

A Madness Shared by Two

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The sudden appearance of a bewildered woman claiming to be his wife turns the world of a confirmed bachelor upside down, forcing him to face an uncertain future and his own life choices as he attempts to help her get back to where she belongs.

Overview

“**A MADNESS SHARED BY TWO**” is the story of a man and a woman thrown together by a bizarre tear in the space-time continuum. He, a man who wanted nothing more than to be alone, but not lonely, and she, a woman who was happily married to the him of another dimension. Or so they both thought.

Once faced with unassailable proof that she is in fact from another dimension, they join forces with a troubled particle physicist to outwit the freak vagaries of nature gone mad. In the process of facing a future neither wants but can't avoid, they begin to question their life-choices. As he is forced to interact with the real world in ways heretofore stubbornly avoided, his built up anti-social wall, so carefully constructed, begins to crumble as the bond formed between two people facing disaster is forged. She, on the other hand, who started out questioning how she could possibly have married even a version of her man who so totally devoid of life, begins to soften as his true nature is revealed. As he is so naive and almost childlike, she is drawn toward this strange incarnation of the man so different from the one she believed she loved.

In the end, despite the obvious love that has grown between them, each decides that they must make the ultimate sacrifice of giving up the other for each to be happy. However, at the last second, they give in to temptation and kiss as the ripple in time whisks them together into the other dimension and deposits the other-him into the dimension in which our hero began.

Nature has self-corrected.

The film is a fast-paced Sci-Fi romance story, where two people meet in overwhelming circumstances, and in the process of overcoming the situation learn about themselves and what is really important to them in life.

The Characters

Charlie Martin grew up seemingly totally devoid of interest in becoming part of the social system. The only child of two very ordinary parents, he was neither abused and ignored in any way. His mother and father were just regular folks who loved each other in the ordinary way and faced life as a team working together to get to the end of the maze. Charlie showed no interest in following that path. Not bitter or hateful, Charlie just had no desire to belong. He knew what it took to survive in this world. He got an education and a steady job, made a decent living and settled down to a life of just himself and however he chose to fill his time. His wound is revealed by the interaction with

Sandra, as it becomes apparent he'd always had a deep-seated desire for companionship.

Sandra Martin led pretty much the same life as Charlie's parents did, only in another dimension. Socially adept, she met her Charlie in college and they married right after graduation. Both got steady jobs and they shared expenses and spent their lives loving each other like normal folks and working together to the end of the maze. It is being exposed to this dimension's Charlie that she becomes drawn to his emerging persona due to its freshness and begins to question the ordinary path she'd been on with her Charlie.

Carl Chadwick is a particle physicist working out of Berkeley college. He is fairly distinguished in his field, which he has worked hard to achieve, having to overcome a history marred with heavy drinking, until he openly reveals his theory about what is causing the disturbances across the globe. In typical human fashion, despite the overwhelming evidence, the scientific community, along with the world leaders, vilify him. Claiming he must have reverted to his past vices. He finds the support in Charlie and Sandra that he needs to give him a purpose and help him to avoid falling back into the bottle as he helps them in their quest.

ACT ONE

Charlie Martin, a man who believes he knows what he wants from life; to get through it with minimum muss or fuss. To avoid trouble and fly as far under the radar as possible. This he achieves by becoming the rock in the middle of the stream of civilization. Steady, reliable but unremarkable, he clings tightly to what helps him achieve his goals while allowing the world to flow around him. Forming few, if any, attachments, he remains his own man. Especially, no woman to bog him down or make a schedule for him. Always alone but never lonely.

Then one day, it all changes in an instant. Returning to his living room after heating some nachos and cheese in the microwave, he finds a terrified and bewildered woman on his couch. Babbling hysterically, she wants to know how he had suddenly transported from his chair to the doorway and changed clothes. She claims he is her husband; he thinks she is a deeply disturbed, possibly dangerous individual. To calm her down, he promises to help her figure out what is going on when he gets off work the next day. He has to maintain some semblance of his routine despite this unnerving intrusion.

At work the next day, as Charlie's mind turbulently wars with his sense of reality, he witnesses one of his coworkers 'glitch', for lack of a better word, as they were walking toward his desk down a hall. For one brief microsecond, they were the same person, but dressed differently and standing slightly to the left of where they were, face contorted in a look of terror. Then they were back, in the exact spot as before, and collapses to the floor. Babbling incoherently like the woman back in his apartment (whom he so desperately hopes would be gone when he gets home), the man lay in a fetal position until an ambulance takes him away.

Once home, he finds her in his TV chair, glued to a news story about bizarre happenings all over the world. In seemingly impossible fashion, people and objects all over the world are blinking in an out of reality, leaving the victims incoherent, rambling husks. The instances causing accidents and panic all around the world.

