

Updated: 20-May-2022

THEY BOTH DIE AT THE END

Written by

Daksh Bhalla

Based on the novel,  
They Both Die At The End

by

Adam Silvera

d.bhalla@aics.espritscholen.nl

"THEY BOTH DIE AT THE END"

FADE IN:

INT. MATEO'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

ESTABLISHING SHOT MATEO'S POINT OF VIEW

MATEO gently opens his eyes as he notices the moon rising above the high New York City buildings. He looks around, barely able to open his eyes. He reaches for his glasses, almost stumbling off his bed. He takes a good look at RUFUS who's right next to him and reaches down and kisses Rufus on the forehead.

HORIZONTAL MEDIUM SHOT

Mateo hesitantly places his hand on Rufus's HEART to ensure that he is still alive, he is.

INT. MATEO'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

CAMERA PAN

Mateo walks over to the busted stove to make some tea for Rufus and himself.

EXTREME CLOSE-UP

He reaches over to turn the BURNER and his eyes open brightly, his heart sinking with regret as he realizes that death is coming.

The STOVE explodes.

CUT

INT. MATEO'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

LOW-KEY LIGHTING BEGINS AND CONTIUNES TO END

SMOKE ALARM and WATER SPRINKLER sounds can be heard. The smoke travels through the bedroom which starts a FIRE. Rufus doesn't know what's happening, he looks around for Mateo but he is nowhere to be seen.

HIGH PITCHED SCREECH, SMOKE ALARM ,AND WATER SPRINKLER SFX  
FADE IN 3 SECONDS AFTER BLACK SCREEN APPEARS

FADE IN

EXTREME CLOSE-UP

Rufus wakes up in shock, and immediately turns to Mateo, however, he is nowhere to be found.

RUFUS

(coughing and choking)

Mateo!

Rufus grabs a nearby piece of fleece to cover his face and crawls to the ground in search of Mateo. He cannot find him.

RUFUS (CONT'D)

(cries and screams)

Mateo! Say something god damn it!

MID SHOT

Rufus crawls to the door barely being able to keep himself awake. He opens the front door so that the smoke could escape. He starts screaming.

INT. MATEO'S APARTMENT HALLWAY - NIGHT

ERRATIC HANDHELD CAMERA SHOT RUFUS'S POINT OF VIEW

Some neighbours walk past the hallway and they try to calm him down.

YOUNG GIRL

(stuttering)

My mother called the fire department. They'll be here really soon...

OLD MAN

(coughing mildly)

The old man pats Rufus's back to make him quit COUGHING.

RUFUS

(clears throat)

Rufus pushes the elderly man to the side and runs into the apartment room to check on Mateo. While he was in there all he could think about was their deal.

RUFUS

(shouting)

What the hell is your problem! We had a deal!

MATEO (V.O.)

(softly repeats)

We stay close, don't leave each other out of our sights,  
deal?

Rufus sees Mateo. He drags him across the floor, onto his  
back, and rushes out of the building.

EXT. MATEO'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

The fire department is outside the building rushing upstairs.

FIREFIGHTER

Let us get him in an  
ambulance, fast

RUFUS

Get him to the hospital  
please!

FIREFIGHTER

Did he get his Death  
Cast call today?

RUFUS

No, he didn't receive it.

The firefighters put Mateo on a stretcher and load him into  
the back of an ambulance to check his pulse.

RUFUS

(screaming nervously)

We have to get him to the hospital, you can see that!

The staff ignore him and concentrate on obtaining Mateo's  
statistics.

RUFUS (CONT'D)

(screaming)

Stop screwing around and drive!

FIREFIGHTER

(gulp)

(softly)

He's gone, I'm sorry.

Sky turns grey.

RUFUS

(shouting)

You don't know what you're talking about, he's not dead!  
Do your job and get him to the fucking hospital!

A firefighter removes a body bag from the rear door. Rufus grabs the bag and throws it into a bush.

RUFUS

HE'S NOT DEAD!

Rufus walks back to Mateo and tries to wake him up.

RUFUS (CONT'D)

(cries)

Come on, Mateo, it's me, Rufus, you can hear me right?  
Wake up!

FADE OUT

INT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT

Mateo and Rufus are both taken to the hospital. Mateo for morgue observation and Rufus into intensive care. While waiting, Rufus is lying down in bed while scrolling through Instagram reading all of his friend's goodbyes to him. Nevertheless, Rufus doesn't seem to care about the messages. He opens the Pluto's group chat and sends them the painful text, 'Mateo is dead'

RUFUS (V.O.)

Mateo is dead.

CUT

EXT. HOSPITAL STREET - NIGHT

TEXT APPEARS, 'FIFTY-NINE MINUTES LATER'

Rufus walks around the city for a bit while the narration happens.

RUFUS (V.O.)

September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017, 10:36 p.m. My last friend is dead, and I have less than 1 hour and 29 minutes till I die too. I've learned that there is no life without death and that when there is love there will always be a loss.

Rufus puts on his headphones and starts playing a video of Mateo SINGING the song 'Into The Future' by Chef'Special. He sees Althea Park in the distance. He returns to the video glancing brightly being able to hear Mateo's soft voice again.

LOW ANGLE SHOT OF STREET

Rufus puts his foot down with a car driving at full speed in the distance. The car lights shine brightly in the camera making the screen go white. With Mateo still singing in the background. The singing transitions from it to the actual song and roles into credits.

CUT TO BLACK

THE END

"THEY BOTH DIE AT THE END" RATIONALE

The intention of the adaptation is that There is no life without death and where there is love there will always be a loss. Various cinematic techniques have been used to show this. The tone is neither dark nor bright, it covers both the topic of death and love. Nevertheless, the mood is emotional and dark, as it undergoes the 5 stages of grief due to a death.

The film adaption begins with an ESTABLISHING SHOT from Mateo's POINT OF VIEW. This has been implemented to show the audience what the character is witnessing, meaning their actions and emotions are visible. The reason for this is to show the level of relationship that Mateo and Rufus have and through their own eyes. When Mateo kisses Rufus it emphasises the love that they have for each other which creates for a more devastating ending therefore reinforces the message of love.

LOW-KEY LIGHTING has been used onwards to the point of the explosion as it is necessary to create a chiaroscuro effect, which symbolises the mood, as the five stages of grief are usually associated with a loss of loved ones. Multiple CUTS are used in scenes to make the film fast paced as if it's one continuous scene. This is associated with the fact of how Mateo and Rufus's relationship ended very quickly. Both of these emphasise the end in their relationship, therefore reinforcing the message of death.

The main points that were GAINED within the screenplay are the visual effects, they help give clarity to scene and characters expressions/interactions. The facial

expressions support a dark atmosphere such as the sky turning grey, as it recognised with depression and loss.

The main points that were LOST within the screenplay are that films are particularly short, meaning it's not always possible to fit everything in. Much dialogue has been adapted to make it fit. Most of the shots when Mateo and Rufus are in the hospital are lost due to this fact.

## Works Cited

Silvera, Adam. *They Both Die at the End*. Harper Teen , An Imprint Of  
Harpercollinspublishers, 2017.