



# WINTER SLEEP (KIS UYKUSU)

Spring  
Season  
2015

Release: 2014

Cert (UK): 15

Language: Turkish

Runtime: 196 mins

Director: Nuri Bilge Ceylan

Writers: Ebru Ceylan, Nuri Bilge Ceylan (from a story by Anton Checkov)

Cinematographer: Gökhan Tiryaki

Cast: Haluk Bilginer, Melisa Sözen, Demet Akbag



'Aydin, a former actor, runs a small hotel in central Anatolia with his young wife Nihal with whom he has a stormy relationship and his sister Necla who is suffering from her recent divorce. In winter as the snow begins to fall, the hotel turns into a shelter but also an inescapable place that fuels their animosities...' – Adopt films

A small story, albeit by Checkov, becomes a mighty fable in the hands of writer/director Nuri Bilge Ceylan and his long-time cinematographer Gökhan Tiryaki. The scenery comes from the weird mushroom-shaped rocks in the Cappadocian mountains where the village is set, the camerawork – long takes and static shots - is all Ceylan and Tiryaki. The acting too gets praise from many critics: Mike D'Angelo (AV Club) thinks 'Bilginer gives a truly towering performance as Aydin-arguably the year's best, across all categories'.

Much of the plot is based around conversations, taking up topics large (rich versus poor, religion and the misuse of power) and small (mushroom picking) in what Michael Phillips (Chicago Tribune) calls 'Probably the finest (and paradoxically, least faithful) Chekhov adaptation on film'. Ceylan continues his predilection for bringing out the detail in everyday life.

Ceylan is already a very firm favourite with critics around the world (he has now won 65 awards) and especially at Cannes Film Festival, where his previous 4 films have all been nominated for the Palme d'Or; he has finally won it this time.