This, on top of what he'd seen at work, forces Charlie to believe that she isn't an intruder, but the unfortunate victim of some strange force that dropped her unwillingly on his living room sofa. At last, he asks her her name. It is Sandra Martin. Touched by her plight, and the shocking fact that she does indeed share his last name, Charlie agrees to help and means it this time.

ACT TWO

Accepting the true seriousness of the situation, Charlie and Sandra scour all the news stories

they can find. Television, radio and the internet. In the process they discover a particle physicist named Carl Chadwick who claims to have uncovered the source of the craziness the world is experiencing, and according to him...it's even scarier than anyone can imagine. Frustratingly, just as he is about to reveal his discovery, the station cuts away from him and carries on as though he'd never been interviewed.

This is important! They both know it and begin an even deeper search to find more interviews by this scientist. Nothing. He can not be found in person anywhere, only scathing diatribes demeaning the man and his history of drinking and imploring people to ignore anything he might say. Sandra and Charlie both smell a rat, and it isn't the scientist. His earnest nature and the seriousness of his exposition were not that of a man dreaming his dreams from the bottom of a bottle. It was a man who knew what the hell was going on! So, having plucked his name from a vicious character assassination piece, they set about finding the man.

In his interview, they learned he was at Berkeley college. The Berkeley website had not a single mention of his name. He'd been scrubbed. Try as they might, every source they attempted had no information on the man. It was as though he'd been wiped from the system. He wasn't even in the phone book. Charlie being Charlie, still uses a phone book.

So they went to Berkeley itself.

En-route they saw signs of the chaos. A Car wrecked into a pole, the driver, head lolling, mumbling to no one in particular as he is loaded into an ambulance. Crowds of people wandering the streets, frantically looking around as though in danger of an attack from any angle may be imminent.

At Berkeley it was another stonewall. Not a single person would even admit Carl Chadwick had been a faculty member. And when they tried to replay his interview on Charlie's phone, the web page was 404. Trying any further would be useless waste of time.

Despondent, they sit down to a cup of coffee at a local cafe. A nervous student approaches and says they'd overheard them in the science department and knew where Dr. Chadwick lived.

Armed with his home address and full of hope, Sandra and Charlie find a house buttoned down like a fortress against an oncoming hoard. The windows and doors are literally boarded up. They pound on every surface that was either window or door before it was covered until finally a voice inside tells them to go away, no more interviews...ever!

Yelling that they are not reporters, but believers of what he says, they both insist they will stay there until he helps them. And they do just that. In the morning, Chadwick finally gives in and lets them in the house. He reeks of liquor.

Charlie and Sandra sober him up and tell them why they are there. The scientist is torn between his curiosity at meeting someone who might be from another dimension and their desire to have him help. Keeping him focused, the pair manage to get him to explain his theory.

It seems a few weeks prior to the events now being experienced on Earth, a pair of twin suns in a nearby universe went supernova at the same time. This event caused a prolonged series of shockwaves that Dr. Chadwick had been observing all along. Not the sort of thing you might see depicted in a comic book, they are detected by barely perceptible distortions of light reflecting off stars and objects in space. To be honest, he had no inkling of what might be coming until the first reports of oddities around the globe started coming in. Only after the first few did he put two and two together. The waves had reached Earth, and they were apparently causing the fabric of space to be torn apart, momentarily exposing dimensions to one another. One of those waves must have passed through Charlie's living room while he was melting the cheeses on his nachos, exposing it to Sandra's living room and depositing her on his couch.

This is the first time Sandra is presented with the reality that her Charlie must be beside himself with worry over the fact that she has disappeared and she breaks down. Our Charlie, being totally unskilled at such things, finds himself emotionally distraught, but can only sit there, frozen, as Sandra sobs. He wants so badly to comfort her, but doesn't know how. Dr. Chadwick, only marginally better socially than Charlie, calms her with the idea that, even though it may seem like days to her in this dimension, when she returns, it'll be as though almost no time had passed in her

dimension. To her husband, it'll be as though she were never gone. "Does this mean you know how to get me home?", she blurts. The professor is stunned by the revelation of the meaning behind what he just said. "Why yes," he stuttered, "I believe I do."

Unbeknownst to our hero and his companions, the student who gave them Carl Chadwick's address had started a whisper campaign on the campus of Berkeley that they had to band together in force to right the wrongs that were being perpetrated against the professor they loved so much. In unison, they started to flood the internet and twitter with pro Dr. Chadwick posts. So many they couldn't possibly all be taken down. Even though the page with his interview had been removed, enough students had downloaded it that they had it up on as many social media sites as they could, telling the world about the professor and his brilliance, and imploring them to listen to what he has to say, if they wish to live to see tomorrow.

"What is it?" Sandra cries. "How do I get back?"

It is obvious that this new possibility makes Charlie uncomfortable, even though he worked so hard to get them to this point. He immediately shuts it down and asks the professor what they have to do to get her home.

"There will be one last wave," he says, trying hard to focus past all the alcohol still clouding his mind.

"And?" she goads.

