

That Brøken Day

kiki_miserychic

Achievement in Mood: Winner 2009

The review below may contain spoilers for *The Brøken*.

Brad: This vid kills me with the unsettling way in which it shows the main character's everyday life. The vidder uses the music and source visuals in a way that makes the normalcy of everyday life look progressively more horrific. Never have I been so unnerved by a shot of a coffee machine.

Nicky: The juxtaposition of the very unsettling music against the mundaneness of the clip choice really brings out that sense of wrongness at the start.

Brad: In the opening shots, we see her getting dressed, people going to work, it's all very mundane. And yet every movement and every new scene feels like a funeral march.

The build to the music is so brilliant, the way kiki_miserychic is winking at layers in the song, like with the flickering light at 0:05. The jump cuts and flopped images at 0:15 give us our first real evidence that something is truly wrong here. The detail of the falling shattered glass from the bathroom mirror - where we saw her face moments before - is shocking, and then the pacing briefly picks up, before that great extended clip of her walking down the dark hallway of the hospital at 0:32.

Nicky: The pacing throughout this vid is masterful, but none more so than that extended clip at 0:32, which really shows the control of the vidder over the mounting sense of suspense.

Brad: I love how it continues to feel disjointed while also getting across a sense of something looming, and gathering.

0:41 scares the crap out of me every single time. It's just a friggin coffee machine!! How did she do that? And then the static shots of her office and the hallways just after have such a sense of foreboding. I also love the audio/visual sync between the fan at 1:01 and the synthy guitar.

Nicky: I'm also very partial to the swinging light switch at 0:54, which comes back time and time again to great effect.

Brad: Repeated clips serve the vid so incredibly well here, and I don't know that I've ever seen flopped images and jump cuts used to such great effect in service of mood. 2:14 is a fantastic example.

Nicky: I haven't seen the film so I'm only guessing here, but the use of repeated clips seem very specific to building a somewhat deceptive (or at least deliberately confusing) narrative which you only understand later.

Brad: I think it says a lot that the crash at 1:38 is not nearly as scary-looking as an empty hallway earlier in the vid, but the time-toggle on the crash at 1:47 is incredibly effective.

Nicky: I think a lot of that is attributable to the control of the vidder not *wanting* the audience to feel the particular impact of the crash, until the vid comes back to it in a much more forceful way as part of the narrative reveal later.

Brad: The intensity really picks up at 1:55 with progressively more violent and disturbing images, and the sex at 2:08 looks more disturbing than the crash.

The frozen image in the mirror at 2:32 is frightening, but again it feels like the natural result of what's been building throughout the vid with all of the mirror scenes and fractured editing.

Nicky: I love that the mirror is given so much prominence here, and that all the flipped images throughout give clues as to what is wrong with the whole picture.

Brad: The quick glimpse of the picture of the man she killed at 2:33 followed by the brain scan on the vocal are both very effective.

At 2:53 you get the feeling that her world (and mind) is totally crumbling, and on a more shallow note, I adore how the bathtub water syncs with the guitar slides there.

Nicky: The musicality is excellent in its unobtrusiveness, only breaking through now and again to provide unsettling moments. I particularly like how new elements in the music are addressed by sudden layering, such as 2:54 or 3:04.

Brad: When the percussion comes in at 3:15 and we go full-on nightmarish, it almost feels like a release. There's been so much tension building for so long that it's almost unbearable by that point. You just want there to be a resolution, even if it's one as horrific as this.

Nicky: The quick cutting is just cathartic, isn't it? Especially as the viewer is treated to the flashback of what actually happened and everything finally clicks for the character.

Brad: The ending just tears me up, especially the dead face at 3:17, the nails breaking at 3:25, and that incredible extended shot with the overlay at 3:38. The ending is very difficult for me to watch.

Nicky: The nails at 3:25 just feel so physically brutal, and I also just love the strobing light at 3:33. And that extended shot, as you said, provides a fantastic gateway into the character's final revelation, with the layers providing contextual information.

Brad: When she sees her victim from the window at 4:09, I can't help but think of the Poe poem "The Raven." And when the main character throws away the x-ray at the end, I know that it's her soul being left behind.