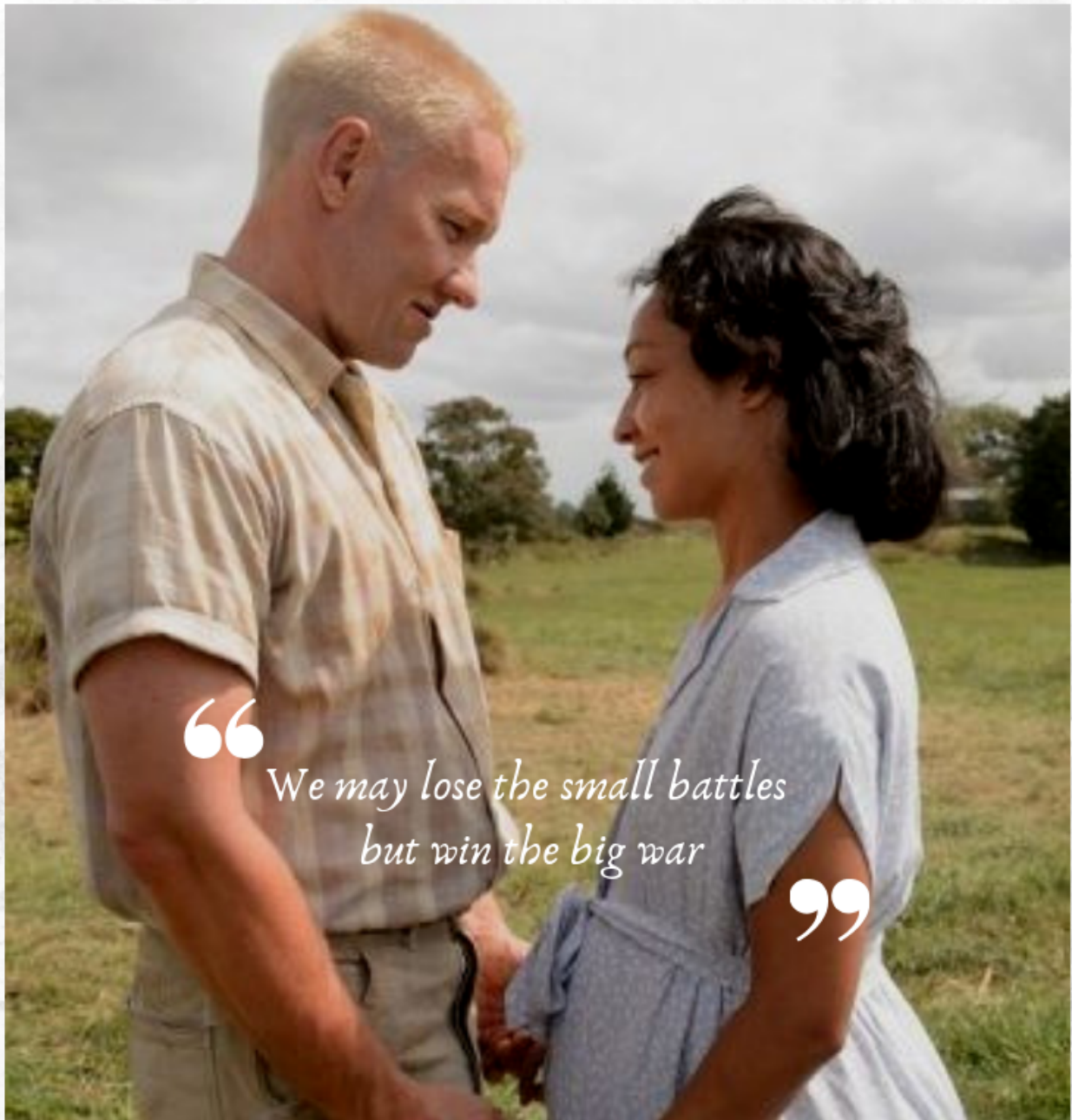


MARCO TORRA.3ACL.DOCUMENT ANALYSIS

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# LOVING

2016, A FILM BY JEFF NICHOLS



“  
*We may lose the small battles  
but win the big war*  
”



he thing that we heard a lot before gay's marriage approval was that in 50 years the ones who were against it, would have been judged with indignation, in the same way we do today with the ones that were against "mixed" marriage, between black and white people. And maybe in 20 years we will look at the pictures of the first gay marriage with the same eyes we watch today the reportage of Grey Villet about the "Loving" couple: the first mixed couple that get married in USA. In that years, it was in 1958, the marriages between whites and blacks were forbidden from the law 17 of the American states. But their love story canceled these laws.



