

## 53. The Way, Way Back | Movie Review

### **Introduction**

Welcome back to Cobbs Corner, I'm your host Morgan Cobbs. If this is your first time listening to this podcast, then welcome and if you're a returning listener, welcome back. In today's episode of Cobbs Corner, we're going to be closing out our *Change Your Life* series with the 2013 indie film *The Way, Way Back*.

Shy 14-year-old Duncan goes on summer vacation with his mother, her overbearing boyfriend, and her boyfriend's daughter. Having a rough time fitting in, Duncan finds an unexpected friend in Owen, manager of the Water Wizz water park.

Duncan, played by Liam James, is not a popular kid and it doesn't look like the summer is going to offer anything better for him. His mother's boyfriend has invited them to his beach house where Duncan is expected to improve his personality and physical appearance, and meet girls. But his would-be step-sister doesn't want anything to do with him and his shy demeanor makes it difficult for him to meet anybody new. When Duncan wanders into the Water Wizz, the local water park, he meets adult employees who are just having fun. Owen, played by Sam Rockwell, lets Duncan work with him and their new-found bond will help each other mature and find their place in life. Which for Duncan means standing up to his would-be step-father, having a conversation with the girl next door, and being more comfortable with who he is.

That storyline is provided to us by napierslogs on IMDb. The movie is directed by Nat Faxon and Jim Rash. Well, written and directed by Nat Faxon and Jim Rash and stars Steve Carell, Toni Colette, Allison Janney, and the aforementioned Sam Rockwell. Oh, Sam Rockwell and Maya Rudolph. Let's go to Cobbs Corner.

### **Favorite Parts**

So I'll admit this movie is sort of a comedy-drama—also a bit of a coming-of-age tale. So there are lots of laughs and there are also some like really serious parts. So I'm just gonna quickly go through, like, some of my favorite parts of the movie.

One of my favorite parts is when Duncan goes to the Water Wizz water park, and Owen comes up to him and says, “I'm afraid I'm gonna have to ask you to leave. You've been having way too much fun, you know? And you're starting to kind of bum, everybody starting to kind of, you know, we're gonna start, we're starting to get complaints and like, you're having way too much fun.” because Duncan, you know as I mentioned in the intro he's kind of like a shy more introverted you know, 14-year-old kid who you knows a bit socially awkward and you know, doesn't really know how to talk to or relate to people and he's kind of uptight. So you know he meets Owen who's kind of the antithesis of him, you know, Owens more easygoing but we realized that he's also a bit of a deadbeat who despite everything has never lost his positive outlook on life; and you know through humor like he's able to kind of sort of get Duncan to open up.

So there is that moment and then there's another time where we meet Duncan or excuse me, Owen's three, I think he's got three, I guess illegitimate sons, one of which I think is played by

the same guy, who played Rowley in *Diary of Wimpy Kid*, you know, he's in this movie and I don't want to get his name wrong. So the guy, the guy who played Rowley in *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, he shows up in this film as one of Owen's sons in a funny scene where they mentioned how apparently years ago, there were two kids that went down the water slide, and one of them passed the other kid and no one really knows how so then Owens 3 kids, you know, they all try to go down the slide at the same time.

Oh. And at this point, Duncan is now working there. You know, we see how Duncan really just sort of leaves during that during the day. You know, while his mother, her boyfriend and they're all having fun you know as you know growing up then he just disappears all day.

He's been going to the Water Wizz secretly and then they hire him. He starts working there and then he's working the slide one day and these three kids just like rush him and they all go down the tube at the same time and then they all get stuck.

So then Owen says, so Duncan calls Owen up and he even suggests why don't we like turn off the water and then they'll get their footing and then Owen is like, that'll be officially be Plan B. Owen goes over to the kids, the kids in the line it says hey I need a hero.

I'm holding out for a hero. He's got to be fast, he's got to be fresh from the fight and he's got to be larger than life. No one. Kevin Bacon *Footloose*, no? Okay, personally, I think that movie, that song has been in, like every movie recently that's song was in what?

