

Dying To Survive: Predicament and Redemption

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[Abstract]The analysis on Dilemma and Redemption in *Dying to Survive*: *Dying to Survive*, which is a success among those domestic films of the type of realistic criticism, has gained double harvest of high box office and really good word of mouth in recent years. It tells a story about Cheng Yong, a middle-aged drug-dealer, changed from profit-seeking to selfless in the process of helping people with chronic myeloid leukemia. The film focuses on the experience of Cheng Yong as a starting point. It depicts the plight of different groups and Cheng Yong's salvation to them in the predicament.

[Key word] *Dying to Survive*; predicament; redemption

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I. INTRODUCTION

The film, which is an adaption from real life, tells a series of moving stories of a main character, Cheng Yong. He is the owner of the drug—dealing shop at the beginning, but then he started to work on helping with common people who are suffering from CML (chronic myelogenous leukemia) by selling Indian generics. The film targeted at the common people directly facing real problems in life, making the film warm and moving with the comedy technique. The whole movie left smile and tear to audiences, which makes them moving and thought-provoking. Taking Cheng Yong's experience as the starting point, the film depicts all kinds of dilemma in real life, and Cheng Yong's redemption to them in the predicament.

Dilemma

From a unique perspective, The film depicted living conditions of common people in a real way and outlined their difficulties in a delicate way, which makes audiences thought-provoking.

(一) Survival dilemma

Survival is human's fundamental and essential needs, but for patients with chronic myeloid leukemia in the film, survival is their most extravagant dream. Chronic myeloid leukemia is a kind of malignant tumor, and it has to rely on long-term medication to sustain life. The price of the authentic specific drug is more than 30,000 yuan a bottle. This price is undoubtedly astronomical for patients who need long-term medication. The high cost of medicine throws many patients on the verge of death, and a strong desire for survival made them unwilling to miss any glimpses of hope. The film focuses on several patients with chronic myeloid leukemia, each of whom has a story of his own.

Sihui is a single mother, and her daughter has chronic myeloid leukemia. The father of the child left when he learned that his child was ill. The burden of raising her daughter and treating her illness weighed on Sihui herself, and she had to take pole-dancing as his job at the nightclub to make a living. She did not give up her daughter and offer to become the owner of a group of ill people while treating her daughter.

When Lu Shouyi suffered from the illness, his wife was pregnant for five months. Longing for seeing the birth of his son makes him reignite his passion of surviving. Lao Liu, a priest who always prayed to comfort his sick friends but he found that his belief was pale and feeble in the front of disease. Huang Mao, a rural poor young guy, chose to no longer contact his families and wait to die after suffering illness. In order to survive, he made a living in the stinking slaughterhouse, for he could not afford drugs, and sometimes he even risked robbing them, but he did not forget to distribute them to the poor who needed them, because he understood the situation of these people. This is a special group, and everyone does everything they can to survive.

The emergence of Indian generic drugs has undoubtedly become their life-saving straw relative to the authentic version of the drug, and Lu, who first met Cheng Yong, made it clear that he was in a position to "wait for drugs to save his life." When the healing team's drug-selling business comes to effect, everyone is overflowed with joy, because what they see is not only economic income, but hope of survival.

Lu looked at his son and he even imagined becoming a grandfather in a few years, and his inarticulate

wife filled a glass of wine to express his gratitude to Cheng Yong. Later, Zhang Changlin, a drug dealer, was arrested, and Lu, who was terminally ill because of the drug break, chose to commit suicide under the dual pressure of suffering from illness and dragging down his wife and children. His reluctance to his wife and children and his desire for life were once vulnerable to the disease. These characters are vivid, and their pain and hardship really existed, and the most touching thing about the film is that it touches the softest part in our hearts-birth, senility, sickness and death. Life is so fragile, survival becomes so difficult when disease comes.

(二) Ethical dilemma

Cheng yong, the film's protagonist, had hoped to make money by selling Indian generic drugs to solve his urgent dilemma: the business of running a drug store was not working out well, so his wife divorced him and had to take their only son abroad. What's worse, Cheng Yong's father was ill in hospital and in need of surgery. He knew he would go to jail for selling drugs, but the pressure of life forced him to take risks.

