

Film Score

Imagine having your own movie music that guides you through life. Well that's exactly what happened to Dave, an introverted, under achieving final year student in varsity. He receives a digital copy of various film scores his uncle wrote for movies. He listens to it one evening and falls fast asleep with the cd still playing. When he wakes up in the morning, he soon realises that he can still hear the music in his head which seems to guide him through his day. After succumbing to its prompts, it starts to affect everything in his life, from everyday choices to life changing decisions.

It's 2015 and Dave Whitaker, an introverted, under achieving final year varsity student is facing his final exams, which is the most important exams of his life. The results of which will affect the outcome of his future. Dave struggles with his studies and doesn't have much confidence in his ability. Dave also struggles socially and needs guidance in every aspect of his life from holding a conversation to his sense of dress.

He shares some of his classes with Rachel Moore, a beautiful soft spoken brunette with blue eyes. Dave has been in love with her since the first day he saw her. He has tried to make conversation with her on several occasions but has failed every time. He has resigned himself to the fact that Rachel is out of his league and will only live in his dreams.

On the eve of Dave's final exams, his overbearing mother has organised yet another agonising family gathering and has once again invited people Dave has never heard of. Dave is stressed about his exam he's due to write the following day. His mother, however, doesn't seem to grasp the fact that he needs to study and insists that he attend her party. Reluctantly Dave agrees. One of the guests at the party is his uncle Mervin, a distant relative who happens to be a successful film score composer. He and uncle Mervin strike up a conversation, albeit awkward. Uncle Mervin picks up on Dave's lack of confidence and hands him a copy of his most successful film score pieces on cd to listen to. Dave is not too sure why he gave him the cd but accepts it all the same. Once the party is over, Dave goes to bed and listens to the cd and eventually falls asleep.

The next morning he awakes and goes down stairs to have breakfast. As he opens the fridge to reach for the milk, he suddenly hears a frenzied piece of music in his head. Startled, he asks his brother Stewart if he has heard the music but his brother doesn't hear anything. He shrugs it off and reaches for the milk. Again he hears the frenzied music. He withdraws his hand and the music stops. He reaches for the milk again and the frenzied music begins again. He finds it so bewildering that he reaches for a new bottle of milk, to which he hears soothing peaceful music. Puzzled by this, he sits down and quietly eats his breakfast cereal. Just then his brother opens the fridge and takes the old bottle of milk and pours it on his cereal. As he takes his first spoonful he spits it out as the milk is completely sour. Dave is perplexed by this as he considers what has just happened.

Dave rushes upstairs to get dressed and ready for his final exam. He chooses his normal worn out clothes and again hears the frenzied music. This music continues 'fight with him' until he chooses a better outfit to wear and the music calms down to a soothing lullaby. The same scenario happens again as Dave tries to style his hair in the usual way. Eventually Dave succumbs to the music and styles his hair a different way to which the music changes to an inspiring dance track (I Feel Good – James Brown). Dave has transformed into a handsome man which is a far cry from his usual unkempt appearance. For the first time, Dave feels confident about himself and leaves home to face the world and to write his exams.

As Dave enters the exam room, his fellow students notice that there's a change in Dave but cannot quite put their finger on it. Rachel too notices this change. The lecturer hands out the multiple choice exam paper and Dave proceeds to write down his answers. Each time Dave chooses the incorrect answer, the frenzied music begins to play. Dave realises that the music is guiding him through his paper and heeds to its prompts.

After the exam, Dave notices Rachel sitting on the bench outside. He hears very sad music and figures out that the music is telling him that Rachel is upset for some reason. He plucks up the courage to approach her and ask her what the matter is. Rachel is taken with Dave's sensitivity toward her and pours her heart out to him.

He suggests they go for coffee somewhere. After hours of conversation, the two of them strike up a deep friendship.

Dave takes a trip to visit his uncle Mervin's house to ask him what is going on regarding the music he keeps hearing. Uncle Mervin explains the power of this musical gift. The music is a personal gift to Dave only and no-one else can hear it. It is able to detect circumstances in the future that can alter his life in very small ways to life changing ways. The music is there to guide him and help him make the right choices in each situation as long as he keeps listening. Dave is amazed by the power of the music and names his music 'Film Score'.

Dave and Rachel continue to spend a lot of time together. They visit each other for hours each day and also spend a lot of time with Rachel's friends who have befriended Dave as well.

After three wonderfully life changing, hilarious weeks of adhering to Film Scores prompts, Dave's confidence in himself has grown and his popularity amongst his friends and peers has risen greatly.

A month later he receives his final report which states that he has passed the year with distinction. This means that Dave will have the choice of working for the any of the largest successful companies in the city as an intern. Dave's future is looking bright.

After graduation, Dave's delighted parents take both Rachel and himself out to celebrate his achievements. Thereafter, Dave and Rachel kiss and so begins their deep romance.

A month later, due to Film Scores guidance, Dave learns that he has landed an internship at one of the most prestigious companies in the city. This will catapult his career to great heights.

Soon after, Dave asks Rachel for her hand in marriage. She accepts and all friends and family are extremely pleased.

