



Ian Atkisson
THE RISE AND FALL OF ROMANCE

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Basic Concept

The Rise and Fall of Romance will share two stories of two strangers in a park. "Book Two" will be **with** cell phones and "Book One" will be **without**. This simple change **tragically** changes the outcome of each.

Book One will present a generic **love story** in great detail with each chapter symbolizing a "chapter" of life **before, during, and after** a relationship. Book Two will have the same **approach**, but with a much **different** series of events.

This film will be a **silent** film.



Chapter One

Overjoyed

The first chapter, "Overjoyed," introduces two strangers who meet each other on a park bench. They begin to "speak" to each other and take a stroll around the park. Dates follow and our main character, the man, begins to fall in love.



Chapter Two

Downfall

Chapter Two, "Downfall," begins with the overjoyed man coming home with a bouquet of flowers only to open the door and find the woman with another man. We follow the man as he goes through denial, anger, bargaining, depression, and attempt at acceptance.

This chapter ends with his suicide attempt.



Chapter Three

Growth

Our last chapter, "Growth," shows the man becoming a better version of himself. He has lifted weights, become wiser, confident, and starts to accomplish great things.

We really see him learn from this heartbreaking moment. The man would be nowhere close to where he is now without the heartbreak he went through and lessons he learned along the way.



Chapter One

Afraid

Book Two begins with "Afraid." The opening scene is identical to Book One with the man sitting on the bench, only this time he is on his phone. The woman walks by and sits on the bench next to him, also on her phone.

These two strangers remain focused on their phones and never interact. Time goes by and the man decides to get up and walk away, face attached to his phone. Book Two comes to an end.

Summary

The film exhibits the lessons we learn from romance and how romance itself has seemingly disappeared in today's society. The abrupt ending of Book Two symbolizes the world that we miss out on by living and "hiding" through our phones.



Experimental

This film is experimental through its **visuals, cuts, transitions**, and lack of **sound** (with the exception of the soundtrack). The soundtrack will also be **disorienting** at times, sometimes with lines being repeated, reverbed, etc. The score will consist of **jazz** from the early 1900's to symbolize "**the past.**"

The storyline is very linear and easy to follow when put in words; however, the **awry** and **unconventional** editing style will deliver an **unsettling** picture that is **difficult** to follow at times.

The identity of each character will be **hidden**. All you will see of the characters will be from the neck **down**.

The aspect ratio will be slightly unique as well: **a circle**.

Production and Equipment

Chapter One

Each chapter will **begin** from a man **reading** a book; the camera will **zoom** into the page displaying the **title** of the chapter then slowly **fade** into the scene.

The picture will be high quality to **begin**, but when we fade into the story, the image will **change** into a **faded black and white** film.

The film will be recorded on an **iPhone 13**. Since the image will be **disoriented** and **edited** to a much lower picture quality, a high-end cinema camera **won't** be necessary.

Research and Influences

This story follows the Kubler-Ross model of the five stages of grief and how true romance has decreased due to technology. I researched the five stages of grief from various psychology websites to represent them more accurately. This alone will make the audience more attached to this character as he relates closely to common human behaviors. The websites used are shown below:

Rajendrakumar, Jinashree. "The Grief of an Affair." The Gottman Institute, n.p., 5 Mar. 2024, www.gottman.com/blog/the-grief-of-an-affair/.

Thurrott, Stephanie. "How Men Handle Grief Differently Compared to Women." Ways That Men Process Grief Differently | Banner Health, n.p., 19 July 2023, www.bannerhealth.com/healthcareblog/advice-me/ways-that-men-process-grief-differently.

There are four films that The Rise and Fall of Romance has taken inspiration from:

A film by
Will McCormack & Michael Govier

If Anything Happens I Love You

(2020)

This 12-minute animated silent film is about the journey a grieving mother and father go through after their young daughter was killed in a tragic school shooting. It is the most touching short film I have seen and they did it through simple sketches and following the five stages of grief.

I was impressed on how the writers were able to create such a relatable and touching story from basic sketches and low-end (or classic) animation.



Moulin Rouge

(2001)

Moulin Rouge has a very unique editing style with quick transitions and change of pace. The film leaves its audience wondering what they have just watched which will resemble closely to what I create with my film — strange camera angles, unique objects in frame, and a peculiar soundtrack are all qualities you will see in both Moulin Rouge and The Rise and Fall of Romance.

Baz Luhrmann bravely threw away many “laws” of film with Moulin Rouge and I will do the same with mine.



Unwell - Matchbox Twenty

(2002)

All day staring at the ceiling Making friends with shadows on the wall
All night hearing voices telling me That I should get some help
Because I'm just a little unwell I know right now you can't tell
I'm just a little impaired I know right now you don't care
But soon enough you're gonna think of me And how I used to be
Yeah, how I used to be How I used to be Well, I'm just a little unwell
How I used to be How I used to be I'm just a little unwell

Unwell is a punk/rock song recorded by Matchbox Twenty in 2002. The music video that goes with it is very similar to Moulin Rouge with its unique transitions and unsettling special effects.

The song itself is about the fear of losing yourself and being "unwell." If you watch this video on mute, you would think it's about something completely different. It's only after hearing the song where you realize that all these strange objects, odd transitions, and creepy interactions are all symbols of paranoia and anxiety. "Chapter Two" of my film will have the same effect.



L'arrivée d'un train en gare de La Ciotat

(1896)

One of the oldest films known to date.
This short film shows what the first
moving images looked like with all its
imperfections. I want to create a
similar image in postproduction.

1896



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