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Life After Beth

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Life After Beth

Abstract

This is a film review of *Life After Beth* (2014), directed by Jeff Baena.

Author Notes

William Blizek is the Founding Editor of the Journal of Religion and Film, and is Professor of Philosophy and Religion at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. He is also the editor of the Continuum Companion to Religion and Film (2009).

Life after Beth
(2014)
Directed by Jeff Baena
U.S. Dramatic

We saw this movie because of the title's parallel with "life after death." And it is about life after death—Beth's death. Beth is a young woman who goes for a hike,



is bitten by a snake, and dies. As everyone is grieving, Beth returns to life and her boyfriend Zach promises to do all the things he hadn't done the first time they were a couple. In most movies about life after death, the focus of the movie is not on the next life, but rather upon how we should have lived before we died. This movie follows that pattern.

Shortly after Zach begins to do what he should have done the first time, we discover that Beth's return is not exactly what Zach imagines it to be. Beth has returned, but now as a zombie. From this point on the movie is a camp film about living with a zombie and as with all zombie movies, the message is that there is no resurrection. The zombies tell us not that life goes on, but rather that there is no life after death, except for the life of the zombie.

— William L. Blizek