



## Trust

This romantic comedy is about two lost souls in an angry world who meet and emotionally connect-much to the

chagrin of everyone around them.

Literally, "around them"; writer-director Hal Hartley ("The Unbelievable Truth") is fond of conversations between onscreen and offscreen characters.

Hartley's quirky style places the viewer right in the middle of the scene, and the script, which won a prize at Sundance, is filled with odd yet believable personalities. The main two – Maria (Adrienne Shelly) and Matthew (Martin Donovan) – are a "perfect couple" (or so say the movie's ads): He's an alternately apathetic and hot-tempered 33-year-old reform-school grad with a police record who refuses to watch TV because "it causes cancer" and carries a hand grenade in his pocket, "just in case." She's an obnoxious, demanding, sluttishly-dressed teenager; knocked up by a boyfriend who immediately dumps her, she's kicked out of her house and school. The effect they have on each other is astounding. Maria loses the heavy makeup and dons glasses; he relinquishes his hand grenade and starts to watch TV. She gets a job; he brings her gifts. The reason: respect, admiration, and trust-at least that's what Maria has Matthew promise before she'll consent to marry him. "Do you trust me?" She asks. "If you trust me first," he replies. Republic Pictures Home Video, \$29.98; laserdisc, \$29.98.  
Soozy Goldfarb

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(byline is my maiden name)