



February 2021

Every Day's Like This

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Recommended Citation

Lyden, John C. (2021) "Every Day's Like This," *Journal of Religion & Film*: Vol. 25 : Iss. 1 , Article 43.
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.unomaha.edu/jrf/vol25/iss1/43>

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Abstract

This is a review of the short film, *Every Day's Like This* (2021), directed by Lev Lewis.

Keywords

Medically Assisted Suicide

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Author Notes

John Lyden is Professor of Religious Studies and the Blizek Professor of Religion and Film at University of Nebraska-Omaha. He was been the Editor of the *Journal of Religion & Film* since 2011. He is the author of *Film as Religion: Myths, Morals, and Rituals* (NYU Press), and the editor of the *Routledge Companion to Religion and Film* and co-editor (with Eric Michael Mazur) of the *Routledge Companion to Religion and Popular Culture*. He also co-edited, with Ken Derry, *The Myth Awakens: Canon Conservatism, and Fan Reception of Star Wars* (Wipf and Stock 2018).



Every Day's Like This (2021), dir. Lev Lewis

This short film captures an average day in the lives of a family taking care of a dying relative. Although it is never said explicitly, they have scheduled a day for her medically assisted suicide, and they discuss the choice of the date almost clinically. The adult daughter fusses over getting her mother the sardines that she likes, cutting up fruit for her, reading to her. Family members come and go, submerging their grief in the daily tasks of balancing their lives with caretaking.

All of this feels very authentic as an experience of a family facing death. This is not a family without pain, but they do not need to discuss it all the time. The adult son cries quietly by himself in his room. It may be too painful to share a grief that is not yet complete. The loss is real, but sometimes we need to deal with death from some distance. We all deal with death in different ways, and our society does not always face it very well, but this family is working together at the task at hand. Love is present, albeit veiled.