Super Mario Bros. I feel like it was in Dungeons & Dragons, like that. Movie has been really that song's been really overused in a lot of movies recently. I personally remember that song from Shrek 2, all right, shout out to the 2000s kids. So he gets this one. He gets one kid to, you know, get these three kids out of the tube.

Finally Owen mentions like, okay, look we got three kids. We got three knuckleheads that decided to go down the tube at the same time and they got stuck. So I need somebody who's big enough to kind of get them unstuck. This kid Malcolm volunteers and they all go down the tube.

But we also see how Owen is really just sort of an adult child. You know, he's kind of just having fun and he's not really taking his job seriously. So, then Maya Rudolph's character, Caitlin played by Maya Rudolph. Who is, I guess a Crush of Owen's. Who it's unclear whether or not they ever dated but she's apparently a close friend/crush of his and she mentions how like you don't take your job, seriously.

I wish this were more than just a job for me but really this is just a job at this point. I wish that you would take things seriously. I wish that we could actually be together. This is why we're not together is because you've been so negligent. So a bit of a wake-up call for Owen. Is that part?

There's another part where after they first hired Duncan, where there's a group of kids who I guess stole some cardboard from, like, one of the shacks, and then, just put the cardboard down and then pulled out like a boombox and then they just started everybody just like, start,

they just formed a circle and then just kids started like breakdancing on the cardboard and. The fun scene where you know, because Duncan is like officially staff, Owen sends him over to take the kids' cardboard and turn off the music and he tries to take the cardboard but then one of the kids is like, "You can have our cardboard once you show us your moves" and there's like a whole scene where like, they literally forced Duncan to dance in front of the kids and like they even give him like a dance lesson. They let him take the cardboard and as he's taking it, as he's picking it up he kind of falls down, they give him the nickname pop and lock. So that's like his nickname there. Now, he's now known as pop and lock at Water Wizz and yeah, we start to see Duncan come out of his show in this movie and we start to see him come out of his shell.

And, there's a scene where he actually finds out that his mother's boyfriend Trent played by Steve Carell who I'll admit just need Steve Carell. He's a great actor. He's actually, this is the second film in this series that he's been in. He was in our last movie *Crazy, Stupid, Love*. He's a really funny guy, but it really, I guess showed the range that Steve Carell had with this role because the role that he has in this movie, he plays like a legitimate asshole, you know, for lack of a better phrase, just gonna keep it 1,000%. So trent is having an affair with his friend Joan played by Amanda Peet. Kip and Joan; Kip played by Rob Kortie, Kip and Joan are close friends of Trent and so While they're in. Long Island, or at whatever this some, this summer, place is, while they're there Trent I guess, I guess is secretly having an affair with Joan and PAM. Again Duncan's mother, Pam played by Toni Collette. She suspects that Trent is being unfaithful, she confronts him on it, he denies it. But then there's one night where they're all having dinner and Joan takes Trent onto the dance floor and then Duncan pretty much has, like not a meltdown, but he pretty much just finally speaks up and says, you know, like Trent's been cheating on you with

Joan like are you gonna do anything about it?

Like of course not, you don't do anything. You just let stuff like this slide. You know, I'm so over this. I'm over this vacation. I'm over you. I want to go with dad, you know, keeps mentioning his dad and then Trent, all right, you know. At this part, like I really just wanted to put myself in the movie and just like slap and me insert myself into the movie and like jump Trent because he told Duncan, it's like your dad doesn't want you.

So, huge, huge, you know dick move. You know, but so yeah, you know, Duncan he finds refuge in Water Wizz. He finds refuge in going and although he is the only, none of the employees are his age, you know. He's the only like teenager He's the only teenager working at this water park. Everybody else there is like You know. Maybe we'll say like mid-20s. Is like, you know, I guess the young thing, next older demographic, there of employees. So he's finding solace in being able to go to this water park and just be himself and he just hates being at home with his family and His mother's Overbearing boyfriend, his potential future stepfather.

