

The Price of Memories

The movie *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind* directed by Michel Gondry was made in 2004, and only recently rewatched by yours truly. This movie has always been confusing in a good way, Joel's anger and Celestine's impulsiveness being used and abused against them by Patrick's creepy intentions. The narrative is nowhere near linear due to the memories erasing in reverse, with Joel and Celestine somehow connecting with each other to meet up at the beach, which you see in the beginning of the movie. Honestly when I first watched this movie I heavily debated whether Joel and Celestine were actually interacting, or if they both knew each other so well subconsciously that they both went to the beach. Now after rewatching it, I think it's a little bit of both, but mostly due to Mary releasing the tapes to all of the victims of the doctor. Regardless, I'd actually like to also address the brilliant way this movie addresses the dangers, and helpful ways of messing with the mind.

The mind has always been fascinating in the media, the ways we are both afraid to be used or tricked such as *The Matrix* or *Inception*. However in this movie they present a new issue, commercial use of memory erasure. A way for people to move on much faster from each other, to erase traumatic events that affect someone's daily life, and/or erasing people's memories of distasteful acts with each other. Patrick's manipulation in particular is a well done part of this movie, he is in a powerful position compared to Joel and Celestine, he is responsible for everything Joel suffers with currently. While also manipulating a now innocent Celestine who is beginning to wake up due to his similar actions to her past erased lover. The best use and showcase of this technology is the affair between Mary and the doctor, which was not the first time. How ironic that Mary falls into the same exact affair with the doctor, how ironic that

Clemantine falls for the exact same actions with Patrick that she did with Joel. How ironic that they both subconsciously meet back on the beach, having a very similar beginning to the start of their relationship. Humans are predictable, and the subconscious mind is extremely powerful according to this movie. I agree with it, and I believe subconsciously Mary was drawn to the doctor because of his power and the previous affair between them. I believe that their memories weren't ever fully erased, and instead were deeply suppressed into their mind. Joel was able to resist because of his willpower, and I believe despite having his memories erased he still subconsciously wanted to fall in love with Clemantine again or at the very least meet her.

Unfortunately as much as I'd love to dive even deeper into the opinions and views I found within the movie, I know this review can only be so long. The human mind is so complex, and I have always found it interesting how various movies interpret the potential of modifying or messing with the mind directly. This movie is at the top of my list as most honest about how technology like this would be used, and I would give it a 5/5 stars for its warning to us. The price of memories is infinite, and memory erasure is a dangerous want for us. After all humans are predictable, and I suspect this movie was more than fair about how others would use this type of technology.