

The Box

"All you have to do is push the button"

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On Nov. 6, Darko Entertainment along with Director Richard Kelly released their latest Sci-Fi Thriller, *The Box*, starring Cameron Diaz and James Marsden.

Based on the short story "Button, Button" written by Richard Matheson, *The Box* brought in over 7 million dollars opening weekend.

The film begins with a C.I.A internal memo being typed across the screen. The memo explains that a man named Arlington Steward has recovered from severe burn wounds and is delivering units related to the Mars project.

Set in Richmond, Virginia in 1976, the film then follows with Arthur (James Marsden) and Norma (Cameron Diaz) lying in bed. At 5:45a.m there is a knock at their door. Norma wakes to the noise and heads downstairs to see just who it is. As she looks through the peephole she sees a black car drive away. Not knowing who it was, she opens the door to discover a large package at her feet. The package was left by Arlington Steward, which was noted in the beginning of the film. Norma brings the package inside and she and her husband Arthur proceed to open it.

As anyone would guess, they open the package to find "the box," and a note stating, "Mr. Steward will return at 5 p.m." Once Norma and Arthur examine the box, their questions begin. Who is Mr. Steward? What does this thing do? Why did he drop it off and not stay?

Fast forwarding a bit, Norma finds out that the private school she teaches at has decided to drop her salary and might let her go completely. As this happens to Norma, across town at NASA, Arthur is awaiting the news on whether or not he has been accepted into the astronaut program. He too, gets upsetting

news. Due to his failing scores on the physiological exam, he is denied the mission to Mars.

As their day has been filled with bad news, Norma finally returns home and promptly the infamous guest arrives. Arlington Steward has a faulty appearance due to the accident, which startles Norma. After inviting Steward into the house, Norma is quick to learn just what he has to offer her. "If you push the button, two things will happen. First – someone, somewhere in the world in which you do not know will die. Second – you will be rewarded one million dollars. You have 24 hours to decide."

Once Steward announces his proposal, the film then begins to go out of this world. Someone dies, as Steward explained, people all around the family become "workers" of Steward, and the plot becomes difficult to follow.

At the end of the film, you learn that a lot of national security companies like the C.I.A, NASA, and the F.B.I are all involved in the "experiment" that Steward is conducting. The head of NASA asked Steward when the experiments would be complete, and Steward replied, "When enough people stop pushing the button." Steward, who is working for a higher command (i.e. Aliens) is testing human beings to see if they are worth keeping alive. In other words, this film explains that humans are greedy and would do whatever they need to in order to survive.

Overall, this film was out there. Kelly could have done a lot better of a job portraying his overall concept. But who knows? Maybe Kelly will come back and create a much better Sci-Fi film that will match up to his previous record-breaking film, something better than *The Box*.