So really this is a story of, you know, Duncan sort of going his own way and even there's a scene where Owen says how what Trent told you, you know, Trent telling you that your father doesn't want you, you see that had nothing to do with you, that's got everything to do with him and that's on him. That's not, it's not your fault. It's got nothing to do with you. And you can't buy into that bullshit. You gotta go your own way, and you gotta find yourself and find your own happiness and not be so cautious about what other people think and you know, be able to find your own happiness. So we see how Owen begins to realize that he has the capacity to impart

whatever wisdom that he's learned in life, things that he's gone through in life and to improve the life of Duncan and to teach Duncan and stop dunking from making the same mistakes that he might have made in the past and, so yeah, you know, Owen taking that mentor role.

Gosh that got serious. Oh, I guess like I said it's a comedy-drama. Like one of the more comedic scenes was when Louis who was played by Jim Rash he's kind of the, not comic relief, but, you know, he's, he's kind of like a background character who I guess hates his job and like wants to be a storm chaser. They have a farewell party for Lewis one night and it's funny I think, actually Duncan the night that he hears. I think the same night of that party that they had that he pretty much ruined by complaining that Trent was, you know, having and having an affair with Joan. Later that night he hears Trent and his mom arguing and he sneaks out, he sneaks over to this party at Water Wizz the farewell party that they are having for Lewis and so party that ends in like a water gun flight. It's a really, really fun scene. All right, there's a dance sequence. I feel like every Sam Rockwell movie, it wouldn't be a movie with Sam Rockwell if Sam Rockwell did not at least bust a move. Okay. I mean, I know during the early days of this podcast. I well, I mean, you know, my podcast isn't that old, but I know if you go back and listen to I think it's my third episode. I reviewed Iron Man 2 which started Sam Rockwell and yeah, he, you know, bust a move in that movie, he, you know, bust a move in this movie as well and he's really just an overall funny guy but I do think that's like a staple of Sam Rockwell movies. He usually busts some move and so he gets Owen and Caitlin get together and Duncan finally talks to Susanna who is the girl next door.

The girl next door Susanna played by Anna Sophie Robb. She finally sees him at Water

Wizz and says, like, oh, so this is where you disappear off to all the time and he finally starts talking to her and you know they become close and they become friends. He tells her how like it was built in 1982 and the owner didn't want to change it at all and it's like didn't even want to get it up to code or anything and if any change were to be made about it, we have an atomic bomb on deck in case anybody changes anything about this park. So yeah by the end of the movie Pam, Duncan's mom decides to leave early. She decides to leave this town early. Yeah, I guess they were supposed to stay for the whole summer and she decided to leave, and as they're leaving Duncan and Susanna share a kiss. As they're at the gas station, Duncan's sitting in the back of the car. He runs out and runs over to Water Wizz to say goodbye to Owen and the two of them and end up going down one of the tubes. All right. Owen first, then Duncan, and then as they come out of the tube you see that Duncan is in front of Owen. Yeah, Duncan gets in front of Owen or vice versa, the point is one of them passed the other. I think it was Duncan that passed Owen and he never, you know, I think the last his last words before, going down the tube, were, don't die wondering and it was like go and find something out. You know don't die wondering, you know, let's go test it out. Let's go find out and Duncan ends up not telling anyone how he did it. You know, no one knows how he did it. As Owen said earlier in the movie, "No one knows how it happened other than the two kids that were in the tube and of course Jesus Christ but he's a little hard to get a hold of."

So yeah, Owen introduces himself to Pam, he says, you know, you got a great kid here and only even like, you know meanwhile Trent is just complaining, it's like, you know, what is like what is this? We need to get back on the road and Trent just keeps complaining and then Owen finally, like kind of confronts Trent like, you know, hey Trent, I'm Owen and I'm a good



friend of the three and he kind of like protects Duncan from Trent.

