

House 1

Hugh_A
Amir_A

Lee_A
Beth_A

Mike_A
Laurie_A
Kevin_A
Em_A

Note contents of vial VASE conversation

Hugh_C and Amir_C brought back BOX A

BOX A

Ping Pong Paddle
Pictures with RED numbers
Mike (1) Lee (2)
Hugh (1) Laurie (2)
Em (4) Beth (3)
Amir (5) Kevin (6)

Em & Kevin pictures cut in half.

Hugh_C begins writing note

Hugh_C gets cloth band-aid

+ Em_A notices picture of her and Kevin is cut.

+ Writes numbers of RECEIVED BOX down in red.

+ Amir's shirt in photo was purchased today.

Mike_A
Laurie_A
Kevin_A
Em_A

House 2

+ Belongs to a random Mike_0.

+ Mike_A sees a Lee_0 in this house.

+ Mike_A later notes that he does NOT see a Beth in this house.

House 3

Amir_D
Hugh_D

Beth_B
Lee_B (sleeping)

Mike_A
Laurie_A
Kevin_A
Em_A

HUGH_D PHONE BROKEN

+ Beth_B recalls physics book in Hugh's car.

+ Hugh_D and Kevin_A venture to Hugh's car to get the book

At some point we see an opened box of BLUE glow sticks in this house.

Hugh_D
Kevin_A

Grab physics book and return as themselves.

+ Kevin_A recalls that he did not see Beth in House_2 so he assumes that she was sleeping. Since Beth_B was the one to mention the physics book here, they also assume that the "other group" doesn't know about the book yet. At this point, everyone thinks there are only TWO realities.

+ This group talks about retrieving book from the "other" group's car but Hugh_D convinces them to not mess with realities for fear of messing something up.

+ Mike_A fears that maybe the "other" Mike is drinking and if they find the book, he will come over to kill him. To prevent this, he has the idea to write a note of blackmail and give it to the "other" Mike to dissuade him from getting the books.

Mike_A

Writes blackmail note to himself and ventures to "other" house to drop it off.

Note contents of vial Different from House_1. Lee_B wakes up.

+ Beth_B and Lee_B have the same vase conversation as Beth_A and Lee_A had before. Em_A has witnessed this twice and notices.

Amir_D } Amir_D and Hugh_D have a side conversation and realize they have RED glow sticks. Everyone else in this house has BLUE.

Hugh_D
Kevin_A

Mike_C

Mike_C "returns" from leaving the blackmail note. However this is not the same Mike_A that originally left this house. It's a random Mike from a different dimension who also had the same idea. He happens to have a blue glow stick as well, but the likelihood of that is high as there are only three colors of glow sticks.

Mike_C

Mike_C claims to have been gone for 45 minutes but Kevin_A says he left only 5 minutes ago (that is when Mike_A left). This indicates different time periods between realities.

+ Knowing they're in the "wrong" house, Amir_D and Hugh_D plan to leave.

+ Amir_D stuffs an oven mitt into an open box along with the pictures lying around. Hugh_D and Amir_D leave with the box and the physics book.

BOX B

Oven Mitt
Unknown picture
number color

PHYSICS BOOK

Amir_D
Hugh_D

+ Mike_C begins to drink. Mike_A's original prediction was partially correct.

+ Beth_B rinses a glass that was broke in House_1

+ Lee_B comments on Mike_C's erratic drinking/behavior

+ Emily_A has Mike_C get a set of original pictures to mark. She goes to CUT a picture of her and Kevin but does not.

+ Laurie_A kisses Kevin_A and Beth_B sees it happen and hints to Emily_A. Emily_A confronts Kevin_A about it but he denies anything.

**POWER CUTS OUT
GENERATOR DIES
Group hears glass
smashing outside**

Beth_B
Lee_B
Mike_C
Laurie_A
Kevin_A
Em_A

HUGH'S CAR
-Broken windshield
-Nothing stolen

EMILY'S CAR

Emily grabs her ring. Talks to Kevin_C, thinking it's Kevin_A. They each realize they're from different realities after speaking.

This Kevin_C seems sentimental when Emily_A tells him about the ring.

Random House

- + Amir_E and Hugh_E depart from a house that had blue glow sticks.
- + They end up in a random house that had opened RED glow sticks.
- + Hugh_E gets his head fixed with a rubber band-aid at this house.
- + They each steal a RED glow stick and leave the house again.

Amir_E
Hugh_E

Amir_E and Hugh_E walk back through the dark zone, thinking they're heading back to the original house they left from, but they end up in House_3 (not where they originated). At first they believe they're in the correct house simple because the glow stick colors match, but this is just a coincidence.

