

Finding Forrester (2000)

The film opens with 16-year-old Jamal Wallace (Rob Brown) sleeping in his bedroom, which is stacked with books, and then jumping up to go meet his friends on the basketball court. Reclusive writer William Forrester lives on the top floor of the building across from the schoolyard where Jamal and his friends play basketball. They regularly notice him watching them from his window, although they never see his face, and they refer to him simply as 'The Window'. One day after school, one of the boys challenges Jamal to sneak into the apartment. Jamal accepts the challenge and sneaks in through the window, but is surprised by the recluse and flees, leaving his backpack. Later, Jamal confronts a man delivering supplies to the apartment and displays his gifted intellect discussing the man's BMW car. After the man leaves, Jamal's backpack is dropped to the street. Jamal finds that the man has read his journals and made editorial notes in them. Jamal requests the man read more of his writings, but is told to begin with 5,000 words on why he should "stay the fuck out of my home", which Jamal completes.

Jamal and Forrester grow closer as Jamal's writing in class improves. Eventually Jamal convinces Forrester to go out of the apartment and attend a game at Madison Square Garden, but Forrester cannot handle the crowds and has a severe anxiety attack. After leaving the game, Jamal takes him to see Yankee Stadium as a surprise. He and Forrester go out on the field to the pitcher's mound, where he tells Jamal about his family, specifically his brother's alcoholism and William's minor role that led to his death. He also explains how the subsequent deaths of his parents soon after affected him and led to his becoming a recluse. As part of Jamal's tutelage, Forrester gives him some of his own private essays to rewrite, with the condition that Jamal is never to show any of this work to anyone. When a prestigious writing contest requires some of Jamal's best work, he falls back on a particular piece of Forrester's that he re-wrote and submits it as his own, not realizing it was one of Forrester's few published works. Jamal's literary professor, Crawford, finds the parallels with Forrester's piece published in 1960 and brings Jamal up on plagiarism charges. Jamal must either admit Forrester's influence on his work or prove he had Forrester's permission to use his material. He refuses to do either, so that he may keep his promise to Forrester, thus eliminating his entry from the competition and endangering his standing at the school.

Jamal tells Forrester what he has done and asks him to defend him, but Forrester is angry at Jamal for breaking his promise and refuses. Jamal then accuses Forrester of being scared and selfish for not helping him. Jamal is then told by the school that they value his contributions in basketball, and agree that they will drop the plagiarism charges if he wins them the state championship. Jamal comes to realize his intellectual gifts have less to do with remaining at the school than his ability on the basketball court, and possibly deliberately misses two free throw shots at the end of the game, costing the team the championship. Immediately following the game, Jamal proceeds to the library and writes a letter to William. Later that night, Jamal's letter is found by his brother Terrell (Busta Rhymes) who personally delivers it to William and laments that Jamal's bright future is about to be taken away from him.

When the literary contest is held, the contestants read their own work. Despite discouragement, Jamal attends the competition - signaling his intent to continue at the school. During the readings, Forrester appears, announces himself and receives permission to read an essay that draws loud applause from the students. As Crawford is praising the work, Forrester reveals the essay he'd just read was written by Jamal. He goes on to explain that Jamal had written the contest essay—using the published title and first paragraph—with permission and that Jamal's silence was due to honoring the promise he'd made to Forrester. Crawford adamantly states that this will not change any of the board's decisions. The board overrules him and drops the plagiarism charges, readmitting Jamal's entry to the competition. After the competition, Forrester thanks Jamal for his friendship

and tells him of his desire to return to his homeland of Scotland. Before departing, Forrester asks Jamal if he missed on purpose, to which Jamal responds with, "that's not exactly a 'soup' question"—repeating to Forrester the response that Jamal received to personal questions *he* had asked. A 'soup' question is one that provides the questioner with useful information (i.e. 'How do you make this soup?') as opposed to one meant purely to satisfy one's curiosity.

One year later, Jamal is in his senior year and is a successful student with many enrollment offers from prestigious universities. Forrester's attorney (Matt Damon) schedules a meeting with Jamal, and reveals that Forrester has died of cancer. Jamal learns that Forrester was terminally ill while they knew each other. In accordance with Forrester's will, Jamal is given a package, keys to his apartment, and a letter, in which Forrester thanks Jamal for helping him rekindle his desire to live. The package contains the manuscript for Forrester's second novel, called *Sunset*, for which Jamal is to write the foreword.

Cast

Sean Connery	as	William Forrester
Rob Brown	as	Jamal Wallace
F. Murray Abraham	as	Prof. Robert Crawford
Anna Paquin	as	Claire Spence
Busta Rhymes	as	Terrell Wallace
April Grace	as	Ms. Joyce
Michael Pitt	as	John Coleridge
Michael Nouri	as	Dr. Spence
Richard Easton	as	Prof. Matthews
Glenn Fitzgerald	as	Massie, Forrester's Delivery Man
Lil' Zane	as	Damon (as Zane Copeland Jr.)
Stephanie Berry	as	Janice Wallace
Fly Williams III	as	Fly
Damany Mathis	as	Kenzo
Damion Lee	as	Clay

Memorable quotes (with notes on difficult vocabulary)

Forrester: Bolt the door, if you're coming in.