So the movie ends the exact same way, it started with the family driving in the car. I think the station wagon and you know, Duncan's sitting in the back. Sitting the back facing backward. He's not facing forward. He's facing the back and his mom, who's, who's in the passenger seat, she crawls to the back and sits next to her son and that's how the movie ends.

### **Themes and Impact**

So, as I said before, this movie is a nice coming-of-age, tale. You know, it's a movie about growing up and stepping out of your shell and being able to put yourself out there. And is being able to put yourself out there and improve your life. Improve your current state of existence and learning how to have fun and not take life so seriously.

I know that was like a laundry list of like themes, but I guess those are the main like themes, the main take aways that, you know, there may be challenges that you experience in life but do not allow your circumstance to stop you from being who you are. Don't let that circumstance, good or bad, stop you from achieving all that you can in life and also never let any past bad experiences and past negative experiences that you've had something that you've done. Don't let that disqualify you from your ability to do good, from your ability to improve the lives of those around you, from your ability to be a mentor.

All right, I noticed as I've gone through and watched these movies and I've rewatched, some of them, I've been rewatching them, I've rewatched and I watched before doing this series and other movies, like *The Way, Way Back*, I was watching for the very first time and I've seen

some overlap in the themes and takeaways. I think this movie, it's kind of poetic that we ended the series with the way way back because the first movie that we did in this series was *Groundhog Day* and I think there are similar themes in *Groundhog Day* and in *The Way, Way Back* and that is acts of service. So go listen to my *Groundhog Day* review but specifically with *The Way, Way Back* Owen realizes that he has the ability to be a mentor and to be a guide for Duncan, you know, he sees don't get as this kind of sad introverted kid who might need some words of encouragement, who might need some words of motivation. So Owen, you know, even though he is not perfect and he doesn't maybe have, you know, in some scenes, it seems like he doesn't even really like himself.

He doesn't really take things too seriously. He still recognizes that he has the ability to do good in the life of Duncan and to improve the life of Duncan and to be a good person to be that change that he wants to see in the world. I know that sounds super cliché and you've got me out here quoting Gandhi but yeah, you know, the ability to do good, the ability to be a good person, the ability to positively impact the lives around us, the ability to change your life, to change your mind. I mean, literally, the name of the series is *Change Your Life*. We all have this ability so I highly urge that you guys check this movie out. Later on in the episode, I'm gonna say where you can find it. Check this movie out. Maybe watch it a few times, so you can like, really catch everything but the main theme is we all have the ability to change. We all have the ability to do good. Onto *The Way, Way Back*+

### **The Way, Way Back+**

So this last segment, I have called *The Way Way Back*+. Before I continue, I did sort of rename a few of the segments. You know as I've continued this podcast, I have sort of changed the format

of these episodes. I don't know if I've gone on the record saying this or not but it's a work in progress.

You know, this podcast is a work in progress. I'm a work in progress. Hence, this *Change Your Life* series, but anyway, the new segments are going to be like there'll be an introduction like before, I'll go through my favorite parts, we'll have themes and analysis and then we'll have like the movie title+.

So right now we're in *The Way Way Back+* and this is where I'll go through all of the awards, all the trivia, you know, all that stuff, you know, *The Way Way Back+*. So without any further ado, let's get on with it.

So the way way back it won five awards and thirty nominations. It won a Critics Choice Award. Oh, well in 2014 Liam James, the actor of Duncan, was nominated for a Critics Choice Award in 2014 for best young actor/actress, and this movie was nominated, in 2014 was nominated for the Critics Choice Award for best comedy. Sam Rockwell was nominated for best actor in a comedy at the Critics Choice Awards, in 2014.

