



We Are All Pretty Bizarre: Ramblings About the Movies

Dedication:

*I haven't been to the movies since I watched the last
Harry Potter movie. This one is for me, and for you.*

Come watch some movies with me.

Praise for *We Are All Pretty Bizarre*

If you've ever found yourself addicted to BuzzFeed movie reaction posts, but yearned for more depth, Shiksha Dheda's *We Are All Pretty Bizarre* is the book for you.

This chapbook took me from laughing out loud to feeling my heart wrench within the span of just a few pages, as Dheda applies her wry observations and unique perspective on mental health to movies from a variety of genres and time periods.

You'll ask the hard questions you never thought you'd ask about *Clueless*, contemplate loneliness through the lens of *The Truman Show*, and much more...and you'll certainly never look at Winnie-the-Pooh the same way again!

- Stephanie Parent (author of *Every Poem a Potion, Every Song a Spell*, Querencia Press)

We go to the movies to be surprised, to be haunted, to laugh until our insides hurt—maybe to cry a bit too. In this chapbook, Shiksha Dheda gives us all of this while reflecting on Robin Williams's range, the feminism of *Legally Blonde*, and even mental health diagnoses for Pooh & his gang. We head into a dark theater to forget about our troubles, and we can do the same through Shiksha's wonderful poems.

- Victoria Buitron (author of *A Body Across Two Hemispheres*, Woodhall Press)

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We are all pretty bizarre
(poem using only popular movie lines)

You had me at hello.

Dude, where's my car?

Roads? Where we're going, we don't need roads.

Say hello to my little friend.

Frankly, my dear, I don't give a damn.

Hakuna Matata

Every man dies but not every man really lives.

Constantly talking isn't necessarily communicating.

Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it.

Let it go.

As you wish.

I want to play a game.

To infinity and beyond.

I'm the King of the world.

May the force be with you.

Carpe Diem.

Houston, we have a problem.

You're talking to me?

You can't handle the truth.

You ain't heard nothing yet.

You shall not pass!

You're gonna need a bigger boat.

Life was like a box of chocolates.

You sit on a throne of lies.

Why so serious?

Look at me. I am the captain now.

Are you not entertained?

Meet me in Montauk.

Shaken, not stirred.

I am not bad. I am just drawn that way.

Love means never having to say you're sorry.

You complete me.

I wish I knew how to quit you.

I have always depended on the kindness of strangers.

My precious.

If you're a bird, I'm a bird.

I'm also just a girl, standing in front of a boy, asking him to love her.

There's no place like home.

Here's looking at you, kid.

What Toy Story teaches us

1. That friendship is the most important relationship
2. That Tom Hanks makes a great Woody
3. That sometimes we need our friends to show us reality, even though we genuinely believe that we are space rangers
4. That letting go of our past (the good and the bad of it) is necessary for us to move on and go to college
5. That pizza planet is awesome; I wish I could go there right now
6. That sometimes the weird neighbour really *is* weird and you may have to give them PTSD by traumatising them with a bunch of toys so that they'll stop being harmful to sentient toys
7. That friendship is the most important relationship until that one chick that you briefly had a relationship with four movies ago, re-enters your life and she is totally badass now so you gotta tell your homeboys that you can't hang with them anymore
8. That toys have feelings too; feeding into the never-ending hell of capitalism that we all live through daily

List of reasons why Jake Dawson was not a real person, but a coping mechanism that 17-year-old Rose created to basically deal with the fact that her mother was basically pimping her out to 30-year-old Cal

1. Most obvious one: There is LITERALLY NO record of any person called Jake Dawson that boarded the Titanic
2. He has no surviving family members to convey the tragedy of his death to (they all conveniently died in some fire apparently)
3. There is no evidence of a body, because Rose (once again, conveniently) threw him into the ocean (that was colder than her heart) after distinctly saying “I will never let go”
4. She literally says “He exists now only in my memory”
5. If you’re thinking, but wait “what about that famous steamy car scene?” Well maybe she was just having an intense self-love session, that happens sometimes ya know? We all need to jack (excuse the pun) off so intensely in a vintage car that the steam produced could warm up a cup of tea
6. More annoying than the fact that THERE WAS SPACE ON THE DOOR is the fact that cold hearted, unfeeling, basically supervillain Rose THREW that ginormous diamond necklace into the freaking ocean even though
 - a) Cal literally shot himself because he was bankrupt and that was technically his investment, she could’ve given it back or more importantly
 - b) she has children and grandchildren, does she want them to all succumb to student loans?

