

Death is incurable

The Karman line is a realistic fantasy short film released in 2014 and directed by Oscar Sharp. It stars Olivia Colman as the mother and wife Sarah, Shaun Dooley as the father and husband Dave, and Chelsea Corfield as the daughter Carly. The music we hear is "We Belong", Performed by We Belong Performed by Pat Benatar.

The story begins in the small family's house, with the normal life of a mother and her teenage daughter. It is obvious that the daughter relies heavily on her very lively and generous mother, who cooks her food and tells her to study. The daughter doesn't seem very excited or happy, as it is a difficult time for her with exams and lots of studying.

Things change when we hear the cup that the Sarah (the mother) was holding smash and she starts to hover a few centimeters above the ground. Paramedics rush in to pull her down, but eventually they realize she has a rare "condition", and she will never be able to touch the ground again. For a while, they try to live a normal life while the mother rises higher and higher, at an ever increasing rate. Things get out of hand when she rises above the roof, and lets go of her family.

This film is realistic at the beginning, but it shifts very quickly into a completely fantastic world as soon as she starts hovering. The music (that was playing on the radio) stops completely at this moment and everybody gets quite scared.

There are multiple explanations to the movie and its metaphor. In my opinion, the mother dies at the beginning, and the ascension is a way to represent the soul going to heaven, passing into the new world. Furthermore, the different floors of the house represent the stages of grief the family goes through while trying to accept the death. When she leaves the house is when the family finally lets go. To prove this theory, there are a few high angle shots in the film. For example, when the doctor examines her, we get a high angle shot from the mother's perspective. I think it symbolizes the soul, watching over the world from heaven. There are also numerous medium close shots, especially while the father is angry after the doctor tells him that she can't bring her down. I think this shows the emotions of the character as they try to accept the pain of this bad news.

This is, however, only one way of interpreting the movie. For example, it can be seen as the stages of an incurable disease following its diagnosis. In this case, too, there is proof. The floors of the house may represent the stages of the disease, and when she goes out the roof, it is a metaphor for being hospitalized, no longer accessible from the family. Moreover, the patient is almost always in full shots. This symbolizes the disease taking over the body, which we can clearly see in this kind of camera shot.

To conclude, I think this short film was quite interesting, and the

best part is that we, the watchers can choose how to analyze and explain it. I believe that the message that the director and film makers want to give us, is the fact that humans never give up, never let go on something that is long gone. This is very well represented in this movie, as the father tries numerous times to stop his wife from ascending (and never succeeds). He even ends up hurting her for this.

Review of "The Karman Line"

by Sergio Caponi