

Analysis Of The Film Marty

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Introduction

The story of a middle-aged school teacher and a butcher who apparently have given up on love meet on the dance floor and fall for each other. Marty is 34 years old and never believed he would have a love of his own because even his siblings had married before him. Claire, being not so beautiful, had low self-esteem and never expected to be loved by any man. In spite of the pressure Marty experiences from friends and family to abandon Claire, he holds on tight to their love and gets angry with everyone. The film ends in a mood that suggests a happy ending for the two.

Questions

1. What stages of relationship development do you witness between Marty and Claire? Do they follow the stages appropriately? Why? What types of conflict management styles are present in the film? Justify your observations.

The stipulated stages of a relationship are seeking a partner then grasping the opportunity and ones starts dating thereafter getting married, going for honeymoon, living a happy life, afterward, trouble gets in paradise and there is reconciliation. But the case of Marty a call for adventure happens all at once. He meets a mentor who soon becomes a lover. A great deal of interpersonal relationship is witnessed in the film Marty with that the movie is a love story produced in the fifties. The protagonist, Marty, after bowing to pressure from family and friends, decides to go to a club and meets a lady called Claire. Marty also underwent some of the stages, like coming together.

In a relationship, coming together is simply a stage that begins with initiation. This is a stage whereby the participants meet for the first time and interact with each other. In the drama Marty, we note that this stage has been emulated since Marty and Clara meet in the Stardust ballroom on a Saturday night. They interact and spend time together, dancing and walking in the streets. In this stage, participants tend to be shy, and they reduce their uncertainty. They also employ small talk and short conversations, which is one of the predominant communication forms. During this stage, participants introduce and refer to themselves as being friends, which is termed a 'friendship audition.' (Library of Congress, n.d.)

The next stage is the integration stage, whereby the participants arrange how they can meet and be close to each other. This is the stage whereby the visibility of the relationship comes forth. During this stage, there is a lot of communication between the participants, and hence, they cannot manage to stay without having a glance at each other. This is seen in the Marty drama, whereby Marty invites Clara to their home, and they spend time together. At this stage, the participants go through the bonding session where they introduce their couples to their relatives and propose or arrange for a formal engagement. Marty introduces Clara to her relatives and tells them that she is the lady with whom she has fallen in love and will, therefore, be marrying her.

Coming apart is the last relationship development that happened to Marty. This stage mainly involves differentiation whereby the two companions realize their differences and become ill with each other. This stage results in reduced communication and regular visits that were seen in the second stage. Marty falls into peer pressure from Angie and his friends, who refer to Clara as being a 'dog.' Angie and his friends intimidate Marty into going out on a date, and this demoralizes Marty to the extent she gives in easily and decides not to call or welcome Clara to his place. During this stage also the companions will still maintain some limited communications and interactions. We see Marty escape to the phone booth and call Clara despite the fact that they do not converse. He tells his friends that the more they get close to each other he will propose to Clara.

Marty is characterized by decency and quite a social quire relation. Claire is in a similar situation with Marty, and they are both relieved to meet one another. For the first time, both Claire and Marty feel compassion and an air of companionship after their interaction and experiences. There comes some disapproval from Marty's bachelor friend and his mother on Claire, and this extremely angers Marty. He becomes really mad at everyone and decides to go for his heart desires. Marty just says he has good things going and tries not to mess them up. Despite the movie ending in suspense, we believe that there would be more going on in Claire and Marty's life. And they would continue dating and then end up marrying each other. (Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, n.d.)

I observed that since Claire and Marty were in solitude for a long, not so exposed to love affairs, and they never had a high amount of self-confidence, they grew to have a passionate relationship with each other. The stages of the relationship do not flow in the film quite well because love is the anchor of their esteem and confidence; thus, there is some bit of empathy witnessed.

2. What do you perceive Marty's self-concept to be, and which of the origins of self-concept do you think contributed to this? Why?

Marty sees himself as unworthy and feels out of place in the society. Being 34 years of low self-esteem, he decided to deem himself a bachelor. Not until he meets with Claire his life was guided by what friends and family say about him. Marty's self-concept came out of what people, especially friends and family, said about him, the social comparisons, and his own observations. His siblings are all married, but he is not, and this was never auguring well with the American culture in the 1950s

because they were supposed to marry in their youth, but that was not the case with Marty. The culture of marrying when young put Marty rendered Marty a laughing stock because he had not married, but his siblings even had children.

Marty viewed himself as lacking personality because all he was expected of him was never evident. He felt more of an outcast. The pressure to be part of the normal community led Marty to pour out his heart to Claire in the bid to date her. Fortunately enough, they were birds of the same feathers, so everything worked out perfectly.

Self-disclosure is among the self-interpersonal concept that Marty employed in the movie. Self-disclosure involves reciprocation, which aids in fostering trust, hence bringing people together. Disclosing your personal information to your companion helps her understand you more. Personal information is always sensitive and critical; hence, if revealed, it aids one in gaining trust, hence bringing the companions together. When Marty first met with Clara, Marty disclosed himself and all his identities to Clara, thus helping her to know him more hence gaining his trust.

3. How does culture play a role in this film? Which of the cultural dimension differences are most influential, and how do they have an impact on his life?

There was the discriminatory culture that love was meant for the beautiful women and the handsome men only and that explained why Marty and Clara had not found one of their own. The lack of self-confidence directly contributed to that culture. It is absurd that even after finding a woman for himself, Marty is still being mocked by his friends that the woman he had was never good enough, but he stands still because he finds something he never saw in the others and feels that Claire is part and parcel of him. The film tends to explain all the reasons for marriage, that is, it is not only for beauty but for more. The drama clearly shows that compatibility and love make one happier than just having a beautiful partner. Other than that, the love affair portrays that despite partners being ordinary people, a relationship entails a lot of complexities. I believe the culture and theory of attraction link Marty and Claire to courting.

4. What types of listening do you see portrayed in the movie? How are these displayed?

Different types of listening are portrayed in the movie, as every individual tends to give a listening ear to what pleases their soul. In many instances, Marty gives an ear to the external opinions, and they tell him it drains him down. Angie and Marty's mother discourage him from courting Claire, but Marty listens to his heart and knows that what he feels is love, and the chemistry between them can be compared to nothing. Earlier in the movie, Marty listens to what society dictates a lot, and that affects his social life a great deal. He finds himself withdrawn and lonely just because the people do not take

him as worthy. Marty overcame all the temptations in order to be happy for instance when his friends holler from a car and offer him a company of a super fine girl but he ignores also, earlier in the film he did not listen to Tommy who advised him to buy the butcher shop. Happiness is attained by listening to one's conscience and doing the thing that is morally right, which is very evident in the movie. (Encyclopaedia Britannica, n.d.)

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