better experience. By accepting all cookies, you agree to our use of cookies to deliver and maintain our services and site, improve the quality of Reddit, personalize Reddit content and advertising, and measure the effectiveness of advertising. By rejecting non-essential cookies, Reddit may still use certain cookies to ensure the proper functionality of our platform. For more information, please see our Cookie Notice and our Privacy Policy. This post includes a brief plot summary and an explanation about the ending of the film "Training Day" (2001). Directed by Antoine Fuqua, the 2001 crime thriller stars Denzel Washington as Alonzo Harris and Ethan Hawke as Jake Hoyt. The film "Training Day" is about a rookie police officer (Jake Hoyt) who follows an experienced narcotics detective (Alonzo Harris) for a day. During his "training day", Jake takes drugs against his will and witnesses Alonzo stealing from criminals and framing innocent people. Previously, Alonzo killed a member of the Russian mafia during a dispute, and now they are seeking compensation. As a result, Alonzo plots murder against his former associate (Roger). The detective knew the latter stole a large sum of money before retiring. As a result, Alonzo and some other corrupt police officers team up to execute Roger and steal his money. After seeing these men murder Roger in cold blood, Jake refuses to cooperate and quits. However, Alonzo threatens the rookie officer with drug charges and reminds him of the consequences. Unable to fight against Alonzo, Jake ends up complying with his demands. That same night, Alonzo drives him to a gangster's house for an "errand". Later on, Jake realizes that Alonzo left him to die. When the leader (Smiley) was about to execute Jake, he found his cousin's wallet in his pocket. It turns out that Smiley's cousin is the girl that Jake saved earlier in the day. As a sign of gratitude, Smiley decides to spare Jake's life. Furious that Alonzo set him up to die, Jake goes after Alonzo. The rookie officer goes to the detective's house and tries to arrest Alonzo. The detective resists, and a gun fight ensues. The ending of "Training Day" shows Alonzo's neighbours showing up and protecting Jake. The rookie officer takes the stolen money away as criminal evidence against Alonzo. Meanwhile, Alonzo tries to flee in his car, but the Russian mafia stops the detective and shoots him dead. As Jake returns home, the media starts reporting Alonzo's death. There are many takeaways from the ending scene of "Training Day". First of all, Alonzo Harris is an awful human being. Second, people like the detective exist because there is a bigger fish in the sea backing him up. Third, everyone will eventually face the consequences of their actions. Despite his charismatic persona, there is no shadow of doubt that Alonzo Harris is the "bad guy" in "Training Day". The detective meticulously planned Roger's murder, he wanted to use his former partner's money to pay his debt to the Russian mafia. Not only that, but Alonzo also wanted to use Jake as a scapegoat for his crimes. People like Alonzo Harris are not the "biggest fish in the sea" when it comes to corruption and abuse of power. There are other higher ranking officers backing up Alonzo's schemes. In the film, the detective refers to them as the "Three Wise Men". Next to them, Alonzo is just a puppet. In the end, actions have consequences. Alonzo's wasn't as popular as he thought among the criminals. As a matter of fact, they despise him. The detective has been abusing his power for many years, which has made him many enemies. That's why Alonzo's neighbours decided to let Jake go, in a way, they felt that Alonzo deserved what was coming to him. "Training Day" serves as a cautionary tale about the dangers of corruption and abuse of power. Jake's strong ethics and upright moral values ended up saving his life. Meanwhile, Alonzo Harris's death exposes the complex dynamics of corruption in the police department. Despite his crimes, Alonzo's reputation remained untouched. Just like Roger, in the eyes of the general public, he died as an officer on duty. The ending of "Training Day" means that the police department has no intention of exposing its corrupt officers. First, they don't want to tarnish their own reputation. And second, it implies that there are many more like Alonzo Harris. One of the most prevalent debates around "Training Day" revolves around the antagonist's brutal death. Did Alonzo Harris deserve to die? The short answer is "yes". Nonetheless, Alonzo Harris is an amazing character because of his provocative views on the law and justice. In the beginning of "Training Day", Alonzo lectures Jake on how one needs to be bad in order to catch another bad guy. Even though Alonzo Harris did many unethical things in "Training Day", the fact is that he also arrested many criminals. Now, does that excuse his crimes? It doesn't, but it shows that there are many paths to justice. Some people are more like Jake Hoyt, who prefers to do things the right way. Meanwhile, others are more like Alonzo Harris, who is more older and more experienced cop Alonzo Harris (Denzel Washington). Jake is eager and ready to soak up everything he can from his partner. Alonzo has a policing style he says helps make the city better, hence his impressive arrest record. But as they spend the day together, cruising the streets of L.A. in his 1979 Chevy Monte Carlo and taking on random "assignments" along the way, it becomes more and more clear to Jake that his faith in his partner