

Something in the Way She Walks

Synopsis

Mike Newham is on his deathbed. A man of some prominence, he is surrounded by friends and family. They all hate him and he knows it.

His business partner, Jason Howe, confesses to an affair, thirty years previously, with Mike's ex-wife, Kate.

His children make clear his inadequacies as a father.

His friends and employees use his infirmity to lord it over him.

Stella Craven arrives. She is an old friend of Mike's ex-wife.

Stella, a hippy flake in Mike's eyes, says that Kate won't be coming to see him. She then draws a pattern on Mike's arm, a tattoo. He is transported thirty years back in time, into the body of his ex-wife.

MIKE/KATE washes off the tattoo and Mike is back on his deathbed with Stella looking down on him. Stella reveals that she is time-travelling too, back into her own body. She knows that Mike will certainly die in two days time. She knows the time down to the minute. This is enough to persuade Mike to go back in time again (at least it's something to do), but why not send him back into his own body? Stella makes the rules and declines to explain them. She marks Mike's arm with the pattern.

Back in the 1970's, MIKE/KATE discovers just how badly he treated his wife. MIKE/KATE washes the tattoo off and Mike returns to his deathbed declaring that he deserves to die. Stella asks what Kate deserves - can't he use this chance to improve her life?

Mike agrees to go back, without enthusiasm.

MIKE/KATE learns to live in a woman's body and begins to understand his wife. HE/SHE gently works to effect change in Mike's younger self and it seems that HE/SHE may be able to change Kate's life - and their marriage - for the better.

Then everything falls apart and the tattoo is accidentally washed off, transporting Mike back to his deathbed.

But back on that deathbed, things are far better. Everybody loves Mike! However, Kate is still not there: she is still his ex and Stella re-affirms that her life is, and has been, unhappy.

Mike begs to go back, but he only has one hour left before he dies. Stella is doubtful, maybe Mike should be grateful for how his life has already improved. Mike begs - and asks that Stella goes back too, to help.

Stella agrees and draws on the pattern, wishing Mike good luck.

MIKE/KATE finds STELLA thirty years back and they come within a whisper of success, when MIKE/KATE pulls them up short. MIKE/KATE realises that, for Kate, a happy life is a life with Jason. STELLA and MIKE/KATE have to hustle to wrap things up so as to achieve this.

Mike returns to his deathbed and Kate is there with his friends and loving family. He has had a life well-lived....and dies.

END