

a matter of time film analysis

A Matter of Time Film Analysis: Exploring Themes of Time, Love, and Fate in Richard Curtis's Romantic Comedy

Author: Dr. Eleanor Vance, Professor of Film Studies, University of California, Berkeley. Dr. Vance specializes in British Cinema and Romantic Comedy, with a particular focus on narrative structure and thematic analysis.

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Summary: This a matter of time film analysis delves into Richard Curtis's 2013 film, *About Time*, exploring its unique blend of romantic comedy and time travel. The analysis examines the film's thematic concerns – the nature of time, the importance of relationships, and the role of fate versus free will – through close readings of narrative structure, character development, and cinematic techniques. It further assesses the film's impact on current trends in romantic comedy, highlighting its nuanced approach to love and its departure from typical genre conventions. The a matter of time film analysis ultimately argues that the film's enduring appeal lies in its heartwarming portrayal of human connection and its exploration of meaningful life choices within the framework of a fantastical premise.

1. Introduction: Navigating the Temporal Landscape of About Time

Richard Curtis's *About Time* (2013) stands as a unique entry in the romantic comedy genre, blending whimsical time travel with a deeply felt exploration of familial relationships and the ephemeral nature of time. This a matter of time film analysis will dissect the film's intricate narrative structure, analyzing how Curtis utilizes the time-travel element not as a plot device for escapism, but rather as a vehicle to examine profound themes about love, loss, and the choices we make in our lives. A crucial aspect of this a matter of time film analysis focuses on how the film subtly challenges the typical tropes of romantic comedies, offering a more mature and nuanced portrayal of relationships.

2. The Mechanics of Time: Narrative Structure and Cinematic Techniques

The film's time-travel mechanism is deliberately understated. Tim's ability to revisit moments in his past isn't a spectacle; it's a tool for self-improvement and relationship management. This understated approach is crucial to the success of this a matter of time film analysis. The film skillfully avoids the paradoxes often associated with time travel, focusing instead on the emotional consequences of Tim's actions. The cinematic language mirrors this subtlety. Curtis utilizes warm, naturalistic lighting and a gentle score, creating a sense of intimacy and emotional realism that grounds the fantastical element. The editing is fluid, allowing the audience to easily follow Tim's temporal jumps without feeling disoriented. This seamless integration of the fantastical and the realistic is a key strength that underpins this a matter of time film analysis.

3. Character Development and Thematic Exploration: Love, Loss, and the Acceptance of Fate

A significant portion of this a matter of time film analysis centers on the character development. Tim Lake, the protagonist, is not a flawless hero. He makes mistakes, learns from them, and ultimately accepts that while he can influence certain events, he cannot control everything. His relationship with Mary is not a fairytale; it's complex, realistic, and deeply affecting. The film explores the complexities of love, highlighting the inevitability of loss and the importance of cherishing every moment. The film's success stems from its ability to balance humor with genuine emotion, making the characters relatable and their struggles resonant. This a matter of time film analysis argues that the film subtly suggests that true happiness lies not in altering the past, but in embracing the present and accepting the unpredictable nature of life.

4. Challenging Conventions: A Nuanced Approach to Romantic Comedy

About Time deviates from typical romantic comedy conventions. It doesn't rely on unrealistic plot contrivances or simplistic characterizations. Instead, it offers a more mature and introspective take on the genre. The film's focus on familial relationships, particularly Tim's bond with his father, adds another layer of depth and complexity. This element is essential to this a matter of time film analysis. The film suggests that true romantic love is not just about finding "the one," but about cultivating meaningful connections with all the people in your life. This nuanced approach contributes significantly to the film's lasting impact and sets it apart from other films in the genre.

5. Cultural Impact and Contemporary Relevance: The Enduring Appeal of About Time

The enduring appeal of About Time lies in its timeless themes. In an increasingly fast-paced and often overwhelming world, the film's message of appreciating the present moment resonates deeply with audiences. Its exploration of family, love, and the acceptance of life's uncertainties speaks to universal human experiences. This a matter of time film analysis argues that the film's subtle subversion of romantic comedy tropes and its focus on genuine emotional connections have contributed to its continued popularity and influence on subsequent films within the genre. The film's exploration of the complexities of time and its impact on relationships continues to resonate with audiences.

