Wicker Park

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Matt isn’t at all thrilled of marrying Rebecca. The man who works there says “In the end, it’s not your eyes that must decide.” And to which Matt replies guess I just have to make the right decision” foreshadowing his true feelings for his girlfriend.

Matt is going on a business trip to China but again, doesn’t seem so happy. We can see that he is distracted by something. He works under Rebecca’s brother but we come to realize he isn’t happy.

We meet a new character, Luke that Matt runs into. We get to know Luke was his old time friend who he has known for a while. Luke asks Matt if he is still doing the job in New York but he denies because he met a girl 2 months ago, hence Rebecca. We see that as Luke talks about his girlfriend but Matt doesn’t seem so serious about it.
Matt is in a restaurant speaking to some business workers before going to his business trip but goes to the bathroom and hears a familiar voice from the telephone room. Looking at Matt’s face, we see that he recognizes the voice to which he runs out the bathroom yelling, “Lisa”.

Matt sees (who we suspect to be) Lisa trip and break one heel from her shoe. It seems as though he recognized the shoes that she was wearing but before he could stop her, his girlfriend got in the way. He was acting a little jumpy around Rebecca so we can get a hint that Matt is hiding something from her.
When Matt first heard Lisa’s voice, he gets a flashback. We are not only introduced to his favorite hobby/work (hence the beginning of the movie) but also this sweet, calming music that is played everytime Lisa is shown throughout the movie. It is as if it portrays his feeling of happiness and love towards her.
We can see Matt’s obsession and love for Lisa when he first laid eyes on her in the camera shop. He follows her to the dance studio. Coming back from the flashback, he finds a hotel key that was left behind by what Matt thinks is Lisa. Rather than going on the China trip, he lies to Rebecca and goes to the hotel, Drake. He only finds things that he thinks belongs to Lisa such as a small powder case. As he keeps searching the room, Matt falls asleep on the bed due to taking sleep pills prior.
We understand towards the middle of the movie that the reason why Lisa and Matthew left was because of Alex sabotaging and twisting their lives. Matthew asks for Lisa to move in with him but she had to rush so she wouldn’t be late to dance class. She tells Matthew to meet up with her at Wicker Park but she does not show up. Matthew thinks she did not want to move in with him and Lisa thinks he was mad because she couldn’t stay however, we come to realize that Alex was the reason for their separation. Another explain is how when the matthew goes to the bathroom because of the scare of the word of marriage, which leads him to hear Lisa’s voice, then that causes matthew try to go after her which he sees Lisa’s shoe break, then he goes back to the phone booth to find the hotel key she left and newspaper.
Overall, Alex manipulates and avoids Matt from finding the real Lisa. She would use any excuse or her acting skills and try to lure him away and to make him love her. The reason for this as we see later on in the film is that her and Lisa used to be friends. Alex fell in love with Matt first but before she could tell Lisa, matt had already fallen in love with Lisa and vice versa.
Matt pieces the clues together that Lisa is actually in the same location as he is. He realizes that Alex wasn’t who he thought she was and that she was all a lie. He had her try on the heels that she claimed were hers but they never fit her. Lisa received the letter that Matt left at the restaurant and called Luke to tell Matthew to meet at Wicker Park. Unfortunately, Matthew doesn’t make it on time because he confronted Alex for being a phony however, appears at the airport before she could leave. Before this, he is interrupted by Rebecca who came to pick up Matthew from his ‘china trip’ thus he broke up with her on the spot. As for Lisa, Alex admits her cruel plan over the phone to her and apologizes. Matthew and Lisa are once again reunited.
4Vs

Voyeuristic: The story was overall believable.

Visceral: The story grabbed our attention and made us anxious to see if Matthew would find the love of his life.

Vicarious: Throughout the story, we began to start caring about the characters and their motives.

Verisimilitude: This movie made it feel like this could of be based on a true story.
REPETITION and Motifs

ALEX BUMPING INTO PEOPLE/MATTHEW

STALKING

COLORS

MUSIC

We constantly hear an reference to Shakespeare throughout the movie, the play that Lisa was reading was Shakespeare and Alex’s play is an Shakespeare play.
it’s ‘ironic’ that she acts about what she is doing in her play as she is doing the same in real life
Lisa’s color is red
ALEX (STEALING LISA’S IDENTITY)
Color Change
Characters

Lisa (Light red/ Orange) Matt (Blue)

Alex (Red)

Luke (Black)
Matthew:

Before Lisa left he enjoyed photography but after she left, he now works under Rebecca’s brother as a businessman. We are introduced to him as someone depressed and heart broken from the look on his face. He isn’t in love with Rebecca and doesn’t want to marry her. He is still madly in love with Lisa.
Luke

Matthew’s old friend from Chicago before the whole incident between Lisa and Matt. They reunited again in the street and they talk about their lives. Luke is more of an air head and is oblivious about what happens around him. Luke is dating Alex, the aspiring actor who we later known as the one who sabotaged Lisa and Matt’s relationship.
Lisa-

Lisa is also madly in love with Matthew. She is very passionate about dancing and friendly with the people around her especially Alex. She dated Daniel before she met Matthew.
Alex

A love sick girl who fell in love with Matthew before Lisa knew. She sabotages Matthew and Lisa’s relationship just so she can be Matthew’s lover. She of course, goes out of her own way to pretend that Lisa isn’t here and it’s only Matthew’s imagination. She is the one who deletes all of Lisa’s voicemails that were meant for Matthew explaining why she did not meet him at Wicker Park. Alex also was given instructions to give Matthew Lisa’s letter which said she would move in with him because she loved him, but she never gave him the letter. Alex lied to Lisa and told her that Matthew was found in bed with another woman before supposedly giving him the letter.
The title, “Wicker Park” is chosen because the first date was held at wicker park and towards the end the characters resolve around the location of wicker park. The main points of the story usually happens at wicker park. It held the most suspenseful moments. Along with this, the place Wicker Park is was always referred to as “the place”, as an example, “Meet me at our place”. Wicker Park is only said in the movie when Matt is trying to meet up with Lisa at the end of the movie.
Title Name “Wicker Park”

1:43:10-1:44:20 or 1:44:50 if you want 30 seconds of matt sad face
McGuffin

Daniel

He helps lead Matt to Lisa’s Apartment and that he is there to trick the viewers that he might be in the way of Matt and Lisa, but in the end he just backs off and is never seen again.
When does the audience know more than the characters?

It is the next day and Luke and Matt talk about what happened the night before and in this us the viewers knows what happened after luke drops off Alex and we see that alex didn’t go home she went to Lisa’s apartment to meet up with Matt. Also, Rebecca is the most clueless one because she believes that matthew is in China when he was actually in chicago for the whole time.
Throughout the movie, the narrator has been shown in many ways. The narrators throughout the story would be the camera, Matthew, Lisa, Alex, and Luke’s flashbacks. All these narrators were reliable but restrictive in their own way, though the camera and the editing would have to be the most reliable one. The camera was reliable because we as the audience, saw the thoughts of the end of the flashback at the end meaning, it was restrictive till the end of the movie.