

Major Beats - Symbiotic Assisted Suicide

Logline: After a failed suicide attempt, a journalist must stop the symbiotic bullet wound from devouring his brain, all the while it forces him on a rampage through New York.

Hook: Paul attempts to commit suicide with a gun. As he pulls the trigger, he tries to back out and move the gun away from his head. The bullet lodges itself near the top of his brain, injuring him, but not killing him.

Status quo or setup: Paul has just moved to New York City with his girlfriend, Laura. He has a steady-enough job. He and Laura love each other. Yet, Paul is ambivalent to just about everything. He's dissatisfied with life in a way that he doesn't quite understand.

Inciting incident: After the failed suicide attempt, Paul hallucinates Laura telling him to kill himself. Paul has a nervous breakdown, and the two realize it was a hallucination.

Debate: Paul sees a therapist, who chalks up the hallucination to some sort of trauma relating to the failed suicide attempt. After the hallucinations persist, he goes to the doctor and attempts to get it removed, but doctors say that if they attempt to remove it, it could cause permanent damage to his brain.

First act break: Paul is prescribed heavy doses of medication. His ambivalence increases. He doesn't show up to work. He gets fired. He decides to stay home. He becomes a hermit. Laura tries to help but doesn't know what to do.

Set piece: Paul has to pick up medication from a pharmacy. There's a small handful of people, and he hallucinates every single one of them confronting him and saying horrible things. He panics, he screams, and he runs away into the bathroom, leading to the midpoint of the story.

Midpoint: Another man is in the bathroom. He hallucinates him holding a gun to his head. He can physically feel it press against his skin. In self-defense, he kills the man. The hallucination ends, and the gun is nowhere to be seen. Only a dead body.

Second act break: Paul runs through the streets of New York. Everyone taunts and mocks him. He hallucinates that the police are chasing him. Or maybe they are. He can't tell anymore. The world itself turns distorted and angry. He flees to his apartment. He sees Laura, who he hallucinates saying horrible things to him. In a final desperate act, he rips the bullet out of his skull with his bare hands. The hallucinations stop.

End place: The hallucinations have stopped. Unbeknownst to him, the police are real. He leaves his apartment and is immediately shot and killed by police.