n Virginia, this reserved construction worker named Richard Loving, married his pregnant girlfriend Mildred. The two drove to Washington, D.C. to make their union official, and Richard bought an piece of land on which he planned to build a house, to live in peace in a beautiful, country setting. In the middle of the night, all of that changed. Officers broke into their home, arresting both Richard and Mildred, stating that their marriage license was no good in Virginia and that they had violated anti-miscegenation laws that stated that mixed-race couples were a violation punishable by jail time. With the assistance of a local attorney, the Lovings were released under one condition: they had to leave the state of Virginia and not return for 25 years.



hen, fed up with having to live in that situation they decided to make a petition and they asked for help to the American Civil Liberties Union, an association that fought for the civil rights movement. The ACLU assigned them two voluntary lawyers, Bernard S Cohen and Philip J Hirschkop, that brought their case, Loving vs Virginia, from a local court of the Virginia up to the Supreme court. The Loving didn't participate in the last hearing to Washington DC, but Richard Loving asked to his lawyer to read a brief message to his place: "Mr Cohen, tells court that I love my wife and that it is unfair that I can't live in Virginia together with her."In June 12 th 1967 the Supreme court capsized the sentence to the unanimity and it established that the prohibition of mixed marriages was unconstitutional and contrary to the XIV amendment of the Constitution, that right peer confirms for protecting the ex slaves after the war of Secession. Despite the sentence of the Supreme court, in some states the laws against the marriages were not cancelled; the Alabama embittered her up to 1970 and was the last state to suit for the decision of the Court in the 2000.





ots of people discussed a lot about the case and also LIFE, the most important illustrated magazine of that time, influenced the public opinion, it told the history through photographer Grey Villet's delicate and intense photographic service. In 1965, a few months after the report of the Loving, Villet spent two weeks with their three children, Peggy, Sidney and Donald and them, and he wothdrews them together, in front of their house or while they were playing. LIFE played an important role telling the battles for the civil rights through the images, but those were often floods of anger and confrontation, these showed a normal family instead, they didn't testify a legal battle but they accompanied a daily love story. Meanwhile the history of the Loving keeps on being reported: the last time in 2016 in the film Loving, directed by Jeff Nichols (that of Mud) with Joel Edgerton and Ruth Negga. The Festival of Cannes has been introduced to and it has gotten a nomination to the Oscar.



oving has few twists and turns. It is a rather straightforward drama, and therefore probably won't be flashy enough for some viewers. And yet it feels urgent and current to today's drama. Why do some films set a half-century ago feel like history lessons while others feel essential to not just the '60s but the '10s? Because there's truth in the story of Richard and Mildred Loving. There's something about people who just want to be allowed to start a family that is timeless and always will be. And it takes an incredibly talented trio of people in Nichols, Negga and Edgerton to convey that timelessness in a way that feels genuine. When "Loving" ends, one doesn't feel like they spent time being manipulated by awards bait or melodrama. One appreciates a story well-told and having been allowed a brief, believable window into the lives of Richard and Mildred Loving, two people who changed the country just by falling in love.



<https://www.rdgerebert.com/reviews/loving-2016>

<https://www.comingsoon.it/film/loving/52282/scheda/>

<https://www.theguardian.com/film/2017/feb/05/loving-review-marriage-changed-history-ruth-negga-joel-edgerton-jeff-nichols>

<https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/films/reviews/loving-film-review-jeff-nichols-ruth-negga-oscars-2017-aclu-joel-edgerton-a7556821.html>