

The Gift of Love

US : 1958 : dir. Jean Negulesco : 20th Century Fox : 105 min
 prod: Charles Brackett : scr: Luther Davis : dir.ph.: Milton Krasner
[Evelyn Rudie](#)
 Robert Stack; Lauren Bacall; Lorne Greene; Anne Seymour; Edward Platt; Joseph Kearnes

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω	8	€	M	⚡	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
5502	1.5	5	0	471	-	-	-	-	-	No	<i>unseen</i>

Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 2001 review:

"If you could put up with **"SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY"** you might bear this remake, which isn't even as good. Bacall dies but returns to earth as guiding spirit for her husband and daughter. Remade again for TV as **"SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY"**. Shot in CinemaScope. ** "

Speelfilm Encyclopedie review – identical to above

Halliwell's Film Guide review

"A dying wife adopts an orphan girl so that her husband will not be lonely. Incredibly cloying and miscast remake of **"SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY"**."

The Films of 20th Century-Fox review:

"A remake of **"SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY"** (1946), with Lauren Bacall as the devoted, dying wife, who adopts a little girl (Evelyn Rudie), so that her husband (Robert Stack) will have someone to love him in the future. When the wife dies, the husband finds it hard to stand the child, who is a fantasist by nature while he is a physicist by trade. He returns her to the orphanage, but later, sensing she is in trouble, he rescues her from a fall into the ocean. He then realises he wants the child with him and that she is in fact his wife's gift of love."

Movies on TV and Videocassette 1988-89 review:

"A remake of the four-handkerchiefer **"SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY"**. Overly sentimental and sticky plot concerns a childless couple who adopt a strange little girl. ** "

The Sunday Times Guide to Movies on Television review:

"Tear-jerker with Lauren Bacall about how important little adopted girl becomes to Robert Stack after wife's death; suits Jean Negulesco's schmaltzy style. 3 "

[no listing in "The Critics' Film Guide", "The Good Film and Video Guide", "A Pictorial Guide to the Talkies", "Rating the Movies (1990)", "The Time Out Film Guide", "TV Times Film & Video Guide 1995", "Variety Movie Guide 1993", "Video Movie Guide 1993" or "The Virgin Film Guide"]

No further information currently available. From a story by Nella Gardner White. I can't recall offhand a single other film in which an adopted child is returned so bluntly to the point of sale, like just another unwanted Christmas gift. Evelyn Rudie would be about 9, seen on American TV in the mid-fifties, for example in "**Playhouse 90: Eloise**" (56) and "**DuPont Show of the Month: The Red Mill**". Nothing else is known of her.

See the two other versions mentioned, and subject index under **DEATH / DYING CHILDREN** and **ORPHANS / ADOPTION / CHILDREN'S HOMES**.