What I learned from watching Legally Blonde

1. That sorority sisters can be supportive
2. That getting into Harvard Law School isn't that tough (what, like it's hard?)
3. That Chihuahuas can be kind of cute (if you like rats, I suppose)
4. That some boyfriends are really awful and will discredit your abilities as far as is possible
5. That some lecturers are really awful (and predatory, which we knew already)
6. That everyone except that Wilson brother is awful
7. That Jennifer Coolidge is a national treasure
8. That Reese Witherspoon is so tiny and yet she is still about a centimetre taller than what I am
9. That those exercise videos actually do help you lose weight (who knew?)
10. That Chutney is a legitimate name for an heiress (who would've thought?)
11. That you can't wash your hair after a perm (I seriously did not know this)
12. That feminism can look pretty in bright pink and blonde hair and most people won't acknowledge it because it doesn't fit the patriarchal narrative of what feminism should look like. Feminism can be feminine, and it can carry a small rat dog in a bright pink bag and still manage to shatter the glass ceiling

Se7en

CW: mental illness, suicide

1. Lust, gluttony, greed, sloth, wrath, envy and pride
- the deadly sins
2. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday
3. Years of bad luck when a mirror is shattered
4. Number of nuptial rounds taken in a Hindu wedding
- seven vows; seven lifetimes
5. The number of items that can be stored in our short-term memory
6. The rumored number of consecutive sneezes required to reach orgasm
7. The number of Harry Potter books written.

Remember how he had to die in that last one
- to kill his past?
To finally move on?

Will I have to kill myself seven times before I can find peace?

1. Shoot myself
/the me that never felt deserving of love
2. Drown myself
/the me that thinks my mental illness is punishment for my existence
3. Strangle myself
/the me that believes that true happiness can only be acquired through suffering;
the right to be happy must somehow be earned
4. Burn myself
/the me looking for acceptance and validation
5. Cut myself
/the me that thinks self-care equals selfishness
6. Starve myself
/the me that doesn't mind toxicity
7. Poison myself
/the me that can't forgive me

Every time I watch the Star Wars sequel trilogy (particularly episode nine), I get pissed off

I mean basically whatever happened in the ninth episode, literally erases all the buildup or significance of what Vader/Anakin accomplished.

He was the chosen one

- the one that literally threw Palpatine out of power (and supposedly, life).

Then, oh no, we find out that somehow not only has Palpatine (or a clone, as the conspiracy theorists say) survived and continues to wreak havoc and yield immense prowess, someone literally decided to reproduce with him.

What was it?

Was it that knowing, creepy smirk he throws toward Anakin before he tells the tragic tale of Darth Plagueis the Wise?

(A Sith legend, not really something the Jedi would tell you).

Or was it that amazing 360 degree mid-air twirl when in combat with Yoda?

(I gotta admit, dude had some moves in the sixth episode).

Anyhow, I digress.

Whenever I watch the ninth Star Wars episode, which admittedly is not often, I wonder if that is how life (and history) plays out.

Do we live our lives thinking that whatever we create is substantial?

And will stand the test of time?

That people will remember us and value our contributions?

Or eventually, will everything that we've invested in, good or bad, consequential or not so much, cease to exist along with this? Along with us?

Will the waves of time, in this vast, endless ocean of existence, erase our temporary footprints?

These are the thoughts that wander around in my psyche whenever I watch the ninth Star Wars episode. That, and the fact that Palpatine got laid.

Thoughts I had while watching One Hour Photo

1. This looks like a sad movie with a sad little man
2. Is that Robin Williams?
3. Nah, probably not.
4. Most definitely not.
5. Oh, this is a very sad little man.
6. He lives alone; I don't think he has any friends.
7. Oh no, IT IS ROBIN WILLIAMS.
8. I do not have the energy or internet to google if this is indeed Robin Williams.
9. Let's just pretend that it is.
10. That's great, though – now I know that it'll be a family-friendly, goofy movie.
11. Okay, no wait.
12. This obsession does not seem goofy or healthy.
13. What is this?
14. Why does Sy have photographs of a random family?
15. Oh no, the sad little man lost his job because he spaced out and takes 90-minute lunch breaks (uhm, okay capitalism)
16. So, now we have a sad little man that has all day to become more obsessive because he is now unemployed. Totally cool!
17. Oh gosh no, why is he taking these lewd photographs
18. I kind of want him to get caught so that he can get some help.
19. Oh no, the ending (and implied reasoning) is heartbreaking.
20. What the hell did I just watch?
21. Gonna go watch Mrs.Doubtfire.
22. Skip this movie – LISTEN TO ME

