

Charlie's Bad Day by Ian Giles

FADE IN:

INT - CHARLIE'S HOUSE - MORNING

CHARLIE sits down at the breakfast table and sips his coffee. He is a well built, slim good looking guy. Behind him his beautiful wife SUE gives him a big long hug and kiss. It is a perfect image.

SUE

(gentle and loving)

Good morning sweetheart, did u
have a good sleep

(dialogue intended to be corny)

CHARLIE nods his head grins

CHARLIE

Well after all the love making
I slept like a baby.

SUE

Not my fault, you are amazing,
they continue to kiss

Later:

Both CHARLIE and SUE are dressed and ready to leave home for work. CHARLIE looks at SUE with a lot of love.

CHARLIE

Do you ever regret it?

SUE

Regret what baby?

CHARLIE

Giving up that modeling job
in the States to stay with me?

SUE gives CHARLIE a long kiss

SUE

Never, I love you too much, my
life is too perfect with you

They both make there way to the door.

SUE

One thing, don't forget to call your
parents for the weekend break.

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INT - CHARLIE'S WORK - MORNING

CHARLIE breezes into work. Outside it is a bright sunny day. He arrives exactly on time as he does everyday and while he walks towards his office everyone greets him with smiles and hellos. You do not see one unhappy person in the office and they are all quick to drop whatever they are doing to greet CHARLIE. The smile on his face shows that his life is perfect. A little too perfect

INT - CHARLIE'S OFFICE - MORNING

CHARLIE sits at his desk and starts typing on his computer with a big smile on his face, he even starts to whistle. He leans back and looks at his work after awhile. He keeps leaning back until his chair gives way and he falls hitting the back of his head on the floor. Dazed, he walks out of his office.

INT - CHARLIE'S WORK - MORNING

As he walks towards the bathroom, the office appears to be completely empty.

INT - CHARLIE'S WORK RESTROOM - MORNING

CHARLIE washes his face and inspects his head, there is no blood. He looks deep into his eyes and notices that they are actually Brown.

CHARLIE

(puzzled)

What? My eyes have always been blue.

He keeps staring at them with amazement. He walks out of the restroom.

INT - CHARLIE'S WORK - MORNING

As he walks out of the restroom, the lift in front of him opens. Finally CHARLIE notices that he is the only person at his work.

CHARLIE

(muttering)

Was there a fire drill or something?

CHARLIE walks into the lift and presses the ground floor button.

INT GROUND FLOOR - DAY

CHARLIE leaves the lift. He walks towards the front door and as he goes towards it he notices himself in the mirror. It is not

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the same CHARLIE that entered the lift. It is a completely different person; nothing at all like CHARLIE was before. This CHARLIE has quite a stomach on him and is not at all good looking.

CHARLIE is completely shocked, so much so that he falls on the floor. He gets up slowly and looks at the mirror closely.

He goes into the lift and goes back to the floor of his office. As he gets out of the lift he checks himself in the windows and he is still looking like he was on the ground floor.

INT - CHARLIE'S OFFICE - DAY

CHARLIE runs around the workplace and cannot find one single person. The office is completely empty. He runs to his own office and it is also empty. No photos on the desk, no desk!!

CHARLIE runs out

INT - CHARLIE'S HOUSE NIGHT

CHARLIE tries to let himself into his house. His key does not fit and out of panic he starts to bang on the door. A rather big ELDERLY MAN answers, looking quite angry

ELDERLY MAN

(angry)

What the hell is your problem son, banging on my door like that?

CHARLIE

(angry)

What the hell do you mean by your door, what have you done to my wife

ELDERLY MAN

What are you talking about son, are you one of those crazy people, this is my house! I have lived here for over 20 years!

CHARLIE

Bullshit!

CHARLIE forces himself into the house and starts to look for SUE

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CHARLIE

(shouting)

Sue! Where are you Sue! Please
answer me if you are here.

ELDERLY MAN

I'm calling the police you crazy
freak

CHARLIE grabs the ELDERLY MAN by the neck and forces him onto the
wall.

CHARLIE

What have you done with my
wife? What have you done to
me?

ELDERLY MAN

(scared)

I have no clue what you are talking
about son but take whatever you
want just don't hurt me!

The ELDERLY MAN looks behind CHARLIE and standing there is
another man.

ELDERLY MAN

Thank god, please help me

CHARLIE turns his head around but before he can see who is behind
him, the man hits CHARLIE over the head.

EXT PARK BENCH - NIGHT

CHARLIE lies on the bench as he starts to wake up from the blow.
Standing in front of him is the man. CHARLIE wakes up and looks
at him.

CHARLIE

(dazed)

Who the hell are you?

CHUCK

Better you call me Chuck
for now.

CHARLIE

Am I dead, did I die from falling
from my chair?

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CHUCK

(smiling)

If you are dead, do you think
your head would hurt half as much?

