**Days of Heaven (1978)**

The story is set in 1916. Bill (Gere), a [Chicago](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chicago) manual laborer, knocks down and kills a boss in the [steel mill](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Steel_mill) where he works. He flees to the [Texas Panhandle](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Texas_Panhandle) with his girlfriend Abby (Adams) and younger sister Linda (Manz), who provides the film's narration. Bill and Abby pretend to be siblings to prevent gossip.

The three hire on as part of a large group of seasonal workers with a rich, shy farmer (Shepard). The farmer learns that he is dying of an unspecified disease. When he falls in love with Abby, Bill encourages her to marry him so that they can inherit his money after he dies. The marriage takes place and Bill stays on the farm as Abby's "brother." The farmer's foreman suspects their scheme. The farmer's health unexpectedly remains stable, foiling Bill's plans.

Eventually, the farmer discovers Bill's true relationship with Abby. At the same time, Abby has begun to fall in love with her new husband. After a [locust](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Locust) swarm and a fire destroy his wheat fields, the farmer goes after Bill with a gun, but Bill kills him with a screwdriver. Bill then flees with Abby and Linda. The foreman and the police pursue and eventually find them, and the police kill Bill. Later, Abby inherits the farmer's money and leaves Linda at a boarding school. Abby leaves town on a train with soldiers leaving for World War I. Linda runs away from the school with a friend.

## **Cast**

* [Richard Gere](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_Gere) as Bill
* [Brooke Adams](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brooke_Adams_%28actress%29) as Abby
* [Sam Shepard](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sam_Shepard) as The Farmer
* [Linda Manz](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Linda_Manz) as Linda
* [Robert J. Wilke](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_J._Wilke) as The Farm Foreman
* [Jackie Shultis](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Jackie_Shultis&action=edit&redlink=1) as Linda's Friend
* [Stuart Margolin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stuart_Margolin) as Mill Foreman
* [Timothy Scott](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timothy_Scott_%28actor_died_1995%29) as Harvest Hand
* [Gene Bell](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Gene_Bell&action=edit&redlink=1) as Dancer
* [Doug Kershaw](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Doug_Kershaw) as Fiddler
* [Richard Libertini](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_Libertini) as Vaudeville Leader

**Memorable quotes (with notes on difficult vocabulary)**

[**Linda**](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0544371/?ref_=tt_trv_qu)**:** I've been thinking what to do wit' my future. I could be a **mud doctor**. Checkin' out the eart'. Underneat'.

**mud doctor** = (lett. dottore della terra) agronomo

[**Linda**](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0544371/?ref_=tt_trv_qu)**:** There were people sufferin' in pain and hunger. **Some people their tongues were hangin' out of their mouths.**

**Some people their tongues were hangin' out of their mouths.** = Alcune persone… erano rimaste a bocca aperta.

[**Harvest Hand**](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0779850/?ref_=tt_trv_qu)**:** **Your sister keep you warm at night, does she?**

**Your sister keep you warm at night, does she?** = Tua sorella ti tiene caldo la note, non è vero?

[**Linda**](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0544371/?ref_=tt_trv_qu)**:** You know how people are. **You tell them something, they start talking.**

**You tell them something, they start talking.** = Gli si dice qualcosa e comincia a sparlare.

[**Linda**](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0544371/?ref_=tt_trv_qu)**:** This farmer, he had a big **spread**, and a lot of money. Whoever was sitting in a chair when he'd come around, why they'd stand up and give it to him.

**spread** = (large farm, ranch) proprietà terriera

[**Linda**](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0544371/?ref_=tt_trv_qu)**:** **Wasn't no harm in him.** You'd give him a flower, he'd keep it forever.

**Wasn't no harm in him.** = (espressione colloquiale scorretta per l’uso di un doppio negativo) non faceva del male a nessuno

**Linda:** **The rich have it all figured out.**

**The rich have it all figured out.** = I ricchi hanno capito tutto

**Linda:** This girl, she didn't where she was **gonna** go or what she was gonna do. **Maybe she'd meet up wit her character.** **I was really hopin things would work out fo' her**. She was a good friend o' mine.

**gonna** = (slang) going to; **Maybe she'd meet up wit her character.** = Forse un giorno avrebbe scoperto chi era veramente; **I was really hopin things would work out fo' her** = Speravo davvero che tutto le sarebbe andato per il verso giusto

**Bill:** Nothing. She is a **sultry** beauty--emancipated, full of bright hopes and a **zest** for life. Her costume does not fool the men. Wherever she goes they **ogle** her insolently.

**sultry** = sensual, passionale; **zest** = grande entusiasmo, gusto, piacere; **to ogle** = covare con gli occhi, guardare con desiderio

**Abby:** You know I do. It's just that, well, I'm not a **bum**, Bill.

**bum** = vagabond, barbone, accattone

**Abby:** Now you're trying to **coax** me. You never used to act like this.

**to coax** = persuadere con le lusinghe

**Bill:** I like to **gamble**, and I like to win. **I make no bones about it.** Got to where the guys on Throop Street wouldn't even lag pennies with me on account of I was such a winner. I'm starting out level with you, you understand.

**gamble** = giocare d’azzardo, rischiare; **I make no bones about it.** = non faccio fatica ad ammetterlo; **Throop Street** = originariamente la strada principale di Birdgeport, uno dei 77 distretti di Chicago; **lag pennies** = gioco che consiste nel fare un segno e poi lanciare una moneta da una certa distanza per vedere chi si avvicina di più al segno; **I’m starting out level with you** = con lei parto alla pari

**Abby:** I held out a long time. I could've taken the first guy with a gold watch, but I held out. (pause) **I told myself that when I found somebody, I'd stick by him.**

**I held out a long time** = ho resistito per molto tempo; **I told myself that when I found somebody, I'd stick by him.** = Mi sono sempre detta che quando avessi trovato qualcuno sarei rimasta al suo fianco

**Bill:** I know. We're in **quicksand**, though. We stand around, it's going to suck us down like everybody else. (pause) Somewhere along the line you have to make a sacrifice. Lots of people want to sit back and take a piece without doing nothing.

**quicksand** = sabbie mobili

**Abby:** Have I ever complained? Have I said anything that would make you think...

**Bill:** You don't have to. I hate it when I see you **stooped** over and them looking at your ass like you were a whore. I personally feel ashamed! **I want to take a .45** **and let somebody have it.** (pause) We got to look on the bright side of this, Ab. Year from today we got a Chinese butler and no shit from anybody.

**to stoop** = piegarsi in avanti; **I want to take a .45 and let somebody have it.** = mi fa venire voglia di prendere una calibro 45 e farla assaggiare a qualcuno

**Bill:** You know why I like him? He minds his business and **isn't full of** **baloney**.

**isn’t full of baloney** = una persona schietta, che dice pane al pane

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Days_of_Heaven>

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0077405/trivia?tab=qt&ref_=tt_trv_qu>

<http://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/days_of_heaven/>