As promised, my thoughts on Mrs. Doubtfire

1. Okay, I literally just said that I needed to watch this movie to recover from One Hour Photo, and there is literally this chaotic family life, a retrenchment and a divorce in the first 30 minutes.
2. Talk about a bumner – only Lion King tops this one
3. Also, that Mrs. Doubtfire voice is so brilliant! Robin Williams is a great voice actor
4. I wonder if Daniel chooses to be an older British nanny for any other reason except that he would not be a very attractive younger woman?
5. Also, if he maintained an American accent, would that be too similar to his normal voice? Is that why he chose the Doubtfire alternative?
6. I wonder if Miranda being willing to trust Mrs. Doubtfire more than Daniel with being a responsible father has anything to do with the fact that she feels disappointed with him as a spouse AND a co-parent, not just the latter?
7. Also, James Bond makes a cameo here.
8. For what it's worth, Pierce Brosnan is my second favorite James Bond – after Daniel Craig (come at me, bro).
9. I adore the fact that the movie ends with the couple NOT reconciling, despite both people learning and growing as individuals. They can be co-parents and perhaps even friends, but do not need to resume a romantic relationship.
10. In retrospect, I do wonder if making Daniel portray a female persona to illustrate his better qualities – juxtaposed to his stereotypical (used here, because the 90s/early 2000s, not as a reflection of my own views), male inadequacies/incapability at child-rearing and home-keeping, is done only for comic effect? Is there a larger societal reflection here or was it just 'Let's us see Rob in old lady panties'?

All the faces are you or Self Portrait as Truman

I hear your laugh

- amidst the roaring crowds,
- beyond her fake smile,

she doesn't smile like you.

Her advertisement Colgate smile,

her perfectly made-up face,

the way she looks directly into the camera

and laughs

- at me.

The way she holds me

- strategically,

almost mechanical,

almost as though I were her

colleague.

None of it makes sense.

Yet, all of it makes sense

- how dad died at sea all those years ago
- how I've had the same best friend since I was born
- how my phobia of leaving the island has kept me here

trapped,

with her.

I feel like I'm losing my mind.

I thought a beggar on the street was my dead dad.

I thought I saw some cameras in an elevator.

I thought I could leave this darn place.

I thought I could fabricate you from smaller pieces of other women

- almost as though piecing a portrait together could
allow me to piece you back into my life –

like that day at the beach,

like that day I thought I could love someone;

the day I thought I could be loved.

Truly.

You're a virgin that can't drive

but that is not the strange part here, because
even the 40-year-old virgin couldn't drive.

The weird part here is literally almost everything else.

How does Cher get teachers to change her marks?

Also, if she is so wealthy, why does she go to the
same school as Tai, who is supposed to be poor?

Why is she even allowed to drive? She could literally kill someone.

What does she want to study at college?

Why is Josh attracted to her when she is 15-years old?

Why is her dad okay with Josh being attracted to her?

Why is she okay with Josh being attracted to her?

Why is Josh?

I'm truly clueless

about these glaringly

worrying questions

raised by this movie.

“Norman Bates no longer exists. He only half-existed to begin with. And now, the other half has taken over. Probably for all of time”.

a son

poor substitute

boy

a mother

best friend

lover

Thoughts I have while watching The Conjuring

1. Oh, we're starting with the creepy doll. Why?
2. To be honest, those college students were pretty kind to keep Annabelle in their home.
3. And that was how she repaid them? Argh, demon dolls!
4. Anyhow, what a lovely large, secluded house – the perfect place for a haunting.
5. They have 5 daughters and a dog? How do they afford food and this mansion?
6. Oh wait, that's probably why this house is affordable.
7. The dog doesn't want to enter the house – oh that's always a good indicator of haunted things
8. LEAVE IMMEDIATELY
9. Let's play hide-and-clap? Oh, you think that's a great idea? Even in a non-haunted house, that is not a good game to play.
10. Oh, the dog is literally dead the freaking next day??
11. LEAVE IMMEDIATELY
12. I am no longer emotionally invested in this movie; Sadie is dead and so are my hopes and dreams. This entire family of 7 can die, I do not care anymore.
13. Cindy sleepwalks AND bangs her head repeatedly into a wall? Uhm, okay, maybe they need a therapist and not a demonologist.
14. So far, despite the creepy ambience there are no jump scares.
15. And, there it is!
16. Dumb old woman sitting on top of the dumb old cupboard.
17. Gosh, she is hideous.
18. Oh, so now the paranormal forces are not hiding anymore; they're openly attacking the family?
19. Cool, cool.
20. Sounds like a job for the WARRENS.
21. According to psychic Lorraine, the forces have now latched on to the family and leaving the residence won't help much!
22. Overly attached forces, much.
23. Forces will literally attach to a poor family for decades rather than go to therapy
24. Okay, so there was a Satan worshipper that sacrificed her baby and then hung herself? Totally dramatic even for those medieval times to be honest.
25. Ewww, did Bathsheba just spit blood into that woman's mouth?!