The Chlotrudis Awards, now I had never heard of these awards. As I mentioned earlier, this movie is an independent film, it's an indie film. It's from Fox Searchlight Pictures, Fox Searchlight which I think is a smaller studio within 20th Century Fox. There's a small studio that they have like for their independent features that are maybe filmed outside of mainstream Hollywood. Fox Searchlight Pictures and I know Focus features is run by either Universal or

Dreamworks, but I'm not entirely sure. I want to say it's Universal that has Focus Features and they're the smaller studio for their more independent films.

So the Chlotrudis Awards is an award ceremony for independent movies that were released in less than a thousand movie theaters worldwide within their first four weeks. So that's like the scale of films that end up qualifying to even be in the running for the Chlotrudis Awards. So at the 2014 Chlotrudis Awards; Allison Janney was nominated for best supporting actress, Sam Rockwell was nominated for best supporting actor, and this movie was nominated for best performance by an ensemble cast. That's the 2014 Chlotrudis Awards.

MTV Movie & TV Awards, Liam James was nominated for breakthrough performance and that's all the awards that I will actually go through. All of these awards and nominations are available on IMDb which is, you know, where I get all this stuff from.

I've got some trivia. In an interview, writer-director Jim Rash, said the script's main inspiration was the opening scene inspired by a similar conversation he had with his own stepfather when he was 14. So again life inspires art, I think I remember in my fight club review I said how David Fincher or no, not David Fincher, but the author of the book, Chuck Palahniuk said that the movie *Flight Club* was based on was kind of inspired by his encounter that he had at work that day. So yeah, life inspires art. Yes, similar conversation he had with his own stepfather

when he was 14. I mean you know, I definitely think that respect is important in any relationship.

So, In order to save money, the filmmakers decided not to get trailers for the actors. and instead decided to rent a house for the duration of filming approximately six weeks where the actors could go between takes. The house turned into a popular hangout spot for the cast and crew and they would often go to the house even during weekends or days off. Okay, well that's, you know, I mean it is cost-effective but I think having a house, having a shared space where you can kind of get to know your co-stars and everybody gets to kind of hang out together and actually like renting a house for six weeks. I would actually take that over over having a separate trailer. I think just adding that adding to that family aspect of, you know, we're all making this movie together. I would have taken the house over the trailers any day whether if it was Fox Searchlight Pictures or 20th Century Fox.

Sam Rockwell would often improvise and joke around on the loudspeaker during scenes. One time forgetting that there were children around he made an inappropriate joke about herpes, which upset the owner of the park rock wall had to go and apologize so that they could continue filming. You know that is definitely something that Sam Rockwell would do, you know Mr. Rockwell I can't wait to interview you one day and yeah, I mean he had to go and apologize, shoot. I mean you gotta know your audience folks. Gotta know your audience. You know, know when there are children present. So, So yeah. Know your audience folks. That's the main take away from that.

While location scouting, Jim rash would take pictures of beach houses that he felt would

be good to film in. During filming he discovered that one of the houses he photographed belonged to Steve Carell's in-laws. It's a small world after all. Small world after all. I mean what are the odds? You know, Beach House belongs to Steve Carell's in-laws and it's a movie with Steve Carell. Wow. I mean, I know celebrities have multiple houses and stuff. It truly is a small world, guys.

The script was written in 2007 as the way back, but the title was later, changed to avoid confusion with the film, the way back in 2010. The title refers to the way back seat, the 1970s colloquial expression for the third, often hidden seat located in the cargo section of the station wagon. Oh okay, so now the title makes sense, the way way back, now I'm glad they explained that because, you know, generation gap, I've never been in a station wagon, but growing up I've primarily driven in minivans and I remember my mom had a Hyundai Entourage and it has, and it's a car with three rows like there's the front seat, and then there's the middle and then the back just like in the Toyota Toyota Sienna that she drives now it has a front, middle, and back but yeah, that title *The Way Way Back*. It actually, now makes sense because that's where Duncan was riding like he was riding in the way way back, I think in the beginning and at the end. All right, so that's a nice little way of you know, paying homage I guess. So, and then also, The title referring to the way back seat right which was I guess a 1970s colloquial expression for the third often hidden seat, located in the cargo section of a station wagon. If there are any Gen Xers or baby boomers, that can confirm that saying, you know, the way back seats. If that was a thing that was said back then, you know, any 70s kid any 60s, or 70s kids who are listening to Cobbs Corner feel free to confirm or deny in the comments below.