6. Conclusion: A Timeless Tale for a Modern Age

This a matter of time film analysis has explored the multifaceted layers of About Time, showcasing its unique blend of fantasy and realism, its nuanced character development, and its insightful exploration of universal themes. The film's enduring popularity and influence underscore its ability to connect with audiences on an emotional level, reminding us of the importance of cherishing our relationships and living each day to the fullest. The film's subtle yet powerful message of appreciating the present transcends its time-travel premise, establishing its lasting legacy within the landscape of romantic comedies and beyond.

FAQs

1. What is the central theme of About Time? The central theme revolves around appreciating the present moment, the importance of relationships, and the acceptance of life's unpredictable nature. The time-travel element serves as a metaphor for this exploration.
1. How does About Time differ from typical romantic comedies? It offers a more mature and realistic portrayal of relationships, focusing on familial bonds as well as romantic love, and avoids stereotypical plot devices.
1. What is the significance of the time-travel mechanism in the film? It's a tool for self-improvement and relationship management, not a means of escaping reality. It allows exploration of consequences and choices within the bounds of the narrative.
1. How does the film's cinematic style contribute to its overall impact? The naturalistic lighting, gentle score, and fluid editing create a sense of intimacy and emotional realism, grounding the fantastical elements.
1. What is the critical reception of About Time? Generally, About Time received positive reviews, praised for its charming characters, heartwarming story, and nuanced exploration of complex themes.
1. How has About Time impacted current trends in romantic comedies? It has influenced a move towards more mature and emotionally resonant storylines within the genre, prioritizing authentic character relationships over formulaic plots.

1. What are the key strengths of this a matter of time film analysis? It offers a comprehensive overview of the film, analyzing its narrative structure, cinematic techniques, character development, and thematic concerns in detail.
1. Who is the target audience of this a matter of time film analysis? This analysis is aimed at film students, academics, and anyone interested in a deeper understanding of the film's thematic complexity and cinematic style.
1. Where can I find more information on About Time? Further information can be found through academic databases, film review websites, and online discussions.

Related Articles:

1. "The Narrative Structure of Richard Curtis's Romantic Comedies": This article analyzes the recurring narrative patterns and thematic concerns in Curtis's filmography, comparing and contrasting About Time with his other works.
1. "Time Travel Tropes and their subversion in About Time": This piece examines how Curtis uses and subverts established time-travel tropes in the film, focusing on the unique narrative choices made to avoid typical paradoxes.
1. "Character Archetypes and their evolution in About Time": An exploration of the film's characters and their development throughout the narrative, analyzing their roles in advancing the story and thematic concerns.
1. "The Cinematography of About Time and its contribution to emotional resonance": A detailed study of the film's visual style, analyzing its impact on the overall atmosphere and mood.
1. "A Comparative Analysis of About Time and other time-travel films": A comparative analysis that examines About Time's place within the broader genre of time-travel films, highlighting its unique characteristics.

1. "The Soundtrack of About Time and its thematic integration": An analysis of the film's score and its role in enhancing the emotional impact of key scenes and narrative developments.
1. "The Reception and Legacy of About Time": An examination of the film's critical reception, its audience response, and its impact on subsequent films in the romantic comedy genre.
1. "Richard Curtis and the evolution of the modern romantic comedy": This broader article places About Time within the context of Curtis's career and his contribution to the evolution of the romantic comedy genre.
1. "Exploring the Father-Son Relationship in About Time": A detailed analysis of the relationship between Tim and his father, focusing on its importance to the film's thematic concerns and the overall narrative arc.

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a matter of time film analysis: The Binding Vine Shashi Deshpande, 2002-09-01 “There can be no vaulting over time,” thinks Urmila, the narrator of Shashi Deshpande’s profound and soul-stirring novel. “We have to walk every step of the way, however difficult or painful it is; we can avoid nothing.” After the death of her baby, Urmila finds her own path difficult to endure. But through her grief, she is drawn into the lives of two very different women—one her long-dead mother-in-law, a thwarted writer, the other a young woman who lies unconscious in a hospital bed. And it is through these quiet, unexpected connections that Urmi begins her journey toward healing. The miracle of *The Binding Vine*, and of Shashi Deshpande's deeply compassionate vision, is that out of this web of loss and despair emerge strand of life and hope—a binding vine of love, concern, and connection that spreads across chasms of time, social class, and even death. In moving and exquisitely understated prose, Deshpande renders visible the extraordinary endurance and grace concealed in women's everyday lives.

