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Commentary on "'In Any Circumstance . . . Freshness to Live': Storyline, Dialogue, and Cinematography in Rouge"

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***Commentary by Alex Rosenberg
'09, Philosophy and Political Science***

This is a paper that weaves together three elements of a film – storyline, dialogue, and cinematography – into a cohesive whole. Emily McIntosh aptly identifies the themes of the film Rouge both in itself and within the context of the greater trilogy of which it is a part. She identifies a number of crucial themes on differing scales and in different elements of the film; visual themes in cinematography, the conflict of optimism and cynicism in dialogue, and what it is to be human through the film as a whole. While this alone would comprise a strong analytic paper, the author goes further in her conclusion. McIntosh pushes her analysis one step further into a consideration of a more subtle message in the film about the power of circumstances. This conclusion not only ties together the themes McIntosh discusses earlier in the paper, but keeps the conclusion from reading as a simple recapitulation. The deep discussion of themes, capped off by a cohesive and thoughtful conclusion, makes for a paper that is both academically strong and a pleasure to read.