Onto some goofs. Continuity: When Owen and Roddy are jokingly giving Duncan a hard time for flirting with Susanna. A girl wearing a purple bikini walks past them three times going in the same direction each time. Hmm well, it's probably again the the same people, the same extras, you know, between takes, and probably probably had to do multiple takes but it's interesting that they noticed that, I mean, that the people, you know, IMDb is amazing but like the fact that you guys you know, shout out to any of my listeners who are contributors for IMDb because I did not notice that and you know, thank you IMDb because now I have to go watch the movie again. Just for that specific scene, I think It's great to say notice that, and yeah, that tends to show up in a lot of movies, you know, lapses in continuity.

In the first scene at the water park Owen is eating a Pop-Tart. Throughout the scene, the amount of Pop-Tart eaten and the direction it is facing in his hand changes several times. Again, probably improvisation from the actor between takes, maybe they forget the exact blocking of the scene. Fun things to notice and movies.

Onto some factual errors: when Owen talks about entering Duncan's name on the leaderboard Duncan mentions you can only enter three letters of a name per score. In reality, Pac-Man doesn't let you enter a name on the leaderboard only saying the high score with no leaderboard either. Oh okay, I see. So now, again, generation gap. I might have played Pac-Man once, or twice at an arcade. I feel like arcades are not really a thing for us Zoomers. Like, I'm old enough to remember going to the arcade, a few times as a kid, but it wasn't like a staple of my childhood. So, I mean seeing just a high score and no like name or anything. You know, that doesn't sound too far from the truth because I feel like the same thing happens on like even when

you go to arcade games, you go to Dave & Buster's, you go to Game Zone. A lot of those games probably don't let you put your name in they just have a high score. It is what it is.

Duncan gets a job at 14 with no parent signing off on his employment further seeing he isn't even paid “under the table” when he receives a paycheck. Hmm, so that's a huge, like, it's a movie moment. He's not, he's not even paid under the table. He's just kind of paid. I did notice they just gave him his paycheck. Like he wasn't paid under the table or anything because I know some family businesses and I guess this is completely legal. It's like if maybe you know, the father owns a restaurant and he might let his son kind of be like I don't like the bus boy or like pitch in around the restaurant, and he might give him like a few dollars under the table. That's completely legal. You just can't have him on your payroll because I don't know about other states, but I know here in Connecticut the legal age to work is 16 If I'm not mistaken, like you can have a job at 16. So being that he was 14 and, you know, stayed in New York I'm overanalyzing this.

Incorrectly regarded as goofs: Near the end when they stop to fuel up, many think that because the pump handle is green that it is diesel being put into the station wagon. While many diesel pumps do have green handles, that doesn't mean all green handles are diesel, the pump he is at has octane ratings and a sign stating that it may contain 10% ethanol proving that it is just gasoline. Okay, well, eagle-eyed viewers it's nice that you guys caught that.

When Susanna (AnnaSophia Robb) closes the tailgate to the station wagon after Duncan (Liam James) climbs in, she lifts up from the bottom to close the tailgate a few minutes later



when Duncan jumps out at the gas station, the door opens sideways like a passenger side door of a car. A feature of this model station wagon was the dual-acting flip slash swing tailgate where it could be opened like a car door or like the tailgate of a pickup truck. Okay, that's actually in a pretty versatile mechanism. Open up sideways or up and down. I wonder if we could do that with doors, probably not.

Alright, Revealing Mistakes: The father character questions Duncan on whether he knows how a dent occurred on the roof of the car. Duncan was shown leaping off of the vinyl-covered roof and no damage was evident. I think I did notice that as well. Yeah, he gets off the car and then there's no real dent shown or anything.