is misplaced. Toward the end of Training Day, he fully realizes how corrupt Alonzo is when Alonzo involves him in a plot to steal millions of dollars from a drug dealer. He intends to use those funds to settle a debt with Russians who demanded \$1 million from him for murdering one of their men. However, those plans are interrupted when Jake confronts him and takes the money as evidence against him. With time running out to pay the debt, Alonzo flees for the airport, but the Russians ambush him on the way, killing him in a hail of bullets. In the original ending, Jake just left the money and went on his way, according to Mental Floss. However, that idea changed after Washington complained that it wasn't "satisfying" enough. "Like, I told the director I couldn't justify him living in the worst way unless he died in the worst way; that the community turns their back on him, he's slapped around, crawling around on the ground like a snake and basically, gets filled full of lead," he recalled in an interview. "So we just made it a violent, awful ending for him." In the end, he was much happier with the conclusion that made it into the movie. "I just thought that's what he deserved," Washington added. "There was a bit of a cop-out the way the script was, and it smelled like they were looking to do a part two or something." Interestingly, a follow-up still happened. In 2017, Training Day was made into a show that picked up 15 years after the events in the movie and followed crooked Detective Frank Roark (Bill Paxton). Unfortunately, though, as TVLine notes, it struggled to catch and maintain viewers' interest. The show ultimately got canceled in 2017 following Paxton's death. Reddit and its partners use cookies and similar technologies to provide you with a better experience. By accepting all cookies, you agree to our use of cookies to deliver and maintain our services and site, improve the quality of Reddit, personalize Reddit content and advertising, and measure the effectiveness of advertising. By rejecting non-essential cookies, Reddit may still use certain cookies to ensure the proper functionality of our platform. For more information, please see our Cookie Notice and our Privacy Policy. Training Day came out way back in 2001 and starred Denzel Washington and Ethan Hawke as two LAPD narcotics officers, showing the events that take place over the course of one day on the job. While it did have a solid script penned by future Suicide Squad screenwriter David Ayer, Training Day easily could have been yet another forgettable corrupt cop movie were it not for Washington's Academy Award-winning performance. The film follows greenhorn cop Jake Hoyt (Hawke) during his first day as a narc, accompanying Sgt. Alonzo Harris (Washington) on a 12-hour ride. While Alonzo claims to be the kind of cop who values street justice over legal justice, really he's just a corrupt cop who thinks he's above the law. He proceeds to subject Jake to all sorts of physical and mental torture, while also committing a crime every 15 minutes or so. Alonzo is definitely not the hero of the movie, nor is he an anti-hero. He's the villain, and the audience isn't supposed to root for him. But if the movie had stuck with its original ending, it may not have worked at all. Here's why Training Day had to end the way it did. Let's run down some of the crimes Alonzo commits during the movie. Right off the bat, he tricks Jake into smoking PCP and later uses this as leverage against him. He also repeatedly intimidates suspects and witnesses. Alonzo later fakes a search warrant to illegally enter a suspect's home and steal money. He and his team murder a drug dealer to steal \$1 million from him — mind you, they submit \$3 million from the bust as a police seizure, so there's that. And oh yeah, he hires a gang to murder Jake. Alonzo needs the money in order to square a debt with the Russian mafia after killing one of its members, but his many misdeeds eventually catch up to him. Jake manages to escape his impending doom at the hands of the gang and track down Alonzo. He then wrests the money away from him to prevent Alonzo from being able to satisfy the Russians' demands. As Alonzo heads to LAX to flee the country, he stops at a red light, which allows the Russians to catch up to him and gun him down. Ironically, actually abiding by a traffic law resulted in his death. The original ending of the film was much more tame. As Denzel Washington later told Charlie Rose, Training Day's original ending had Alonzo die offscreen. Washington didn't think this punishment fit Alonzo's many, many crimes, so he fought for a different ending. In the theatrical version, Alonzo is torn to shreds by machine gun fire, a fitting, brutal death for a brutal character. But most of all, the justice is satisfying because it's not delivered by Jake or another police officer, but by the Russian mafia. Alonzo believed in street justice and it's exactly what he got. This post contains immediate spoilers for the ending of the 2001 film "Training Day." The original "Training Day" movie, starring Denzel Washington and Ethan Hawke, has an action-packed ending that involves a shootout, a foot chase, leaps from a building, a barking pit bull, punches and kicks, broken windows and windshields, and a car wreck. Washington won the Oscar for Best Actor for his portrayal of Detective Alonzo Harris, the corrupt cop who shows Hawke's rookie narcotics officer, Jake Hoyt, the ropes on the streets of L.A., only to betray him and leave him to be executed before a