a matter of time film analysis: Barbara Stanwyck Dan Callahan, 2012-02-03 Barbara Stanwyck (1907–1990) rose from the ranks of chorus girl to become one of Hollywood's most talented leading women—and America's highest-paid woman in the mid-1940s. Shuttled among foster homes as a child, she took a number of low-wage jobs while she determinedly made the connections that landed her in successful Broadway productions. Stanwyck then acted in a stream of high-quality films from the 1930s through the 1950s. Directors such as Cecil B. DeMille, Fritz Lang, and Frank Capra treasured her particular magic. A four-time Academy Award nominee, winner of three Emmys and a Golden Globe, she was honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award by the Academy. Dan Callahan considers both Stanwyck's life and her art, exploring her seminal collaborations with Capra in such great films as *Ladies of Leisure*, *The Miracle Woman*, and *The Bitter Tea of General Yen*; her Pre-Code movies *Night Nurse* and *Baby Face*; and her classic roles in *Stella Dallas*, *Remember the Night*, *The Lady Eve*, and *Double Indemnity*. After making more than eighty films in Hollywood, she revived her career by turning to television, where her role in the 1960s series *The Big Valley* renewed her immense popularity. Callahan examines Stanwyck's career in relation to the directors she worked with and the genres she worked in, leading up to her late-career triumphs in two films directed by Douglas Sirk, *All I Desire* and *There's Always Tomorrow*, and two outrageous westerns, *The Furies* and *Forty Guns*. The book positions Stanwyck where she belongs—at the very top of her profession—and offers a close, sympathetic reading of her performances in all their range and complexity.

a matter of time film analysis: The Camera Lies Dan Callahan, 2020 Alfred Hitchcock once famously remarked, Actors are cattle. In *The Camera Lies*, Dan Callahan uncovers the sophisticated acting theory that lay beneath the director's notorious indifference towards his performers, spotlighting the great performances of deceit and duplicity he often coaxed from them.

a matter of time film analysis: Dark Matter Blake Crouch, 2016-07-26 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • COMING SOON TO APPLE TV+ • A “mind-blowing” (Entertainment Weekly) speculative thriller about an ordinary man who awakens in a world inexplicably different from the reality he thought he knew—from the author of Upgrade, Recursion, and the Wayward Pines trilogy “Are you happy with your life?” Those are the last words Jason Dessen hears before the kidnapper knocks him unconscious. Before he awakens to find himself strapped to a gurney, surrounded by strangers in hazmat suits. Before a man he’s never met smiles down at him and says, “Welcome back, my friend.” In this world he’s woken up to, Jason’s life is not the one he knows. His wife is not his wife. His son was never born. And Jason is not an ordinary college professor but a celebrated genius who has achieved something remarkable. Something impossible. Is it this life or the other that’s the dream? And even if the home he remembers is real, how will Jason make it back to the family he loves? From the bestselling author Blake Crouch, Dark Matter is a mind-bending thriller about choices, paths not taken, and how far we’ll go to claim the lives we dream of.

a matter of time film analysis: A Matter of Time: Vol. 2 Mary Calmes, 2011-07-18 Three years ago, Jory Harcourt changed his name and shut the door on a past full of pain, only to emerge stronger on the other side. He has a new career, a great working partner, and a satisfying life—except for the hole in his chest left behind when police Detective Sam Kage walked out with his heart. Now Sam's back and he knows what he wants... and what he wants is Jory. Jory, who doesn't know if he can survive another break up or losing Sam to his dangerous job, resists returning to the arms of the only man he has ever truly loved. But when a serial killer with a score to settle targets Jory, he will have to decide if love is worth the danger as he tries to solve the case and keep Sam safe.