"And," he reaches deep into his mind, "You have to be there, at the place you crossed the first time, the very moment it crosses Earth."

Sandra and Charlie are totally stunned. "What?" they blurt out together. "You mean," Charlie says, "If we'd stayed right where we were," Sandra continued, "She'd have just blinked back to where she was, just like that?" Charlie finished.

"It's the best solution I can think of," the professor said sheepishly. "However," he looked around and located his laptop. His focus improving by the moment, and popped it open. Quickly he scrolls through a number of screens and cries out, "There!"

Sandra and Charlie are both at the bursting point. "Yes?"

"There will be three more waves, with the last one being at 5:15 today."

Charlie being Charlie, still wears a watch, which he checks. "That gives us forty-five minutes to get back to the apartment. Piece of cake."

They all run to his car and of course, it won't start. Several tries just floods the engine.

"We'll have to take your car, professor."

"No car, I'm afraid. Just a bike."

They all groan, get out, and start running. The professor stops them to get his laptop out of the dead vehicle.

"Why do you need that," Charlie asks.

"I never go anywhere without it."

Charlie shrugs and they continue running.

ACT THREE

Once they reach the main road, Charlie stops a taxi by running in front of it. They all pile in and order the driver to take them to the Edward's Apartment building.

As they reach the edge of downtown, the car in front of them 'glitches' and reappears behind them, but the damage is done. The driver freaks out and crashes the taxi into the side of a parked car, gets out and runs away. Charlie scrambles into the driver's seat, but the car is dead and won't start. They all get out and run down the sidewalk.

"Two more waves to go," the professor yells out.

The situation has gotten worse. People are now roaming the street in a panic, Horns honking, sirens wailing. They've only gone a block or so when a couple of young thuggish types brandishing knives block their path. They demand any money they may have.

"If this is the end of the world," Charlie yells, "you won't have any need for money."

“And if it isn’t,” the one thug says, “It’ll give us a nice start once the craziness dies down.”

One thug grabs Sandra, holding his knife to her neck while the other knocks the professor against the building and grabs Charlie.

Sandra’s eyes beg Charlie for help. He is paralyzed with fear. Charlie looks to the professor for help, and finds him pulling a bottle of booze from his hip pocket. Charlie yanks a hand free from his captor and knocks the bottle from his hand, smashing it against the wall.

“No time for that, shit,” Charlie screams. “We need your help.”

The professor stares at the smashed bottle as Charlie and Sandra struggle, his eyes clear as he finds focus. He swiftly retrieves his laptop and slams it into the head of the thug holding Charlie. Knocking them apart. This sparks Charlie and he dashes forward, grabs the knife hand of the thug holding Sandra, yanks her from his grasp and knocks him to the ground with one punch.

She stares at him as if he’s a different man.

“Come on,” Charlie yells, “We’ve got to get you back.”

He pulls her down the street.

The professor takes a moment to bash the thugs one more time as they struggle to stand, then rushes after Charlie and Sandra.

The sidewalk is crowded as they near the building. It is difficult navigating the hoards of terrified people. Just as they reach the front of the apartment building, the recovered thugs pounce upon the professor and the three tumble to the ground. Charlie and Sandra are torn between the need to get in the building and the desire to help their friend.

Two young men are standing by the building, watching a video of the professor and recognize him as the man being attacked. They rush to his aid and pull them men off him. The four men tumble away.

Charlie and Sandra move to help the professor stand up, and he ‘glitches’. The professor reappears as a babbling mess.

“Chadwick!” Charlie screams and leans toward his friend, who finds enough focus in his babbling to mutter, “Go. Go.”

Sandra grabs Charlie’s hand and forces him to look into her eyes. “He’s right,” she says, we have to go. There is only one more wave.”

With one look back to the professor, the two run into the building and press the elevator button. Obvious it will take too long, they find the entrance to the stairs and dash inside.

Between the 2nd and 3rd floors they encounter a group of revelers drinking booze and smoking dope who try to lure them into their end of the world party. They are pulled and entreated, horribly slowing them down as they fight through, only to be called nasty names as they finish the trek to Charlie’s floor. Number 3.

They run to Charlie’s room and duck inside. He pulls her to the couch and looks at his watch.

Twenty-five seconds.

They stare at each other, the longing and desire burning behind their eyes. They do not want to part. Sandra speaks.

“I hope this isn’t the end...for either of us.”

Charlie chokes back tears, “Perhaps none of this is real. Perhaps this was all just a madness shared by two. If not though, if it is real and this is the end, we both need to be where we belong.”

He looks at his watch. “Three seconds.”

She grabs him and they kiss. The camera pulls in to an extreme close-up, and they ‘glitch’.

When the camera pulls back and they break the kiss, they are in the same apartment, but all the colors and fabrics are different.

Fade to the now familiar Charlie’s apartment that we know, and a confused looking Charlie, dressed differently, stands there staring at an empty couch as we fade out.

THE END