When the team worked on the business of selling medicine gradually on the right track, economic income has made chengyongoverproud of his success, he forgot that his main intention is to make money, but regarded all he did is to help those patients, even felt at ease to accept the banner "benevolent heart and magic hands helping all living beings" from patients. When he conflicted with a drug dealer, zhangchanglin at the police station, he was told that he would be sentenced to about ten years in prison for selling fake drugs. Zhang changlin forced him to give up authority in an dishonest way, The poor living condition that he had to take care of the old and his son made him timid, so he choose to collect a large sum of money given by Zhang Changlin and gave up the authority of Indian fake medicine. What's more, he also cut off with once partners, Cheng Yong found it difficult to face them. On the dinner table held for parting with the gang of people, Cheng Yong defended for himself faced with the query of yellow hair., it seems that he was persuading others, it is to persuade himself actually.

After Cheng Yong opened a factory and became a boss, a stable life makes him seem to forget the team that the members fought together to help the weak. Later, Lu Shouyi's wife found him but told him that Lu is dying. When he saw Lu, his heart was strongly impacted, so he took the initiative to go to India to buy medicine for lu benefit to save his life. But Lu chose to quietly die. Cheng Yong's heart of the goodness was activated by Lu's death, so he chose to sell medicine again, and the difference is that this time this medicine is sold at cost, without any profit. Although what he did was to ease the burden and worry of the patients, but his identity was still "false medicine trafficker" and worried about being arrested of police at any time., so he dare not reveal himself to the public. Bearing the burden of morality and stepping in the forbidden zone of the law, chengyong's life is very difficult. He has been struggling in such a moral dilemma. After being arrested, chengyong in the court seemed very calm, because he knew that selling Indian medicine could not really solve the problems of those patients, and his efforts for the survival of patients were just a drop in the bucket. His sentence was also an account of the law, and a kind of moral relief. At the end of the film, the legitimate drug of CML is covered by medical insurance, and the patient's life is guaranteed by the medical system. So chengyong is finally saved from the moral dilemma.

(三) Legal dilemma

Since ancient times, it is difficult to keep law and human relations balanced at the same time. This dilemma is fully reflected in officer Cao in the film. As the most capable person in the leader's eyes, he was fair and fearless, and tried his best to do his work. Because he didn't want to let his elder sister be wronged so he hit chengyong, seemingly reckless, but his heart is full of tenderness. When the leader gave him the fake drug case, he vowed that "selling fake drugs is equivalent to do things that are against reason and nature, and I am duty-bound". At this time he thought that he would protect the interests of the masses by investigating fake drug cases. After a thorough understanding of the case, he found that the case was not as simple as he had thought. The so-called fake medicine could really cure the disease, only because it was smuggled in and did not enter the medical manual.

Under the pressure of Swiss Nova company leadership and the public security bureau, he began to strictly investigating, in the process of which, he saw the hard living condition of patients and he could see patients keeping silence in order to protect Cheng Yong from being arrested. A grey-haired old lady asked Cao to stop investigating on counterfeit drugs, because if a drug trafficker was caught, the patient could do nothing but to die. "No one can avoid being sick! Can you guarantee a lifetime not sick? I don't want to die. I want to live." His heart was strongly shocked, and his strong will to arrest Cheng Yong began to get weaker. Arresting Cheng Yong followed the law, which is one of the duties of the police. Cheng Yong selling medicine in India, on the one hand, violated state law and Swiss pharmaceutical company's intellectual property rights have been infringed; on the other hand, it had saved thousands of patients who couldn't afford the original drug. Thus, he let them see the hope in life again. But here comes the question: Does law outweigh love or life be above all else? He fell into conflict.

Cao saw Huang Mao dying tragically in order to protect chengyong and faced with chengyong's query "he wants to live, what crime does he have?" He was speechless and strongly condemned in his heart. As a law

enforcer, he should stand on the side of the law and maintain the authority of the law. However, he had no choice but followed his conscience, and the balance of conscience gradually tilts from one side representing law to the other side representing love. In the end, he still risked being punished and resigned this case to the leadership. Perhaps, only in this way, can he make his mind peaceful.