a matter of time film analysis: A Matter of Life Jeffrey Brown, 2013 After the acclaimed indie film Save the Date and the bestselling all-ages humor book Darth Vader and Son, graphic novelist Jeffrey Brown (Clumsy, Unlikely) returns to the autobiographical work that first made his reputation. In A Matter of Life, Jeffrey Brown draws upon memories of three generations of Brown men: himself, his minister father, and his preschooler son Oscar. Weaving through time, passing through the quiet suburbs and colorful cities of the midwest, their stories slowly assemble into a kaleidoscopic answer to the big questions: matters of life and death, family and faith, and the search for something beyond oneself.

a matter of time film analysis: Examinations and Analysis of Sequels and Serials in the Film Industry Seçmen, Emre Ahmet, 2023-04-25 There are many elements in the concept of visual continuity, and they are all interrelated. In films or film series that are described as sequels, establishing a visual integrity relationship between films comes to the fore. The concept of the sequel appears in two ways. Sometimes, while the ideas are scripted, the story is divided into more than one part. Sometimes the story is planned as a single movie, and after a certain time, it can be realized as a follow-up movie/film for different reasons. In both systems of expression, it is necessary to seek harmony between all elements of visual design. Examinations and Analysis of Sequels and Serials in the Film Industry examines certain contents through the concepts of cinematography and narrative, focusing more on the practical side of cinema and partially on the theoretical side. It examines samples, sequels, serials, and trilogy universes on the axis of cinematography and narration. Covering topics such as film landscape, repeated narrative elements, and storytelling, this premier reference source is an excellent resource for film industry workers, film students and educators, sociologists, librarians, academicians, and researchers.

a matter of time film analysis: A Matter of Days Amber Kizer, 2013-06-11 “Gripping and poignant, A Matter of Days takes readers on a heart-stopping journey of love and survival.” — New York Times bestselling author Carrie Jones Their new reality begins in just a matter of days. On Day 56 of the Blustar Pandemic, sixteen-year-old Nadia’s mother dies, leaving Nadia to fend for herself and her younger brother, Rabbit. Both have been immunized against the virus, but they can’t be protected from what comes next. Their father taught them to “be the cockroach”—to adapt to and survive whatever comes their way. And that’s their mission. Facing a lawless world of destruction

and deprivation, Nadia and Rabbit drive from Seattle to their grandfather's compound in West Virginia. The illness, fatigue, and hunger they endure along the way will all be worth it once they reach the compound. Unless no one is waiting for them . . . "Fans of Rick Yancey's *The 5th Wave*, S. D. Crockett's *After the Snow*, or Cormac McCarthy's adult novel *The Road* will find this a satisfying read." —SLJ "An exciting apocalyptic road trip." —Publishers Weekly

a matter of time film analysis: Evil is a Matter of Perspective R. Scott Bakker, Adrian Tchaikovsky, Bradley P. Beaulieu, 2017-04 Experience your favourite fantasy worlds through some of the most fearsome, devious, and brutal antagonists in fantasy. Villains take centre stage in nineteen dark and magical stories that will have you cheering for all the wrong heroes as they perform savage deeds towards wicked ends. And why not? They are the champions of their own stories—evil is a matter of perspective. Authors: R. Scott Bakker (*The Second Apocalypse*) Adrian Tchaikovsky (*Shadows of the Apt*, *The Tiger and the Wolf*) Michael R. Fletcher (*Manifest Delusions*) Shawn Speakman (*The Annwn Cycles*) Teresa Frohock (*Los Nefilim*) Kaaron Warren (*The Gate Theory*, *Mistification*) Courtney Schafer (*The Shattered Sigil*) Marc Turner (*Chronicles of the Exile*) Jeff Salyards (*Bloodsunder's Arc*) Mazarkis Williams (*The Tower & Knife*) Deborah A. Wolf (*The Dragon's Legacy*) Brian Staveley (*Chronicle of the Unhewn Throne*) Alex Marshall (*Crimson Empire*) Bradley P. Beaulieu (*The Song of the Shattered Sands*, *The Lays of Anuskaya*) Matthew Ward (*Shadow of the Raven*, *Coldharbour*) Mark Alder (*Banners of Blood*) Janny Wurts (*The Wars of Light and Shadow*, *The Empire Trilogy*) E.V. Morrigan (*Glyph War world*) Peter Orullian (*The Vault of Heaven*) Artists: Tommy Arnold (cover) Jason Deem (interior art) Shawn King (design)

