

# risky business synopsis

risky business synopsis provides a captivating overview of the 1983 film that has become a cultural touchstone. This iconic movie stars Tom Cruise as a high school student who finds himself embroiled in a series of unexpected and often humorous escapades when his parents leave him home alone. The film expertly blends elements of comedy, drama, and the coming-of-age genre, making it relatable to audiences of all ages. In this article, we will delve into the plot details of "Risky Business," explore its themes, analyze its lasting impact on popular culture, and provide insights into its character dynamics. This comprehensive synopsis aims to capture the essence of the film while engaging both new viewers and longtime fans.

- Introduction to "Risky Business"
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# Introduction to "Risky Business"

"Risky Business" is a seminal film that captures the essence of teenage rebellion and the complexities of young adulthood. Directed by Paul Brickman, the film was released in the early 1980s and quickly garnered a reputation for its bold storytelling and unforgettable scenes, including the iconic dance sequence featuring Tom Cruise in his underwear. The narrative revolves around the character Joel Goodson, who is left alone for the weekend and seizes the opportunity to explore his newfound freedom. However, his innocent adventures quickly spiral out of control, leading to unexpected consequences.

The film is not only a comedic exploration of teenage life but also serves as a commentary on the American dream and the quest for identity. It deftly balances humor with serious themes, making it a compelling watch. The film's success can be attributed to its relatable characters, sharp writing, and the memorable performance of Tom Cruise, which cemented his status as a leading actor in Hollywood.

## Plot Summary

The plot of "Risky Business" centers on Joel Goodson, a high school senior who lives in a wealthy Chicago suburb. As the story unfolds, Joel's parents leave for a weekend trip, giving him the chance to enjoy some freedom. Initially, Joel embraces the opportunity to relax and have fun; however, things take a significant turn when he meets a call girl named Lana, played by Rebecca De Mornay.

This encounter leads to a series of events that dramatically alter Joel's life. As he attempts to impress Lana, he becomes involved in the world of sex work, which brings both excitement and danger. The situation escalates as Joel's decisions lead to a series of complications, including the theft of his father's Porsche and the arrival of a dangerous pimp.

The film reaches a climax as Joel must confront the consequences of his actions and make choices

about his future. Through a mix of comedic mishaps and serious reflections, "Risky Business" ultimately portrays Joel's journey from innocence to experience, highlighting the lessons learned along the way.

## **Main Themes**

"Risky Business" explores several key themes that resonate with audiences, making it more than just a teenage comedy.

### **Coming of Age**

One of the central themes of "Risky Business" is the transition from adolescence to adulthood. Joel's journey is marked by his exploration of freedom, responsibility, and the consequences of his actions. The film effectively captures the essence of teenage curiosity and the pivotal moments that define one's identity.

### **Rebellion and Freedom**

The film also delves into the theme of rebellion against societal expectations. Joel's decision to indulge in a carefree lifestyle while his parents are away serves as a metaphor for the struggle between conforming to societal norms and pursuing personal desires. This theme is prevalent throughout the film, as characters grapple with their desires and the constraints imposed by their upbringing.

### **The American Dream**

"Risky Business" presents a critique of the American dream, particularly the notion that success and

happiness can be achieved through material wealth and superficial experiences. Joel's journey highlights the emptiness of purely chasing after pleasure without considering the long-term implications of his choices.

## Character Analysis

The characters in "Risky Business" are vital to its narrative and thematic depth.

### Joel Goodson

Joel Goodson, portrayed by Tom Cruise, is the film's protagonist. He embodies the typical high school student with dreams and aspirations but is also faced with the pressures of his environment. Joel's character evolves throughout the film as he navigates the challenges of adolescence and learns valuable life lessons.

### Lana

Rebecca De Mornay's portrayal of Lana is crucial to the film's plot. As a call girl, she represents both temptation and complexity. Lana's character challenges Joel's perceptions and ultimately influences his transformation. Her motivations and desires add depth to the narrative, making her a pivotal figure in Joel's journey.

### Joel's Parents

The roles of Joel's parents, though limited in screen time, are significant. They embody the traditional values and expectations that Joel feels pressured to conform to. Their absence at the beginning of the

film sets the stage for Joel's adventures and highlights the contrast between his sheltered life and the reality he encounters.

## Cultural Impact

Since its release, "Risky Business" has left an indelible mark on popular culture. The film's iconic scenes, particularly the dance sequence featuring Tom Cruise, have been referenced and parodied in various media, showcasing its enduring influence.

The film also contributed to the rise of the teen film genre in the 1980s, paving the way for future movies that explore similar themes of adolescence, rebellion, and self-discovery. Additionally, "Risky Business" solidified Tom Cruise's status as a Hollywood star, leading to a successful career characterized by diverse roles and blockbuster hits.

The film's soundtrack, featuring songs like "Old Time Rock and Roll," further enhances its cultural resonance, making it a beloved classic that continues to be celebrated by audiences today.

## Conclusion

"Risky Business" remains a significant film in the landscape of American cinema. Through its engaging plot, relatable characters, and exploration of profound themes, it captures the essence of the teenage experience with both humor and depth. The film's legacy endures, influencing generations of filmmakers and audiences alike. As viewers continue to discover and appreciate the film, its relevance to the struggles of growing up and finding one's identity remains timeless.

## **Q: What is the main premise of "Risky Business"?**

A: The main premise of "Risky Business" revolves around Joel Goodson, a high school senior who, when left home alone for a weekend, engages in a series of reckless escapades involving a call girl, leading to comedic and serious consequences.

## **Q: Who directed "Risky Business" and when was it released?**

A: "Risky Business" was directed by Paul Brickman and was released in 1983.

## **Q: What themes are explored in "Risky Business"?**

A: The film explores themes such as coming of age, rebellion against societal expectations, and a critique of the American dream, particularly regarding the pursuit of material wealth.

## **Q: How did "Risky Business" impact popular culture?**

A: "Risky Business" had a significant impact on popular culture, contributing to the teen film genre and influencing future filmmakers. Its iconic scenes and soundtrack have been referenced and parodied in various media.

## **Q: What is the significance of the character Joel Goodson?**

A: Joel Goodson represents the typical high school student navigating the complexities of adolescence. His journey from innocence to experience encapsulates the challenges and lessons of growing up.

## **Q: What role does Lana play in Joel's journey?**

A: Lana, portrayed by Rebecca De Mornay, plays a pivotal role in Joel's journey, representing

temptation and complexity. She influences his transformation and challenges his perceptions of adulthood.

### **Q: Why is "Risky Business" considered a classic film?**

A: "Risky Business" is considered a classic due to its engaging plot, relatable characters, exploration of important themes, and its lasting cultural impact, particularly in shaping the teen film genre.

### **Q: What is the iconic scene involving Tom Cruise?**

A: The iconic scene involves Tom Cruise dancing in his underwear to "Old Time Rock and Roll," which has become a memorable moment in film history and is often referenced in popular culture.

### **Q: How did "Risky Business" influence Tom Cruise's career?**

A: "Risky Business" solidified Tom Cruise's status as a leading actor in Hollywood, leading to a successful career characterized by diverse roles and numerous blockbuster hits across various genres.

### **Q: What lessons can be learned from "Risky Business"?**

A: "Risky Business" imparts important lessons about the consequences of one's actions, the challenges of growing up, and the importance of making informed choices while navigating the complexities of teenage life.

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