CHARLIE

Maybe i am in hell and heads hurt
there.

CHUCK

(laughing)

No, I don't think so, you are
very much alive CHARLIE

CHUCK sits by the side of CHARLIE. CHARLIE sits up and starts to
rub his head

CHARLIE

Did you have to knock me out?

CHUCK

If I had not, that guy would of
called the police, I told him
that I was a policeman looking
for you. That way you don't get into
trouble.

CHARLIE

What is happening to me? Did I take
too much of a knock on my head or
have I finally gone crazy

CHUCK

All I can tell you is that you are
not crazy and apart form the bump on your
head, you are fine

CHARLIE

(shouting)

SO WHAT AM I DOING HERE! WHY DO I
LOOK LIKE THIS!

CHUCK

I can't tell you that, I am here
to help you realize what happened
but I cannot give you the answers.
I can only help you find them in
your own mind.

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They get off the bench and start to walk out of the park.

CHARLIE

Can you at least tell me what happened to Sue?

CHUCK

That you can see for yourself

As they walk out of the park, CHUCK points towards a large billboard in front of them. There is SUE. She is as beautiful as she was in the morning. She holds a bottle of perfume. CHARLIE just stares at the billboard

CHUCK

She is a model now, quite a famous one, she has just got her first number 1 single. Last year she won an Oscar. At the moment she is one red hot celeb.

CHARLIE

(confused) But this morning she was my wife

CHUCK

What you have to do is forget all that. That life was a different person, a different person from what you are now. Until you accept that, you will never see the truth.

CHARLIE

I've gone mad

CHUCK

Try and think back to when you were a kid, think back to when you turned 12.

CHARLIE

(shouting)

NO! I will not go back to that

CHUCK

Go back to what Charlie. If I remember right, you had a perfect childhood, wonderful parents. So what is so wrong about when you were 12?

CHARLIE

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(shocked)

I have no idea, just thinking about
that age upsets me, but I have no
clue why?

CHUCK

Let me take you somewhere to remember

EXT GRAVEYARD

CHUCK walks before CHARLIE. He stops before two head stones.
CHARLIE catches up with him and you see the look of shock on his
face.

CHUCK

Can you remember now?

CHARLIE

(crying)

No, no, no, no.

CHARLIE runs out of the graveyard.

INT CHARLIE'S WORK -GROUND FLOOR - NIGHT

CHARLIE runs into the office ground floor. He has not stopped
running since the graveyard. He falls to the floor out of breath.
Waiting there is CHUCK

CHUCK

Took your time

CHARLIE does not say a word; he is still trying to catch his
breath.

CHUCK

When are you going to face the truth?
When are you going to face what
actually happened?

CHARLIE

I won't go there again.

CHUCK

Can't you see what you have done?

CHARLIE

I won't go there again

CHUCK

You have to face up to what happened
to your parents

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CHARLIE
I won't go there again!

CHUCK
(shouting)
TELL ME THE TRUTH!!!!

CHARLIE stares at the floor, he knows what happened.

CHUCK
Look at me Charlie.

As CHARLIE looks up he sees what he used to look like before he went into the lift.

CHARLIE
Who are you?

CHUCK
I'm you! You created me to help
you realize what is happening

CHARLIE
I created you?

CHUCK
Can you just tell me why you are here?

CHARLIE
I had such a happy life, my
parents where great.

CHUCK
So tell me what happened when
you where 12?

CHARLIE
They went to see a dance show,
just a small production, my mother
was a dancer

CHARLIE picks himself off the floor and walks around.

CHARLIE (cont)
Off they went to the show and I never
saw them again.

CHUCK
What happened to them?

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CHARLIE

They died in a car crash on the way back home. For me they were still at that dance show. I ran out of the house and never went back. I came here, to my Dads office to see if he was here. As I came in I knew the truth. I knew that they were dead.

CHUCK

Now concentrate and tell me what happened next

CHARLIE

I wished them back, I willed them back

CHUCK

But you did more than that

CHARLIE

Yes I changed my life, my looks, I created my own little universe.

CHUCK

And now you are back here? Why?

CHARLIE

I don't know?

CHUCK

As you got older you knew that the life you had was false. Deep down you knew. You had a special power to create different universes but your true life is here and now.

CHARLIE rubs his eyes and starts to cry

CHUCK

You have two choices Charlie? You can enter that lift and become the perfect Charlie. Beautiful wife, perfect life.

CHARLIE

Or?

CHUCK

You stay in the real world, the world you did not create. Deal with things normal people have to deal with everyday.

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CHARLIE

If I stay here, can I change my
mind later on?

CHUCK

I won't let you!

CHARLIE

But we are the same person.

CHUCK

Yes but deep down you know you
can't keep living a false life.
The choice is yours Charlie.

CHARLIE looks into the lift and then looks for CHUCK, who is no
where to be found. He looks at the lift again and the button goes
red, the lift doors are about to close.

FADE OUT: