

ON AND OFF SCREEN

The making of *Atonement*



DVD

These extra scenes are taken from the ‘Making of the Film’. This is divided into three parts. In Part 1 the film’s director Joe Wright, who we’ve already seen with his film version of *Pride and Prejudice*, is speaking. In Part 2 we meet James McAvoy, who plays Robbie, and finally in Part 3 we meet Keira Knightley, who plays Cecilia.



Over to you

Part 1

1 Director Joe Wright speaks about what he was trying to do when making the film *Atonement*.

1. Watch and listen to the first part carefully and answer true or false.

1. Joe Wright says that the film is brutal.

T F

2. McEwan’s novel is very different.

T F

2 Complete Wright’s final sentence.

I was really trying to give people a kind of (1) version of the (2) they had when (3) the book.

Part 2

3 In this part actor James McAvoy says what the novel and film are about. Before watching this part find out what the following expressions mean in Italian:

1. to tell a story 2. to tell a lie 3. to make something up 4. a liar

4 Now watch and listen carefully and complete what he says using the words below.

power story-telling liar tragic story up authors lie nature heart novelist

‘It’s a (1) that deals with not just the (2) romance, that is the very

simple (3) of the story, it’s actually a story about (4). Telling a (5) is telling a story. It’s making something (6). Which is exactly what (7) do [...].

And that little (8) in the film, in the book, in the script becomes a (9) herself. It’s about the (10) of telling stories and why we tell stories. The (11) of stories and the effect it can have on people, I think.’

5 In this scene there is a clip from the film. Who is the young lady talking about her novel?

Part 3

6 In this part actress Keira Knightley speaks about director Joe Wright. Watch and listen, answering the questions below.

- Why does she say that *Atonement* was a more difficult movie for Wright to make than *Pride and Prejudice*? Choose.
 - because it is about dark emotions
 - because there are many night scenes
 - because it is a very long film
- From what she says how do we know that Knightley respects Joe Wright?
- Where is Keira Knightley during this interview?