

A REVIEW OF EDGE OF TOMORROW

BY AARON MARTIN



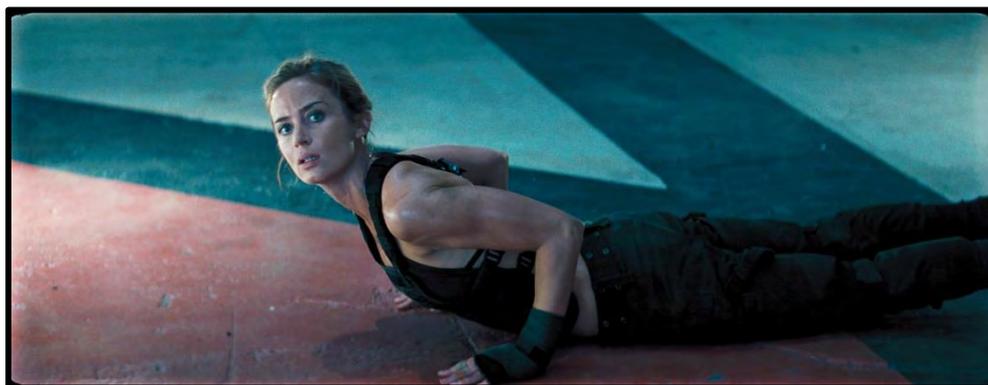
In today's movie review a groundhog is repeatedly put down, Tom Cruise rides a motorcycle, and Emily Blunt does a very impressive push up again, and again, and again, and...

If you were going to go on movie title alone, no one would have bothered to see the movie. However, I don't think any title would have given the movie justice. One might look at this movie's previews and assume it is going to be a big budget summer flick with no story line, but they would be wrong. Yes, the storyline about a time traveling guy being killed over and over again while trying to fight off invading aliens, seems repetitive, but what you actually get is the feeling of being in a video game with endless life's to use. This is kind of a unique concept for Hollywood.



Tom Cruise's character is given the macho name Major William Cage. When you first meet Major Cage, you quickly realize he is nothing but a coward. He wears a high ranking officer's uniform, but is merely a military PR guy. While the rest of the world is dying in battle, he is talking to CNN and Fox news commentators. Unfortunately for Cruise, he brings on the ire of a top brass general. The next thing you know Cruise is waking up wearing handcuffs about to ship out to the front line. The frontline being a Normandy type storming of the beach head in France, because the aliens have taken over all of Europe except England.

Cruise gets dropped into the middle of the fight dressed in robotic body armor, which he has no idea how to use. He almost dies a few times, sees a bunch of other soldiers die in horrific ways, and then dies himself while blowing up an alien. Turns out the alien Cruise blew up spilt its "special" blood on him, which causes Cruise to keep waking up at the beginning of the previous day. This goes on for a while, until Emily Blunt's character sees him on the beach head reacting to things before they happen. Apparently, she had the same alien power cruise has, but lost it. She and Cruise quickly die, but not before she tells him to find her when he wakes up. The next day Cruise finds her in a battle training room doing a ridiculously difficult push up. A scene they show over and over again. Not that I'm complaining. Cruise explains to her what is happening to him. Since this has already happened to her, she lets him know that no one else is going to believe him. Reluctantly, he accepts her help in training him to become the perfect fighter to win the battle for mankind.



The only catch to Cruise's power is if he doesn't die each day, he will lose the ability to repeat the day. This makes for some pretty hilarious ways of Cruise being shot, smushed, blown up, stabbed, and other terrible deaths. It's like the movie *Ground Hog Day*, if Bill Murray had to die each day. I think there might have been more than a few Tom Cruise haters in the audience, because they were a little too joyous each time he died.

My wife and I have this bet that no matter what the movie Tom Cruise will somehow end up riding a motorcycle. About 3/4th the way through the movie we had not seen a single motorcycle, so we were starting to think Cruise had stopped insisting on riding a motorcycle in every movie. Then Cruise's character gets all mopey and a bike magically appears for him to ride to London! To make it even cooler, he totally isn't wearing a helmet so his hair can blow in the wind.



Cruise and Blunt eventually join forces. Cruise literally replays the day over and over, until he has tried every scenario to the point that he knows exactly where to step and at what time. He uses his lives like a video game character learning how to beat the game. Just when you think Cruise has tried every possible move but still isn't able to win, he finds the ultimate move.

Overall this is a great movie with a great first player video game turned movie concept. On paper it seems corny, but Tom Cruise and Emily Blunt make it work. So much so, that you start to forget that each scene is Emily Blunt's first time seeing Tom Cruise. I would say they could have done better with the ending, but nothing's perfect. If only the screen play writer had Cruise's character's power to go back and write a better ending.