一、Redemption

(一) Salvation of life

At the beginning of the film, Chengyong is a typical middle-aged man in abjection. His life was hard, his appearance was sloppy, and his behavior was vulgar. The helplessness of life made him have a strong desire to make money. When he learned that he could make money by selling Indian generic drugs, he was afraid of being sentenced for smuggling, but he hoped that he could change his life by doing so. Unlike other members of the "healing squad," who sold drugs for their loved ones, fellow sufferers, congregants or simply fellow sufferers, Cheng's goal is to make money. Talking to Indian pharmaceutical companies, he made it clear: I don't want to be a savior, I want to make money. In the process of selling medicine, more and more patients who suffered from slow grain of leukemia was exposed to him, but at first he who only earned money and had no sympathy to these patients, not to mention understanding and compassion, so when he met those patients for the first time, he scold, even let the patients take off mask, though, this scenario in fact had taken a hit in his heart.

When Cheng noticed that the Huang Mao's life was so difficult but still robbed the medicine to give a patient, he was shocked again. So he let Cheng help sell medicine to pay off debt. It is in this way that show Cheng's kindness. Cheng yong was very clear what this means to patients when forced to give the agency to Zhang Changlin. His heart was painful and full of entanglement. Lu's wife who once again woke him up. Cheng looked at the face of this gaunt woman crying heartbroken in the rearview mirror, he found it difficult to calm himself down. Seeing Lu's sick body on the bed and hearing his painful scream because of debridement, he decided not to sit idly by. In order to save lu's life, he went to India again to buy medicine. In the smoky streets of India, he met the god shiva and the god kali, which symbolized death and rebirth. He started selling drugs at cost, just to save more patients. It can be said that chengyong's kindness ignited the light for patients with CML.

(二) Salvation of the soul

By selling Indian generic drugs, Cheng Yong saved the lives of many people with CML, and at the same time, Cheng Yong also made his own salvation come true. In the process of selling medicine together with the "healing team" and with the in-depth contact with patients, ChengYong's feelings for this group had undergone subtle changes, especially for the members in the healing team: Lv's affection of his wife and children; Si hui's choice to work in a pub for her daughter; Huang Mao's loyalty to his friends; Pastor Liu's pray for his patients. Charging Zhang Changlin's high compensation instead of Indian drug authority made Cheng Yong guilty. Especially, the channel to get Indian generics was cut off due to Zhang Changlin's greed. After hearing the news, Lu was unbearable so he chose to suicide. Cheng Yong was conscience-stricken. He sank into a deep remorse after being away from Lu's home and noticing those painful people with masks. He chose to resell the drugs at cost, because otherwise he might spend the rest of his life regretting.

Cheng Yong learned that Huang Mao did not look down on himself after a dialogue by the river, he got some comfort. Cheng yong's generosity made Zhang Changlin, the real counterfeit drug dealer, also look at him with new eyes, so he chose not to expose Cheng Yong after being caught. When the cost of generic drugs in India increased, Cheng Yong chose to pay using his own money to ensure that patients had medicine to eat. The tragic death of Huang deeply hurt Cheng Yong's heart. He never give up the son's custody but he decided to send his son to his wife living foreign in his the most difficult time and ready to be caught. When he found that he was surrounded by the police, he chose to protect patients, but then resigned himself to the ground. When he saw the patients being blocked back, he struggled violently. He sincerely admitted his crime after sentenced, telling officer cao to tell his son -father is not bad person. On the way to the prison, patients chose to use this way -both of roadsides standing full of CML people, to express their gratitude and respect for Cheng Yong. Watching them one by one take off the mask, Cheng Yong had finally put down all remorse and guilt and his heart had been completely redeemed so far. Cheng yong is not the god of medicine, because what he exudes is not the nature of god but human nature. Human nature is imperfect: he has flesh and blood, his own desires and emphasis on friendship.

The film took the social issues as a theme that touched the hearts of thousands of Chinese people, in which it mixed with warmth and hope at the same time. With a delicate and realistic skill, the film provided people with the ability to meet various social difficulties and feel the brilliance and strength of human nature. There is no black and white morality, only the tit for tat of different positions, closer to this complex world full of contradictions. The hero Cheng Yong's image was real and reasonable, his growth line integral and profound. The portrait on grassroots is delicate and moving, the handling of the details perfect, all of which jointly contributed to the success of the film. The film has aroused strong social repercussions. A film can arouse social reflection and promote social progress in the era of abused entertainment, which is a more rare contribution of

the film *Dying to Survive*.

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