January 2021

Misery Loves Company

William L. Blizek
University of Nebraska at Omaha, wblizek@unomaha.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.unomaha.edu/jrf

Recommended Citation
Available at: https://digitalcommons.unomaha.edu/jrf/vol25/iss1/22

This Sundance Film Festival Review is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@UNO. It has been accepted for inclusion in Journal of Religion & Film by an authorized editor of DigitalCommons@UNO. For more information, please contact
unodigitalcommons@unomaha.edu.
Misery Loves Company

Abstract
This is a review of the short film, *Misery Loves Company* (2020), directed by Sasha Lee.

Creative Commons License
This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 License.

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

This sundance film festival review is available in Journal of Religion & Film: https://digitalcommons.unomaha.edu/jrf/vol25/iss1/22
Misery Loves Company (2020), dir. Sasha Lee

This quirky animated short film has a very dark side. Three odd characters, presumably teenagers, are laying on their backs looking up at the sky when they see a shooting star. But they claim that shooting stars don’t really look dramatic in real life. One of the characters then describes a life of watching Youtube, being uncool, losing your friends, and getting Sprite from the vending machine when he’d pushed the button for Coke (a petty frustration). The character decides that instead of living like this he would like a giant meteorite to fall. Killing himself is too scary, but “for you and me together” I would like a meteorite to fall. Misery loves company.

The film is a critique of how teens experience modern life. “I will rot slowly, watching Youtube at home.” But they do not want to be alone, so they want others to join in their misery. And others to join them in death—escape from the life they live. But the movie also tells us that there is so much more to life than what the characters experience. It is not life they want to escape. Instead, it is the life they are living they want to escape. But all you have to do is consider the opposites of what the teens experience to find the many other possibilities for living.