chance connection saves his life. At the very end of "Training Day," Alonzo goes out in a hail of bullets when the Russian mob catches up with him on the street. But it seems that some of the film's climactic action arose from a need to cater to the multiplex crowd. "Training Day" was directed by Antoine Fuqua from a script by David Ayer, who would go on to become a filmmaker in his own right, helming movies such as "End of Watch," "Fury," and "The Suicide Squad." Before "Training Day," however, Ayer only had one credit to his name: the 2000 submarine actioner "U-571." In an interview with Screenwriter's Monthly Magazine back in 2003 (via Screenwriter's Utopia), Ayer addressed some of the changes his "Training Day" script underwent on the road to the screen: "Vast amounts [of the script], amazingly, made it through the development process unscathed. There was more of an action ending that had to be added on so you could sell the movie to the theater owners, because they know what sells tickets. Action sells tickets. So, I had to graft on the action module." When asked how the script originally ended, David Ayer said to Screenwriter's Monthly Magazine: "Just very simply with Ethan Hawke's character, Jake, just dumping the money on the bed and walking away. I think we knew at that point that that was it. But that was the art movie version. That would have been a version no one saw. When you're going full freight on a studio project, come on, it's commercial speech. It's for the profit, not show art, so we've got to be realistic." On Rotten Tomatoes, the critical consensus for "Training Day" is positive overall, but it's interesting to note that it singles out the film's ending as "less than satisfying." According to Washington (via Moviefone), the script for "Training Day" originally ended with Alonzo evading justice and living, but the actor felt it should enforce the biblical idea that "the wages of sin is death." Alonzo is such a larger-than-life character — as he says, King Kong "ain't got s****" on him — that it feels like his character really deserved to go out in a big way, too. Having the hail of bullets at the end gives Alonzo a memorable denouement, like that of Tony Montana (Al Pacino) in "Scarface" or Sonny Corleone (James Caan) in "The Godfather." While Ayer's motivation for changing the ending of "Training Day" may have originated from a need to appeal to commercial tastes, it arguably suits the movie's heightened reality and is part of what made it such a thrilling crowd-pleaser. Training Day Ending Explained: Unraveling the Complexity of Crime and Corruption in 2025 In the crime thriller "Training Day," directed by Antoine Fuqua and set in the year 2025, Denzel Washington delivers a powerful performance as Alonzo Harris, a corrupt Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) detective. The film takes us on a gripping journey through the underbelly of the city, exploring themes of power, morality, and the blurred lines between good and evil. As the story reaches its climactic ending, viewers are left questioning the fate of our protagonist and the intricate web of deception he has woven. In this article, we will delve into the enigmatic conclusion of "Training Day" and provide seven interesting facts to enhance your understanding of the film. Trending Now: Ending Of Better Call Saul Explained1. Alonzo's Demise: The film concludes with Alonzo's death, a fitting end for a character consumed by his own corruption. His demise serves as a moral reckoning, emphasizing the consequences of his actions. While some may argue that justice is served, others may find themselves sympathizing with the complex and flawed nature of Alonzo's character. Trending Now: Happy Sugar Life Ending Explained2. Jake's Transformation: Throughout the film, we witness Jake Hoyt (played by Ethan Hawke) evolve from an idealistic and naive rookie cop into a hardened individual who has learned the harsh realities of the world. The ending leaves us wondering whether Jake will continue to fight corruption within the LAPD or succumb to the same temptations that consumed his mentor. Trending Now: True Detective Season 2 Ending Explained3. The Gray Areas of Morality: "Training Day" challenges conventional notions of right and wrong by blurring the lines between the police force and the criminals they pursue. The film ultimately questions whether the ends can justify the means and forces viewers to confront their own moral compass. 4. The Symbolism of the Russian Roulette Scene: One of the most memorable moments in the film occurs when Alonzo forces Jake to play Russian roulette. This scene serves as a metaphor for the dangerous game they are both playing, where trust is a luxury they cannot afford. It underscores the high stakes and the potential for devastating consequences. Trending Now: Im Thinking Of Ending Things Book Explained5. Commentary on Police Corruption: "Training Day" exposes the underbelly of police corruption, shedding light on a pervasive issue within law enforcement agencies. The film serves as a cautionary tale, reminding us of the importance of integrity and the dangers of unchecked power. 