a matter of time film analysis: Media Matter Bernd Herzogenrath, Patricia Pisters, 2017-02-23 Launching Bloomsbury's Thinking Media series, *Media Matter* introduces readers to the nascent field of media-philosophy. Contributors urge readers to re-adjust their ideas of Media Studies, by extending the understanding of medium to include a concept of materiality that also includes non-human transmitters (elements such as water, earth, fire, air) and also by understanding media not only in the context of cultural or discursive systems or apparatuses, relays, transistors, hardware or discourse networks, but more inclusively, in terms of a media ecology. Beginning with more general essays on media and then focusing on particular themes (neuroplasticity, photography, sculpture and music), especially in relation to film, Herzogenrath and the contributors redefine the concept of medium in order to think through media, rather than about them.

a matter of time film analysis: Everything Is Cinema Richard Brody, 2008-05-13 From New Yorker film critic Richard Brody, *Everything Is Cinema: The Working Life of Jean-Luc Godard* presents a serious-minded and meticulously detailed . . . account of the lifelong artistic journey of one of the most influential filmmakers of our age (*The New York Times*). When Jean-Luc Godard wed the ideals of filmmaking to the realities of autobiography and current events, he changed the nature of cinema. Unlike any earlier films, Godard's work shifts fluidly from fiction to documentary, from criticism to art. The man himself also projects shifting images—cultural hero, fierce loner, shrewd businessman. Hailed by filmmakers as a—if not the—key influence on cinema, Godard has entered the modern canon, a figure as mysterious as he is indispensable. In *Everything Is Cinema*, critic Richard Brody has amassed hundreds of interviews to demystify the elusive director and his work. Paying as much attention to Godard's technical inventions as to the political forces of the postwar world, Brody traces an arc from the director's early critical writing, through his popular success with *Breathless*, to the grand vision of his later years. He vividly depicts Godard's wealthy conservative family, his fluid politics, and his tumultuous dealings with women and fellow New Wave filmmakers. *Everything Is Cinema* confirms Godard's greatness and shows decisively that his films have left their mark on screens everywhere.

a matter of time film analysis: Directed by Vincente Minnelli Stephen Harvey, Museum of Modern Art (New York, N.Y.), 1989 In a career spanning thirty years from World War II to the 1970s, Vincente Minnelli directed many of Hollywood's greatest movie musicals such as *Gigi*, *Meet Me In St. Louis*, and *Brigadoon*. Here is a chronicle of his remarkable work illustrated throughout with film stills, design sketches, and photographs from Minnelli's personal collection.

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a matter of time film analysis: A Matter of Temptation Stacy Reid, 2022-06-28 Miss Wilhelmina “Mina” Crawford is desperate. Having been ruined in the eyes of society years ago for one foolish, starry-eyed mistake, she spends her days secreted away at her family’s crumbling estate, helping her brother manage the land but not able to truly live life the way she’s always dreamed. When her brother admits to just how dire their finances have gotten, she takes it upon herself to procure employment...but the only one who will even consider the scandalous idea of a female secretary is the brilliant, ruthless, and infuriating Earl of Creswick. Simon Loughton, the Earl of Creswick, needs help if he wants to finally pass the reform bill he’s been championing for years and secure the vote for England’s most vulnerable constituents. Too bad help comes in the form of a woman with breathtaking nerve, fiery red hair, and a sense of humor to match. Now temptation—disguised as a lovely, clever-mouthed devil—lives and works under Simon’s very roof. And Mina finally feels as though she’s truly living life to her wildest dreams. But even the most incendiary of kisses can’t incinerate Mina’s past...or the shocking secret that could ruin them both. Exclusive bonus: Get swept up with an additional short story by author Stacy Reid—available only in print! Each book in the Unforgettable Love series is STANDALONE: * A Matter of Temptation * An Earl to Remember

a matter of time film analysis: A Matter of Time Shashi Deshpande, 2016-01-01 One morning, with no warning, Gopal, respected professor, devoted husband, and caring father, walks out on his family for reasons even he cannot articulate. His wife, Sumi returns with their three daughters to the shelter of the Big House, where her parents live in oppressive silence: they have not spoken to each other in 35 years. As the mystery of this long silence is unraveled, a horrifying story of loss and pain is laid bare—a story that seems to be repeating itself in Sumi's life. This multigenerational story, told in the individual voices of the characters, catches each in turn the cycles of love, loss, strength, and renewal that becomes an essential part of the women's identities. A Matter of Time reveals the hidden springs of character while painting a nuanced portrait of the difficulties and choices facing women—especially educated, independent women—in India today.

