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CW 463

Movie Review (*Two Distant Strangers*)

Two Distant Strangers is a short film about two key people. Our protagonist and Officer Merk who are both trapped in a time loop. In the film The Protagonist an African American male wakes up every morning at his lady friend's apartment and tries to go home to take care of his dog Jeter. Every time he tries to go home he is stopped outside his friend's apartment by Officer



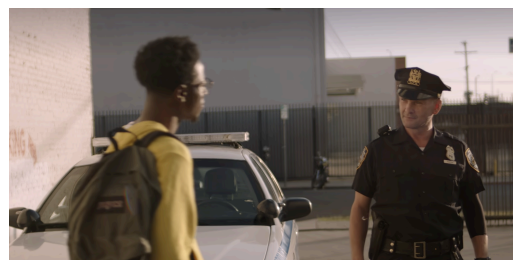
Merk and an altercation always happens resulting in his death. The protagonist wakes up with the



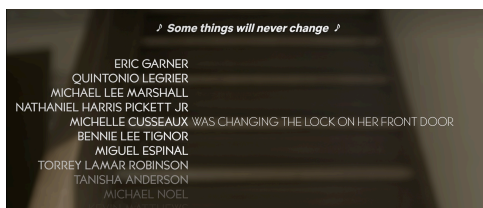
memories of this happening and tries various methods to escape or negotiate from the Officer but none of them work. The film's climax is when the protagonist tries to reason with the Officer and points out to him that this is a time loop and that he should just drive the protagonist home. In the

car ride there is a discussion about race in America where the protagonist tries to articulate the juxtaposition between White and Black lives. The police officer is moved by our protagonist's words and they share further details about each other's lives.

At the end when they arrive at the home of the protagonist the Office shoots him anyway acknowledging how he knows this is a loop. The film



ends with the protagonist assuring the audience that there is a way out of this. Throughout the



film it symbolically alludes to how the protagonist represents hundreds of young African American lives that have died from police violence and struggle with the fear of police brutality on a daily basis. The ending credits give credit to the many young African Americans

that have faced this reality. The protagonist and how he tries to resolve the time loop also symbolize what efforts have been to solve police brutality, via debate, being well articulate, pointing out the structural inequalities and trying to reason with the white officer. None of these work though but yet the protagonist is optimistic. I give the film a 4.5 star rating because it achieved what it set out to do and showcased many examples of the inequalities in this country when it comes to policing and race. I did wish in the end it alluded to the plan the protagonist had to resolve the time loop/officer issue.