

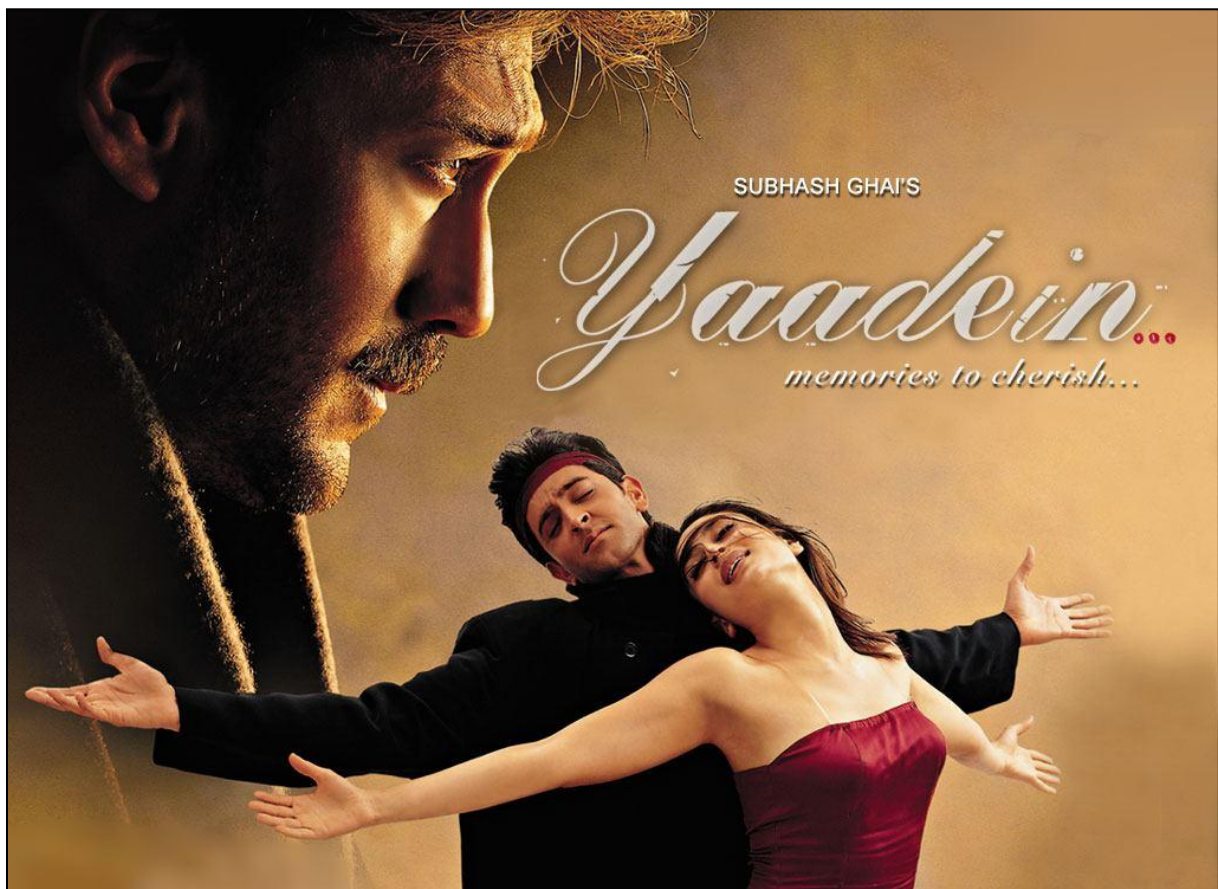
Review #68 : *Yaadein* (2001)

Kareena Kapoor & Hrithik Roshan

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4AYwXOWYrqs>

Yaadein is a story of memories – some sad, some painful, some full of love, some of joy, some of longing, some of desire...



SYNOPSIS

Yaadein (2001) is a story about a father (**Jackie Shroff**) who is suddenly faced with bringing up his three motherless daughters after an accident. The absence of the mother leads middle-child Sonia to rebel : after pulling a late-night party and boozing binge on Papa, he trucks off with the kids to 'pure and sweet' India, where none of the above would have happened.

The more dominant thread through the film is the love story between Isha (**Kareena Kapoor**), the most mature of Raj's daughters, and Ronit (**Hrithik Roshan**), Raj's neighbour in London, but also his best friend and surrogate son. Ronit's uncle (**Amrish Puri**) is knee-deep into the stock market while Ronit is an entrepreneur running a host of dotcoms.

Isha and Ronit start as friends but they fall in love after Ronit rescues her from a crocodile-infested island. But Ronit's uncle wants him to marry the daughter of a billionaire Indian American family to help further his financial interests. When Ronit tells his parents he loves Isha, the families that were till now friendly become enemies. Hence enter complications.

REVIEW

The Cast

Ghai has claimed that **Jackie Schroff**'s role in *Yaadein* is his best ever. But the **script** fails Jackie in more than one scene. To his credit though, he turns out a **restrained and credible performance**. His role in *Yaadein* will be counted among his best.

Hrithik Roshan steals the thunder from under Jackie's feet. As Ronit, he is brilliant. Despite a poorly etched character, he carries off his part with conviction. Whether it is pleading with Isha to acknowledge her love for him or the scene where he lashes out at his mother for neglecting his interests :

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w5M6AWHc4xI>

– Hrithik is the showstopper. *Yaadein* is definitely Hrithik's film all the way. He emotes beautifully, dances like a dream and is every woman's dream come true on screen.

Kareena Kapoor, while brilliant in parts, still has a long way to go. She hams her way through many of the scenes and seems quite self-conscious. Though, unarguably, she sizzles on screen, and the Hrithik-Kareena chemistry is one of the undeniable things that redeem many of the film's failures.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hXY0VLFByPc>



These two together set the screen on fire. Hrithik's fire complements Kareena's ice maiden stand beautifully. Unfortunately, as far as secondary characters are concerned, Ghai – although known to extract amazing performances from his artists – **falters this time with the rest of the cast**, including Hrithik's parents and Jackie's daughters.

The **music**, which has always been a **high point of all Ghai films**, doesn't disappoint. Most songs are foot-tapping numbers, well-picturised and grow on you. The title song stays with you long after you leave the theatre.

The **cinematography**, while mostly good, fails to contrast the beauty of London and India. **Kabir Lal's** camera captures the sights in a stroke of technical brilliance, but **generally lacks soul**. Furthermore, the film's **impact in its harsh rejection of materialism** is somewhat ruined by overt product placements as well as public placements, and by its use of lethally expensive music.

The **tacky computer-generated special effects** could also have been restrained. The shot of Hrithik and Kareena flying through what looks like the Milky Way galaxy to land into each other arms, or the scene where Hrithik multiplies into an army of Hrithiks like a cloning experiment... look terrible !

Yaadein is **very nicely written though sometimes undeveloped** as far as emotional scenes are concerned. Like when Sanya, Raj Singh's second daughter, comes home wanting a divorce from her husband, there is just a blink reaction from the father while the camera abruptly shifts to Malaysia where Isha is participating in a cycle race.

Under its veneer of gloss and glamour, **good production values about love, family and respect toward elders** also manage to keep the audience glued to his film. For all its flaws, *Yaadein* is not the disaster many critics saw and will be cherished by Bollywood fans...