Bolt the door, if you're coming in = chiudi la porta col chiavistello, se hai deciso di entrare.

Jamal: Women will sleep with you if you write a book?

Forrester: Women will sleep with you if you write a bad book.

Women will sleep with you if you write a bad book = Le donne verranno a letto con te se scrivi un brutto libro.

Forrester: Whatever we write in this apartment stays in this apartment.

Whatever we write in this apartment stays in this apartment = Quello che scriviamo in questo appartamento rimane in questo appartamento.

Forrester: The key to a woman's heart is an unexpected gift at an unexpected time.

The key to a woman's heart is an unexpected gift at an unexpected time = La chiave al cuore di una donna è un dono inatteso in un momento inatteso.

Forrester: You're the man now, dog!
You're the man now, dog! = (qui) Adesso, sei tu l'uomo, stupido!

Forrester: *Punch* the keys, for God's sake!
***Punch* the keys, for God's sake!** = E pesta su quei tasti, che diamine!

Jamal: I was wondering if I could bring you more of my stuff. Or maybe I could write something else.

Forrester: How about 5,000 words on why you should stay the fuck out of my house!
I was wondering if I could bring you more of my stuff = Mi chiedevo se potrei portarle della roba che scrivo; **How about 5,000 words on why you should stay the fuck out of my house!** = Che ne dici di 5000 parole sul perché dovresti startene alla larga da casa mia, maledizione?

Forrester: In some cultures it's good luck to be wearing something inside-out.

Jamal: And you believe that?

Forrester: No, but it's like praying: what do you risk?
it's good luck to be wearing something inside-out = porta fortuna indossare qualcosa a rovescio (lett. con la interna verso l'esterno: con la parte dietro davanti sarebbe **back to front**)

Jamal: Be sure to write.

Be sure to write = (qui) non dimenticarti di scrivere

Forrester: No thinking - that comes later. You must write your first draft with your heart. You rewrite with your head. The first key to writing is... to write, not to think!
first draft = prima stesura

Jamal: "The rest of those who have gone before us cannot steady the unrest of those to follow."
You wrote that in your book.

The rest of those who have gone before us cannot steady the unrest of those to follow = il resto di quelli che sono venuti prima non può placare l'inquietudine di quelli che seguiranno

Forrester: Let me ask you a question... those two foul shots at the end of the game... did you miss them, or did you *miss* them?

Jamal: Not exactly a soup question, now is it?

those two foul shots at the end of the game... did you miss them, or did you *miss* them? = quei due colpi andati a vuoto alla fine della partita... è stato un caso o lo hai fatto apposta?

Jamal: I'll take poor assumptions for \$800, Alex.

I'll take poor assumptions for \$800, Alex = prenderò in considerazione ipotesi scadenti per \$800, Alex

Jamal: Man, fuck you William! You wanna know what the real bullshit is? How about you let me take on this one cause you're too damn scared to walk out that door and do something for somebody else. You're too damn scared, man! That's the only reason.

Forrester: [*throws glass against wall and breaks it*] You don't know a goddamn thing about reason; There are no reasons! Reasons why some of us live and why some of us don't! Fortunately for you, you have decades **to figure that out!**

Jamal: Yeah, and what's the reason in having a file cabinet full of writing and keeping the shit locked so nobody can read it? What is that man? I'm done with this shit.

to figure out = rendersi conto di cosa significa

Forrester: I have an homeland that I have not seen for too long.

Jamal: Oh, you mean Ireland?

Forrester: Scotland, for God's sakes!

Jamal: I'm messing with you, man.

I'm messing with you, man = Dai, scherzavo, capo!

Jamal: Did you ever enter a writin' contest?

Forrester: Yeah, once.

Jamal: Did you win?

Forrester: Well of course I won!

Jamal: You win like money or somethin'?

Forrester: No.

Jamal: Well, whadchu win?

Forrester: The Pulitzer.

contest = gara; You win like money or somethin'? = Non è magari hai pure vinto qualcosa, tipo denaro o altro?; Well, whadchu win? = (slang per) Well, what did you win?

Jamal: I ain't seen nothing change.

Forrester: You ain't seen nothing? What the hell kind of sentence is that?

I ain't seen nothing change = (slang sgrammaticato per) I haven't seen anything change

Jamal: Opens the letter

Forrester: Dear Jamal, Someone I once knew wrote that we walk away from our dreams afraid that we may fail or worse yet, afraid we may succeed. You need to know that while I knew so very early that you would realize your dreams, I never imagined I would once again realize my own. Seasons change young man, and while I may have waited until the winter of my life, to see the things I've seen this past year, there is no doubt I would have waited too long, had it not been for you.

afraid that we may fail or worse yet, afraid we may succeed = perché abbiamo paura di sbagliare o, peggio ancora, di riuscire.

Jamal: We've been talking about your book at school.

Forrester: People have been talking about it for years. They just haven't been saying anything.

Jamal: I think I got it down, though. I figure you were writing about how life never works out.

Forrester: Really? You had to read a book to figure that out?

I think I got it down, though = penso di aver capito, però

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Finding_Forrester

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0181536/>