

5 Flights Up – Review

Based on the novel *Heroic Measures* by Jill Ciment, scripted by Charlie Peters and directed by Richard Loncraine (*Richard III*, *Wimbledon*), *5 Flights Up* is something of a **rarity** in modern cinema, in that - much like Ira Sachs' wonderful 2014 picture *Love Is Strange* - it **focuses** on the lives of a **happy**, older **couple**.

Played by the ever-**reliable** Morgan Freeman and Diane Keaton, Alex and Ruth Carver (the former a **painter**, the latter a **retired** schoolteacher) live with their **ailing** ten-year-old dog Dorothy, in a 5th-floor flat in Williamsburg, Brooklyn. When they arrived many years earlier it was the only place they could **afford**, but it now presents them with various problems - namely, the lack of a **lift** (or 'elevator', to use the American English).



The area is currently one of the **coolest** and most sought-after in New York City - "full of hipsters," as Alex's narration informs us - meaning that their **niece** Lily, a real estate agent, believes they could **sell** it for a million dollars. So begins the main storyline, in which the couple **reminisce** over the life they built themselves in the apartment while searching for a new place to live, and meeting a host of similarly-minded folk while doing so.

Various **subplots** come into play, involving their **terrier** Dorothy's poor **health** and a **potential** act of terrorism on the nearby Williamsburg Bridge, but this is Alex and Ruth's story more than anything else, and watching the two veterans and their easy chemistry is a **pleasure**.