26. This is the worst part of the movie, actually (except for the dog dying).
27. I'm guessing this means that the mother is now possessed.
28. So, wait, can spirits transfer bodily fluids like blood and er, sperm etc?
29. So, can a spirit impregnate a human? Or vice versa?
30. Is this a conundrum that Stephanie Meyer needs to solve for us?
31. So, when Edward sits on people's cupboards and bites them, it's romance, but when an old lady does it, it's horror? Oh okay, patriarchy much!
32. So anyhow, after weird happenings like seeing the ghosts of other possessed souls-
33. Wait, wait is that a thing? Can a soul be possessed?
34. Like in this instance, Bathsheba convinced people to kill themselves (and other people: mostly their own children). So, does she still control their souls after they die?
35. Is there a hierarchy of souls?
36. Oh no, this is a new form of anxiety now. What if I get bullied after I die? Great!
37. So, after a series of strange occurrences, demonologists Ed and Lorraine Warren manage to save this unfortunate family and rid them of these paranormal forces.
38. The strange part for me, though, was how Bathsheba could communicate with Annabelle who was in a completely different suburb, using only the network/technology of twin necklaces.
39. How cool is that? Is it the metals that were used? Do demons and ghosts have Wi-Fi? Do they use cellphones? Do they watch porn? So many questions.

Contrapuntal for Mulan (1992 versus 2020)

This time she will try
for more than her country
and family

to do what is right

for her, too

A fighter
An underdog
The righteous daughter

A superhero
The undisputed chosen one
an unforgiving warrior

A mythical companion
A love interest

an unexplained power
a confidant

An unexpected symbol of hope

a missed opportunity

Let your darlings live

CW: mental illness, murder, violence

***Pooh**

- Edward 'Winnie-the-Pooh' Bear,
 - goes by the name Pooh,wears a red crop shirt,
speaks with a mellow English accent,

currently housed in the mental facility for the criminally ill
 - Hundred Acre Wood.Almost always found with a jar of Honey
 - even in the shower and/or toilet.

Appears calm, even-tempered,
recites poems or
hums gently

“hu, dee dum dee doo
dum dum dum doo dee dum dee”

Diagnosis:

Eating disorder

- unnatural and obsessive attachment to honey.

“Oh bother, Honey.
Honey. Honey”

Edward's wife

- brutally murdered,

affectionately called him “Honey”
“my Pooh Bear”.

He killed every single one of those murderers

- shards of glass from honey jars

scattered everywhere.

He surrendered

- releasing all the bees from their apiary.

***Piglet**

- A small timid pig,
wears a pink jumpsuit
- black-striped –
thinly placed eyebrows,
mildly floppy pink ears and
a rose-colored snout.

Housed in a tree-shaped cell,
a sign there:
'Trespassers Will'.

- He cannot complete the task.
Alone.

Has a fondness for acorns,
helping his cell mates and
listening.

Easily frightened,
polite,
gentle

- loyal.

Diagnosis:

Anxiety.

Stutters often,

- constantly being bullied
in the orphanage,
never being adopted
- stunted growth.

***Owl**

- An elderly owl,
he cannot recall his
real name.

Simon,
John.
Or Thomas,
maybe.

Dyslexic

- could not acquire a
formal qualification,

knowledge stems from
practical work.

Diagnosis:

Dyslexia

- writes name as Wol

Short-Term Memory Loss

- says something,
forgets saying them
immediately.

*These characters have been chosen to assist Christopher Robin – a schizophrenic

He has recently been brought to the facility,
refuses to acknowledge the presence of any of the staff members.

When spoken to, he completely ignores what is said to him. The intriguing part is that he does not consciously do this; he genuinely cannot reconcile with their presence/existence. This is probably one of the worst cases of schizophrenia that we have received (we are not even completely certain that we are dealing with a schizophrenic; the diagnosis may be incorrect at this point); Robin has completely lost touch with reality and seemingly only talks of his friends.

As his speech is rather muddled, all the names or places could not be accurately deciphered. We did pick up on 'Pooh', 'Piglet' and 'Owl' though.

Acknowledgements

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