**Nobody’s Boy**

**Released in 1984. Country: USSR. Genre: Drama.**

**Running time 163 minutes.**

**Directed by Vladimir Bortko.**

**Cast:** Sasha Vassiliev, Helena Solovey, Eugenia Pleshkite, Sos Sarkisyan, Zinoviy Gerdt.

“Nobody’s Boy” is a musical television film directed by Vladimir Bortko based on the story of the same name written by Hector Malot.

The director filmed a touching story about a little orphan Remi in a hundred years after the book was released.

This film is the third screening of the popular story and the fifth full-length work of Vladimir Bortko.

**An excerpt from the J. Kondratieva’s article about Hector Malot story named “Nobody’s Boy”:**

The story called “Nobody’s Boy” was written by famous French writer Hector Malot (1830 – 1907). H. Malot is an author of many books. Some of them were created for children and young people but no one of them became such popular as a story titled “Nobody’s Boy” released in 1878. <…>

“Nobody’s Boy” is a story of life and adventures of a boy called Remi who doesn’t know who his parents are for are very long time and he wanders with strangers as an orphan.

The author masterfully tells about Remi’s life, about his friends like kind mother Barberin or noble Vitalis or faithfull friend Mattia, and about foes – cruel Garofoli, dishonorable Driscall and treacherous James Milligan.

Hector Malot pays a lot of attention to description of animals- a monkey named Joli – Coeur and three dogs called Capi, Dolche and Zerbino which act like full-fledged characters in the story.

Literary images of animals are depicted quite catchy especially Capi the poodle.

Readers get a lot of new information about the lifestyle of French people and manners and customs of the time during the imagined journey watching Remi’s adventures.

Secondary characters which make mottled background for the narrative are quite interesting in themselves and there are peasants, miners, buskers, scammers and honest people, rich and poor among them.

“Nobody’s Boy” is a perfect material depicting a hard life of a nation in capitalistic France and this side of a narrative would be an extremely effective walking study for young ladies and gentlemen.

Hector Malot depicts that the society Remi and friends live in is controlled by money.

Acquisitiveness drives people to commit heinous crimes. This circumstance largely has determined the fate of the book’s main character. Family relationships, debt, nobility – all becomes secondary because of the desire to acquire wealth.

The character of James Milligan is a convincing example of how a man can seek ways to get rid of his nephews to seize the assets of his brother because nephews are the legal heirs.

One of them is Arthur who is an ill and physically weak boy and James hopes Arthur dies young. But most of all James worried about the other nephew called Remi. That’s why James Milligan had kidnapped Remi from parents with a help of wretch Driscall.

Henri Malot tells us that even children can be sold and bought like things in this world of owners when everything sells. Remi is sold, Mattia is sold and the owner who had bought a child thinks himself right to starve, beat and humiliate children. That’s why starving and beaten Mattia thinks that to get to the hospital is happiness and Remi who is healthy and strong envy Arthur who is bedridden but fed and surrounded by attention.

Remi supposes that family is the only safe haven and the protection from the vagaries of injustice of fate but not only personification of parents’ love and care. <…>