Crew or equipment visible: There's a microphone visible inside Owen's shirt when he and Duncan are on top of the slide. Oh okay, so again eagle-eyed viewers because I don't think I caught that I actually don't think I caught that.

Some quotes:

Owen: You disappoint me, kid, you're late. You're planning on making a habit of this.

Duncan: what?

Owen: you're fired.

Duncan: But I just

Owen: (sticks out his hand.) You make a valid point. Welcome back with benefits.

Owen: (In mock seriousness), I'm afraid I'm gonna have to ask you to leave.

Duncan: what?

Owen: Yeah you're going to have to take off. I'm getting complaints. You're having way too much fun and it's making everyone uncomfortable.

Duncan: Okay, (walks away from the picnic table, where he's been sitting alone).

Owen: Hey hey, woah woah, I was just kidding. Wow, that wasn't even my best stuff. Are you for real? Listen, I can tell you're in complete awe of our picnic table. It's a one-of-a-kind except for the 200 other ones here that are exactly like it.

There's more to the park to be seen.

So that was Owen's way of saying get off your ass and go enjoy life.

All right, we got a user review: 9/10 stars

“A movie to cherish. I adore this movie. To me, it depicts an awkward age that every introverted kid has to wrestle with more so than more popular movies like *Stand By Me*. The main character is Duncan, a sullen, depressed pre-teen who vacations with his divorced mom Tony Colette and her obnoxious new man, Steve Carell, a long way from *Seeking a Friend for the End of the World*, which came out the previous year. The family heads to Carol's beach house, in an unnamed town that could be near Cape Cod, or somewhere on Long Island. The other characters appear almost immediately as Correl, not Carol's Beach home but Correl's Beachome. The other characters appear almost immediately as Corelle drives a station wagon with a way, way back seat hence the film's title into the driveway characters tailor-made for the comedy styling of

Allison Janney. A lush totally flirtatious and not the greatest role model for her children, Rob Corddry once again played playing Carell's best friend and Amanda Peet as Cordy's. Mr. Loving's current girlfriend. Without revealing too much of the plot, during the course of the summer, Duncan pulls himself out of his shell, particularly after taking a job, at a nearby water park owned by a perpetual slacker named Owen played by Sam Rockwell and managed by Owen's one-time, girlfriend, Maya Rudolph. Owen becomes a surrogate big brother to Duncan giving him life lessons while boosting his ego. This is one of Sam Rockwell's, most appealing characters, the talented former actor who finally has an Oscar has built a career out of playing weirdos or psychos. You get the feeling by the end of the movie that Owen really loves Duncan as a brother or even son and Rockwell's natural performance seals it. He's backed by actor and screenwriter, Nat Faxon who also co-wrote the equally charming, Alexander Payne comedy-drama *The Descendants* and who was so hilarious as the stoner in *Hamlet 2*. The movie has a mid-70s look and feel to it and not just because of the car Carell drives, the beach town is lifted straight from the town in *Jaws*, a movie I have to see. Yet the characters have cell phones and iPods. This odd matching of American beach town eras gives the action in the film a nearly fantastical quality and every character including the kids in the film have some zingers. The slightly older girl next door, daughter of Janie's character and played by AnnaSophia Robb has a hilarious line about Duncan's love for REO Speedwagon. A relatively unknown movie that you should seek out and treasure.

This review is provided to us by Katz5 on July 19th, 2021. Shout out to Katz5, contributor for IMDb, and this review is only from two years ago and this movie came out a good 10 years ago in 2013. So overall IMDb rating: 7.4/10 stars, its score on letterboxd: 3.6/5

stars which is fair.

