



## CRITIQUE REVIEW

### For Want of a Nail

For Want of a Nail is about a young man's who is descending into an obsessive compulsive disorder as he represses the pain of her personal life through strict routine and organization. The lead character Marty comes off at first like simply a quirky personality with a lot of minor proclivities. He takes joy in the simple pleasures of things like waking up before his alarm goes off, and having an uneventful morning that doesn't impede any of his work goal for the day. We learn that he works from home doing work that suggests he's employed with a film production company, but we don't ever see him interact with anyone to confirm this, and it may be that he's unemployed pursuing various personal projects. He speaks directly to the audience, guiding them through all of these minor details as they fall into place for him, in hopes for a perfect day, but other revelations re-contextualize what we're seeing.

At the film's start, it's reminiscent of movies like Fight Club or American Psycho, with a narrator who speaks like a television commercial as he formally itemizes his various daily grooming and preparation tasks. It has a stronger resemblance to the former, with it's onscreen animations and bubbles, but vague narrative references to the violent or sexual thoughts this organized approach has helped repress give it a darker tone right off the bat, that though the film's first part is light and playful, we'll soon be taking a turn into different subject matter. When we get there, it's in the revelation that his new militant approach began after the death of his mother that we begin to see the real turmoil boiling underneath what we may have previously interpreted as the eccentric view of a quirky hipster dork. He is also in



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the process of drifting apart from his live in fiancé, who we see him regard as a hindrance to his efficiency.

The film is overall pretty successful in pulling the viewer in and wanting to get to the bottom of what's eating at Marty. It's colorful and visually appealing, with a decent performance by its lead. The tone shift which occurs throughout the movie is something that is very interesting as well, with a brisk and glib narrative coming into conflict with the sad truths that are gradually being revealed underneath it. At the beginning of the film, this playful tone is much more prevalent, but by the end the melancholy of what we've seen has taken over and isolated Marty's non-stop chatter within the mood, but in the same way the he becomes isolated as a character. The main weakness the story has is within the script itself, which has piled on a few too many catastrophes. We learn that his mother was killed in a car crash, his father has cancer, his fiancé leaves him, and then his brother dies. It's more plot than this simple character study is equipped to hold, and gives it a little bit of a gimmicky feeling by the time all is said and done.

**DMOFF Rating 4.5/5**