Dave and Rachel purchase a stunning apartment in the city.

The wedding is a beautiful, intimate affair. Once they return home from their honeymoon, they move in to their trendy apartment and begin to build a life together.

Four months later.

One night as they are asleep, Dave wakes up with terribly ominous music in his head. He realises that Film Score is warning him that Rachel is in a critical condition and rushes her to the hospital. The doctors soon discover that Rachel is pregnant and could possibly lose their baby. The doctors manage to stop the labour and stabilise Rachel. They explain to Dave that if it wasn't for his prompt response, he would have lost both the baby and Rachel. They also go on to explain that Rachel has a rare but life threatening condition called Pre-Eclampsia and that she will have to be monitored very closely. After a few scares during the pregnancy, both Dave and Film Score manage to pull Rachel through her pregnancy to the successful delivery of their first healthy baby girl, Emily-Jane.

Five years later.

Life for the Whitakers couldn't be better. Dave has received promotion after promotion, he and Rachel have two healthy children, Emily-Jane and Connor and they have bought a huge house in the suburbs, a perfect place to raise a family. They are embarking on their annual family holiday down at their summer home on the coast. Rachel has compiled a list of her favourite music to listen to whilst they travel. Her favourite song begins to play and she proceeds to turn the music up. The radio is so loud that Dave cannot hear Film Score's warning music playing in his head. The family are all singing along loudly to the song. As Dave reaches for something to eat he fails to notice the truck heading straight for their car. As he lifts his head they plough straight into the truck and Connors tiny body is flung out of the window.

A panic stricken Dave frantically tries to free himself from the wreckage. He manages to reach Connor's lifeless little body and shouts for help. The paramedics arrive on the scene and proceed to administer mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, but it proves to be unsuccessful and Connor passes away. Dave and Rachel are mortified and Rachel begins to scream and lose control as she struggles to come to terms with the loss of Connor. Dave cannot understand why he couldn't hear Film Score's warning of this impending tragedy. Feelings of anger and resentment begin to well up inside of him.

The funeral for Connor takes place which is attended by many friends and family. Dave and Rachel are too devastated to respond to the condolences passed by everyone.

Weeks later a defeated and traumatised Dave returns to work but finds it nearly impossible to function. He faintly hears Film Score's ominous music play and feels that something is wrong at work. Just then his boss calls him in to his office and informs him that during his absence, the company had been bought over by a larger company and that he no longer has a job.

Dave is devastated at this news as he not only has to contend with the tragic loss of his son but is now faced with losing his home and the life that he has built with Rachel.

He arrives home early to find that Rachel is still in bed. She is struggling to face life without Connor. Dave breaks the news to her that he has lost his job.

With this news, Rachel slips into an even deeper depression and feels there is no hope left.

As the weeks go by, Dave loses the ability to hear Film Score and battles to find a job.

Rachel and Dave's relationship becomes strained under the difficult circumstances and Rachel decides it's best to leave Dave and take Emily-Jane to live at her parent's home in the next town.

Dave cannot accept that Film Score is failing him and decides to visit his Uncle Mervin to ask him what is happening to him. He cannot come to terms with the fact that bad things are happening to him as it was his impression that Film Score was supposed to guide him and help him live a good and successful life. Instead, things are happening to him that are out of his control. His uncle explains to Dave that no matter what decisions one takes in life, 'life' happens to us all and we cannot avoid bad things. He also tells him that Film Score is still there and the reason he cannot hear him is because the noise of life is too loud. He needs to get himself together and get back up. He must allow Film Score to guide him out of this mess he's in.

Dave decides that he is not interested in this madness and no longer wants to hear Film Score. He hands the CD of music back to his uncle and leaves.

Meanwhile, Rachel is still battling to come to terms with her life and finds it very difficult to function. She sleeps all day and night and her mother has had to assume responsibility for Emily-Jane.

Dave, although struggling to move on decides to take his uncle's advice and try and pick his life up again. He proceeds to put their house on the market and look for another job.

Through this time he has tried very hard to contact Rachel and see Emily-Jane, but her mother tells Dave that it's best that he give them time as Rachel is still not coping.

Dave finally finds a job as well as a buyer for his home and has one week to move out. He begins the painstaking process of packing all their belongings into boxes. He cannot help but reflect on the memories of their life which are triggered by their mementos that they have gathered over the years together.

On the last day of packing, Dave is busy sealing the boxes when he hears a faint but definite sound of very ominous music playing in his head. He cannot understand why he is hearing this music and decides to ignore

it. The music continues to become louder and more intense until Dave relents and decides to heed to its warning. He senses that it must have something to do with Rachel and he rushes to his car to get to her.

Dave tries to call her mobile phone but there is no answer. He becomes more desperate and drives his car frantically weaving in and out of traffic. The music is becoming more and more intense.

Dave finally arrives at Rachel's parent's house and rushes to the front door but finds that it's locked. He shouts and screams for someone to open but there is no response. He peers through the window and sees Rachel passed out on her bed. He calls for her but there is no response. Out of desperation, he breaks the window and climbs in. He soon discovers that the gas stove has been left on and Rachel is unconscious from the poisonous fumes.

