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## Misery Loves Company

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## Misery Loves Company

### Abstract

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

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### 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).



**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.