Details: release date, July 26th, 2013 here in the United States. Country of origin: USA. It's got an official Facebook site, and an official website as well. It was released in the English language. Also known as *The Way Back*. Filming locations: Water Wizz 3031 Cranberry Highway East Wareham, Massachusetts, I'm definitely coming your way. All right, Water Wizz, I'm letting you know anybody who works at 3031 Cranberry Highway East Wareham, Massachusetts I'm coming your way I'm gonna visit. All right, just letting y'all know. Cobbs Corner, we are coming to Water Wizz, I might even make a YouTube video out of it. Who knows? Subscribe to the YouTube channel. Production companies; Sycamore Pictures, The Wash Company, and Madison Wells. Box office: It had a reported budget of about \$5,000,000 which now, again, an independent film. Its gross domestic income in the US and Canada was over \$21,000,000 on opening weekend. Domestically it's opening weekend it made \$552,000 reported July 7th, 2013. Worldwide it did make \$26,000,000 so it did make a profit at the box office both domestically and abroad. Well, I mean it actually only really made its operating budget outside the United States only about \$5,000 more.

It's score on Rotten Tomatoes, it's got a Tomatometer score of 84% and an audience score of 84%. So this is one of those, I would say rare times where the critics and the audience like actually see eye to eye and actually agree. You know, 84% that's good. Now, the critics consensus, "despite its familiar themes, *The Way Back* makes use of its talented cast, finely

tuned script, and an abundance of charm to deliver a funny and satisfying coming-of-age story. You can watch this movie on vudu, you can rent it or buy it on vudu. You can rent it or buy it on Amazon Prime Video and it's available for purchase only on Apple TV, you can purchase it on Apple TV. I purchased it on YouTube movies so it's probably available on YouTube movies where I think maybe I know like \$12.99 or \$13.99 one of those.

Nice coming-of-age story. I will say that. I don't really think that my generation, you know, Gen Z. I don't think we really have a lot of these coming-of-age stories. I think that you know, I've seen a lot of the old John Hughes movies, the *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*, the *Sixteen Candles*, *The Breakfast Club*, you know the whole John Hughes era of coming-of-age movies. *Adventures in Babysitting* is another one, you know, fun movies. Fun coming-of-age tales but I wouldn't really say that we had a whole lot of those when I was growing up which you know again I'm only 22 years old. So, this movie, you know, chances are the majority of you listening have never heard of this movie and that's okay, because again, it's an independent film from Fox Searchlight Pictures, but I highly recommend that we all watch this movie a couple of times because I think that it's a movie where there's something there for all ages, you know, even for those of you that are listening, who may be parents who have teenagers, who have a teenage son, who may be introverted, or you yourself are maybe a bit introverted regardless of how old you are. There's something in this movie for everyone you know.

I mean, that's all. That's all I got to say. On the way way back. Can you guys believe that we are at the end of our series at the end of our *The Movies that will Change Your Life* series? Special special thanks to the listener who recommended this series to me, you know who you are

big shout out to you. Let me know in the comments down below, guys, like what was your favorite movie on this series? Just to recap we reviewed *Groundhog Day*, *Flight Club*, I think my next one was *Catch Me If You Can*, *The Count of Monte Cristo*, *Elf*, *Limitless*, *Crazy, Stupid, Love* and just now with *The Way, Way Back*. So which one of these movies was your favorite? You know, maybe if you guys wanted like, send me your rankings, you know, definitely hit me up in the comments down below wherever you're listening from. So yeah, that's all for today's review of *The Way, Way Back*.

If you liked what you heard today, then don't forget to give us a review on Spotify and Apple Podcasts. If you've got a movie or movie series that you want me to review next, then all you got to do is hit me up on Instagram or TikTok. If you don't have Instagram or TikTok, then you can also email me at [cobbscornerpodcast@gmail.com](mailto:cobbscornerpodcast@gmail.com). All of that information is in the show notes below. If you made it to the end of this episode, I greatly appreciate it. Be sure to turn on post notifications because I upload new episodes Fridays at 10 am EST, and you don't want to miss out. I hope that you enjoyed your stay here at Cobbs Corner and I'll talk to all of you in the next episode. Peace