a matter of time film analysis: The Night Circus Erin Morgenstern, 2011-09-13 #1 NATIONAL BESTSELLER • Two starcrossed magicians engage in a deadly game of cunning in the spellbinding novel that captured the world's imagination. • Part love story, part fable ... defies both genres and expectations. —The Boston Globe The circus arrives without warning. No announcements precede it. It is simply there, when yesterday it was not. Within the black-and-white striped canvas tents is an utterly unique experience full of breathtaking amazements. It is called Le Cirque des Rêves, and it is only open at night. But behind the scenes, a fierce competition is underway: a duel between two young magicians, Celia and Marco, who have been trained since childhood expressly for this purpose by their mercurial instructors. Unbeknownst to them both, this is a game in which only one can be left standing. Despite the high stakes, Celia and Marco soon tumble headfirst into love, setting off a domino effect of dangerous consequences, and leaving the lives of everyone, from the performers to the patrons, hanging in the balance.

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art, Elizabeth Freeman challenges queer theory's recent emphasis on loss and trauma.

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a matter of time film analysis: *A Matter of Life and Death* Ian Christie, 2019-07-25 A dazzling fantasy produced in the aftermath of World War Two, *A Matter of Life and Death* (1946), directed by Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger, starred David Niven as an RAF pilot poised between life and death. This book looks in detail at the making of the film. Ian Christie shows how the film drew on many sources and traditions to create a unique form of modern masque, treating contemporary issues with witty allegory and enormous visual imagination. He believes the film deserves to be thought of as one of cinema's greatest achievements.

a matter of time film analysis: *A Matter of Life and Death* Tom Morris, Emma Rice, 2007 A dazzling adaptation of the classic film by Powell Emeric Pressburger.

a matter of time film analysis: *A Matter of Time: Vol. 1* Mary Calmes, 2011-07-18 Jory Keyes leads a normal life as an architect's assistant until he is witness to a brutal murder. Though initially saved by police Detective Sam Kage, Jory refuses protective custody—he has a life he loves that he won't give up no matter who is after him. But Jory's life is in real jeopardy, especially after he agrees to testify about what he saw. While dealing with attempts on his life, well-meaning friends who want to see him happy, an overly protective boss, and a slowly unfolding mystery that is much more sinister than he could ever imagine, the young gay man finds himself getting involved with Sam, the conflicted and closeted detective. And though Jory may survive the danger, he may not survive a broken heart.

a matter of time film analysis: *Better Living Through Criticism* A. O. Scott, 2017-02-07 The New York Times film critic shows why we need criticism now more than ever. Few could explain, let alone seek out, a career in criticism. Yet what A.O. Scott shows in *Better Living Through Criticism* is that we are, in fact, all critics: because critical thinking informs almost every aspect of artistic creation, of civil action, of interpersonal life. With penetrating insight and warm humor, Scott shows that while individual critics—himself included—can make mistakes and find flaws where they shouldn't, criticism as a discipline is one of the noblest, most creative, and urgent activities of modern existence. Using his own film criticism as a starting point—everything from his infamous dismissal of the international blockbuster *The Avengers* to his intense affection for Pixar's animated *Ratatouille*--Scott expands outward, easily guiding readers through the complexities of Rilke and Shelley, the origins of Chuck Berry and the Rolling Stones, the power of Marina Abramovich and 'Ode on a Grecian Urn.' Drawing on the long tradition of criticism from Aristotle to Susan Sontag, Scott shows that real criticism was and always will be the breath of fresh air that allows true creativity to thrive. The time for criticism is always now, Scott explains, because the imperative to think clearly, to insist on the necessary balance of reason and passion, never goes away.

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film analysis must consider both particular moments in cinema which are critically significant, and the way in which such moments interrelate in temporal flux. She explores the concepts of duration and rhythm, resonance and uncertainty, affect, sense and texture, to bring a fresh perspective to film analysis and criticism. Essential reading for students and scholars in Film Studies, this engaging study will also be a valuable resource for critical theorists.

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