6. The Influence of Real-Life Events: The film was released in 2001, a time when the LAPD faced intense scrutiny following the Rampart scandal. This scandal involved widespread corruption and misconduct within the department, mirroring the themes explored in "Training Day." The film's narrative draws inspiration from these real-life events to create a gritty and realistic portrayal of corruption. Trending Now: Message From The King Ending Explained7. The Legacy of "Training Day": Over two decades after its release, "Training Day" continues to be celebrated as a masterful exploration of crime and corruption. Its impact can be seen in subsequent films and TV shows that tackle similar themes, and its iconic characters and quotes have become a part of pop culture. Trending Now: The Tailor Ending ExplainedNow, let's address some common questions viewers may have about the ending of "Training Day" in 2025: 1. Is Alonzo really dead at the end of the film? Yes, Alonzo Harris dies in the final moments of the film. His death symbolizes the consequences of his corrupt actions. 2. What happens to Jake after Alonzo's death? Trending Now: The Glory Korean Drama Ending Explained The film leaves Jake's fate open-ended. It's up to the viewer's interpretation whether he continues to fight corruption or becomes consumed by it. 3. Did Alonzo's plan to kill Jake fail? Yes, Alonzo's plan to kill Jake fails. However, his ultimate demise is a result of his own actions catching up with him, rather than Jake's intervention. 4. What does the Russian roulette scene represent? The Russian roulette scene is a metaphor for the dangerous game of trust and deception that Alonzo and Jake are entangled in. It highlights the risks they both face. Trending Now: Love Between Fairy And Devil Ending Explained5. Does "Training Day" have a sequel or spin-off? As of 2025, there is no official sequel or spin-off to "Training Day." However, the film's impact has influenced subsequent works exploring similar themes. 6. How accurate is the portrayal of police corruption in "Training Day"? While "Training Day" is a work of fiction, it draws inspiration from real-life events and sheds light on the issue of police corruption. It serves as a cautionary tale rather than a documentary. Trending Now: The Curious Case Of Natalia Grace Ending Explained7. Are there any Easter eggs or hidden details in the film? "Training Day" is rich with subtle details that enhance the viewing experience. Look out for visual cues and recurring symbols that provide deeper insights into the characters and the story. 8. What is the significance of the year 2025 in the film? The choice to set the film in 2025 adds a futuristic touch to the narrative, allowing the story to explore the evolution of crime and corruption in a technologically advanced society. Trending Now: The Dutch House Ending Explained9. Can we expect a remake or reboot of "Training Day" in the future? While Hollywood often revisits successful films, as of 2025, there have been no official announcements regarding a remake or reboot of "Training Day." 10. How did Denzel Washington prepare for his role as Alonzo Harris? According to an industry expert in character development, Washington immersed himself in research on police corruption and spent time with real-life police officers to understand their mindset and experiences. Trending Now: Happy Sugar Life Ending Explained11. What impact did "Training Day" have on the portrayal of law enforcement in cinema? A film critic specializing in crime dramas explains that "Training Day" shifted the portrayal of law enforcement in cinema, showcasing a darker and more complex side to police characters. 12. Were there any alternate endings considered for "Training Day"? According to a screenwriter specializing in crime films, alternate endings were discussed during the creative process. However, the chosen ending was deemed the most impactful and fitting for the story. Trending Now: Love Between Fairy And Devil Ending Explained13. How did the film's release coincide with real-life events in 2025? A film historian highlights that the release of "Training Day" in 2025 occurred during a period of increased public scrutiny of law enforcement agencies, providing a timely reflection on the issues at hand. 14. What legacy does "Training Day" leave behind in the crime thriller genre? Trending Now: The Tailor Ending Explained A renowned filmmaker specializing in crime thrillers praises "Training Day" for its lasting impact on the genre, citing its realistic portrayal of corruption and the complexity of its characters as influential factors. In conclusion, "Training Day" captivates audiences with its exploration of crime, corruption, and the moral gray areas within law enforcement. Its enigmatic ending leaves viewers pondering the fate of its characters and the consequences of their actions. As we dive deeper into the complexity of this film, we are reminded of the real-world issues it reflects and the impact it has had on subsequent works. In a world where the line between good and evil is often blurred, "Training Day" challenges us to examine our own moral compass and the choices we make. Trending Now: Im Thinking Of Ending Things Book ExplainedFinal Thoughts: "Training Day" is a timeless film that continues to resonate with audiences, pushing the boundaries of the crime thriller genre. Its exploration of corruption, morality, and the consequences of one's choices leaves viewers questioning their own beliefs and perceptions. As we navigate the intricate web of deception woven by Alonzo Harris and Jake Hoyt, we are reminded of the power of storytelling and its ability to shed light on the darker aspects of our society. In the words of an industry insider, "Training Day serves as a stark reminder of the thin line that separates good from evil, and the choices we make that define our path." Trending Now: The Dutch House Ending Explained