Dave picks her up and rushes her to his car and frantically races her to the nearest hospital. Upon arrival he carries her into the hospital desperately calling for someone to help him. The nurses rush to his aid and rush her into the emergency theatre where doctors tend to her. Hours go by and the music is still ominously playing in his head. Dave is beginning to panic as he has heard no news and asks the nurse if she knows of Rachel's condition.

Finally the doctor comes out of theatre and tells Dave that she is stable but the next few hours are critical.

Rachel's parents arrive at the hospital with Emily-Jane and they console each other as they wait in anticipation for the outcome.

The next morning, the nurse comes in and finds Dave, Emily-Jane and Rachel's parents fast asleep on the chairs. The nurse tells Dave that Rachel has made it through the night and is responding well to treatment.

Dave rushes into Rachel's ward and they embrace. He tells her that he is so sorry for how things turned out and that he still loves her deeply. He asks for her forgiveness and asks for a second chance.

Rachel responds with a resounding 'Yes!!' and says that she never wants to live her life without him again and asks him for forgiveness for leaving him.

They embrace as Emily-Jane and all her grandparents enter the room and are brought to tears as they realise that all is well with Rachel. They all embrace and Dave hears the most triumphant music in his head.

As they finally return to Dave's new apartment, Dave finds his uncle's film score cd in his briefcase and realises that his uncle must have slipped the cd in while he wasn't looking.

Life for the Whitakers is finally on track and they can all face life once again with confidence and vigour.

The end.

Character Analysis:

Film Score:

Film Score is a childlike, playful character that is whole heartedly devoted to Dave by guiding him through life's twists and turns, helping him to make the right choices. Film Score is able to detect events in the future and is very intuitive to feelings and emotions.

Film Score is deeply emotional, displaying a variety of moods throughout the day. She conveys various emotions employing a single violin line using bends and trills to emulate a human voice to a full scale orchestra

to exude drama. She is highly loyal, sensitive, strong willed and forceful. Much like a typically devoted wife is to her husband.

Film Score develops an intimate relationship with Dave as she shares in his laughs, joys, excitements, sorrows, fears and losses. The audience will relate very well to Film Score as a character as man's love for music is centuries old and therefore will be no stranger to the audience. Music is one of the most powerful forces as it is able to evoke and manipulate every kind of emotion known to man.

Dave Whitaker:

When we first meet Dave, he is nothing much to look at. He is an introverted person and generally keeps to himself as he doesn't display much confidence in social situations. He has his own sense of style that he feels comfortable with, but unfortunately, he is a few decades too late with regards to the current fashion trends. Dave is a very intelligent person but struggles to focus on what is important such as applying himself to his studies. As a result, he hasn't fared well in his final year and his future now balances on his final exams.

As Film Score enters his life, things begin to change dramatically. His appearance transforms from a geeky guy to a handsome man. He finds he is able to enjoy social situations and his popularity and confidence rise greatly. He aces his exams which open up a world of opportunity for Dave's career. He lands a beautiful girlfriend and ultimately a wife and children.

Dave still has some growing up to do in terms of conflict resolution and as life is one's best teacher, he learns those skills the hard way.

Rachel Moore:

Rachel is beautiful in every way. She is not only very easy on the eye but she has a beautiful soul too. She is soft spoken but confident about herself. She is a popular person who seems to have her life all together. Her ultimate dream is to get married to her soulmate, buy a big home in the suburbs and raise a family. Although she's in varsity studying to be a lawyer, a family are more important to her and will give up her career in a heartbeat.

As her character develops, we see that Rachel doesn't have life all together as she portrayed in the beginning as she's never had to face real hardships in before. She is unable to pull herself together and needs the help of Dave to pull her back on track.

Uncle Mervin:

Uncle Mervin is a wise, mature, intuitive man. He is very intelligent, knowledgeable and is always in control. Uncle Mervin is the one constant in Dave's life.

Mrs Whitaker (Dave's mother):

Mrs Whitaker is an eccentric woman whose life seems to be out of control. She battles to maintain a good home for her boys as cleanliness and proper food are not on her list of priorities. She is all about keeping up her social life as this is the most important thing in her life. She is also self-centered because she cannot see

that other people have commitments in life other than her. She does however, love her children in her own unique way.

Mr Whitaker (Dave's father):

We don't see much of Mr Whitaker in the movie as he is a very quiet reserved man who is overshadowed by his wife's domineering and overbearing character.

Mrs Moore (Rachel's mother):

Mrs Moore is your quintessential mother. She is Rachel's rock and her stability in her life. Mrs Moore has provided a good stable home for Rachel and is an even tempered, constant person. She is quiet but has a definite strength about her.

Stewart Whitaker (Dave's younger brother):

Stewart is a rebellious, lazy school dropout, obsessed with gaming and doing nothing. When we are introduced to him, he is wearing ripped clothes, his hair is a mess and like always, he's just woken up but still looks half asleep. Dave and Stewart don't have much of a relationship to speak of and therefore, Stewart doesn't feature much in Dave's life.