

THE GIFT

These are notes taken from the film text, 'The Gift'.

The Director, Joel Edgerton employs the following elements well in this film text;

- Sound
- Characters
- Camera
- Motifs
- Lighting
- Colour
- Cause & Effect
- Multiple storylines

Opening – Slow pan of empty house. Background discussion (diegetic sound). "NO FISH" is mentioned. Motif. Introduction of characters. Husband & Wife. (Seem happy)

MOTIFS:

- Red
- Baby Mobile
- Monkey
- Baby
- Fish
- Dog
- Gatorade
- Frosted glass

Gordon Mosley (Gordo). Antagonist. From first conversation the audience would believe the two characters don't have a connecting past.

Sound drops out. This production technique is used regularly to signify the intensity of the scene. Audience expectations and engagement.

Simon – Protagonist. Jason Bateman.

Low Key Lighting with orange tinge glow. Provides a sense of calm and warmth. This lighting along side drawn out scenes and limited non-diegetic sound gives the audience an spooky unsettling feeling. Makes them feel uneasy.

Conversation scenes – Slow moving drawn out. Makes the audience uneasy. They want things moving faster. The audience want to looks away. It also gives them more understanding to Jason Bateman's character.

Wife – Robyn. Given up her identity due to stress and breakdown after losing her first pregnancy. She seems like a struggling women who quite often looks into the distance. She is easily manipulated by those around her. Quite a vulnerable character. Jason's character is obviously the power driver in the relationship.

ACTING – Gorgo. The wave. Awkward, wolly-like wave. Soft arm. Straight face, strong intense eyes. Plain clothes. Hat.

One sided friendship – A-Symmetrical.

EDITING – Cuts to different locations representing the mixed emotions of the couple who are in this A-Symmetrical relationship.

Gordo constant odd like behaviour. Almost making the audience uncomfortable.

Very limited use of non-diegetic sound. Quite often the audience is left with only sounds from the scene itself. Footsteps, heavy breathing, conversation with intense pauses. This mimics real life scenarios.

The audience gets confused by Gorgo. Not sure if he really is an antagonist. Within the narration within the development the audience empathise with his character. Jason is often cruel, immature, strong, and nasty. Combine this with intense violins and deep tones makes the audience unlike his character.

Gate scene – Red break light, long horn, stare off. Back red lit behind Jason Bateman. Representing the Devil.

Audience unsure about the wife. Where her mind is at. What she is unhappy about. Her marriage, her baby loss, Gordo, no job, the move etc. Constant stare offs into the distance. Emotion left her face and dropped sluggish shoulders.

Running tap scene. Sound & Camera angles

3 main characters. Audiences move between the ideas of which makes them feel the most uneasy.

- Robyn
- Simon
- Gordo

“Let Bygones be bygones after all these years.”

Simon’s character is really good at lying. His character has been directed to ensure the audience is unaware of the intense past he shared with Gordo.

CLIMAX scene

Knife, spill scene. Classic psychological thriller elements. Sound & Volume increases, wet footprints fade to black. Chopper surround sound. Audience question the relevance to this scene.

Bullying behaviour. Simon to Robyn & Simon to Gordo.

Start of the resolution. The audience is confronted with a question – who is the real antagonist? Simon or Gordo? The plot thickens. The audience start to dislike Simon’s bullying and lying nature.

Danny McDonald. Email. Stopped him from getting the job.

Fade to blacks. LONG black fades employed between intense scenes. Audience unsure of the next decision within the narrative. Supports the psychological thriller genre.

SOUND

Helicopter / Chopper / Propeller sound. Creates a head spinning effect for the audience. This happens constantly throughout the narrative.

OPENING

Piano – simple notes representing the simple life. Birds chirping.

California. Moved from Chicago and Brooklyn.

Defined opening.

Liner time structure to the narrative.

Shower scenes – Audience can empathise with the vulnerability of the character link to the genre – psychological thriller.

Gordo has an innocent, calculated approach to his character.

Simon has a controlling, manipulating manner to his personality.

Robyn has a vague, vulnerability to her personality. Socially awkward.

Closing Sequence

Simon given 3 gifts –

1. The Key to the house
2. The Audio CD (this contains Simons voice and explaining what he thinks Gordo will want to do to his wife.)
3. This is the DVD that plays out the ideas Simon was talking about in the Audio. Simon's worst fears are coming into play.

The audience start to question if the baby in the hospital is Gordo's or Simons.

Parallel Editing – Two scenes playing at the same time. Gordo in hospital. He asks the question to Robyn. "Boy or girl". Audience assume this is linked to the film that Simon is watching.

Phone conversation – "Bygones be Bygones" Audience would assume that nothing happened. He wanted Simon to question for the rest of his life.
"Poison other people's minds with ideas"

This is also represented when the Director places all 3 characters alone in the final scene before it fades to black.