Group questions if this is the "real" Amir and Hugh and they are accepted due to their glow stick colors matching. EVEN THOUGH Hugh_E has a different band-aid than was given to him -> Lee_B points this out.

NOTE: even though we saw Lee give Hugh a cloth band-aid, that was STILL not THIS Hugh and Lee. We saw Lee_A give Hugh_C a cloth band-aid but it was Lee_B who is in this house and brings up the discrepancy. That means that Lee_B also gave Hugh_D a cloth band-aid (which happened before we arrived at House_3).

+ Group starts to learn that multiple realities exist. They decide to make a unique box to mark "THIS" house.

+ Lee_2 gets a box that she forgot she had, identical to the previous BOX B, which is why she didn't recognize it before.

+ Group plans to put pictures in box with numbers randomized by dice as well as a unique object.

+ Emily_A cuts picture of her and Kevin to avoid using Laurie_A's picture

+ Mike's collection has no photo of Amir, so they take a picture of Amir_E.

+ Amir_E notices that this new photo is slightly different than the "other" photo of him. This means that somewhere along his travels, he also stumbled upon a box with a fresh photo of himself. We can assume that most realities will not have photos of Amir, therefore most of Amir's found box photos will have been taken tonight. (The other photo Amir_E remembers of himself is different from the photo that OTHERS remember of him, but everyone knows there was some different picture of Amir taken that night).

+ With pictures, they roll die and Emily_A writes down numbers in BLUE marker and they use a COASTER as the object

BOX C - Originates HERE

Coaster
Blue picture numbers

+ Emily_A grabs a notepad to write down the numbers of the CREATED BOX C (in blue) and she finds GREEN NUMBERS already in the notebook in her own handwriting.

These GREEN numbers are likely from BOX B which were taken when Amir_D and Hugh_D left. When Amir_D and Hugh_D first brought BOX B into House_3 (which happens off camera, before we arrive at this house), it's likely that the original Emily of House_3 wrote those numbers down on this notepad in GREEN.

Remember, this Emily_A is not the original Emily from House_3

Notepad Green numbers (BOX B)

Red numbers from BOX A shown as comparison:

Kevin (2) (6) Mike (2) (1)
Em (3) (4) Beth (3) (1)
Amir (4) (5) Lee (5) (1)
Hugh (5) (1) Laurie (5) (2)

+ Emily_A also notices Hugh_E's phone is not broken, confirming that he's NOT the same Hugh that originally left.

+ Emily_A asks everyone to remember their numbers and references them with either: GREEN numbers (House_3), RED numbers (House_1), or NO MATCH which means some other house.

—Beth_B and Lee_B correctly identify with House_3

—Emily_A and Kevin_A remember their numbers from House_1

—Hugh_E produces a number from neither House_1 nor House_3

+ Emily_A strikes up a theory about the dark zone acting as a "reality roulette" and tells it to Mike_C

(her logic is flawed because with only six numbers, it's possible that different versions of the same person end up with the same number, etc.)

House_3 receives Mike_D's blackmail note under the door.

Hugh_F reads it:

**BETH + BOOK = TRINIDAD CLUB
DON'T LET IT HAPPEN BUDDY**

Group argues because everyone knew about Mike's affair with Beth except for Hugh himself.

+ Among the fighting, Hugh_E is identified as an outlier because his phone is not cracked like Hugh_D's was.

GROUP TRIES TO IDENTIFY THEMSELVES BASED ON OBJECT IN RECEIVING BOX

Emily_A ping pong paddle
Kevin_A ping pong paddle
Laurie_A ping pong paddle
Beth_B oven mitt
Lee_B oven mitt
Amir_E stapler
Hugh_E stapler
Mike_C napkin

+ Mike_C makes a comment about sleeping with Hugh_E's wife in all pasts. **THIS IS LIKELY NOT TRUE.** Not a movie error, just a mistake from a character, thinking he knows everything which he does not.

HUGH_E punches MIKE_C

Some time passes.

Mike_C then gets punched by a random Mike_E who barges into House_3, hits him, then leaves

+ Beth_B nose starts bleeding

ENTIRE HOUSE IS YELLING/FIGHTING.

Emily_A decides to selfishly leave and begins "exploring" several realities. She sees another "Hugh" note as she leaves

House 4

Emily_A finds a monkey in the box outside this house. Inside, she sees a sad looking Emily_B.

House 5

Lots of arguing in this house. Inside, she sees an Emily_C.

House 6

She sees two Mike_0's tied to chairs, one with a green glow stick and one with a red glow stick.

House 7

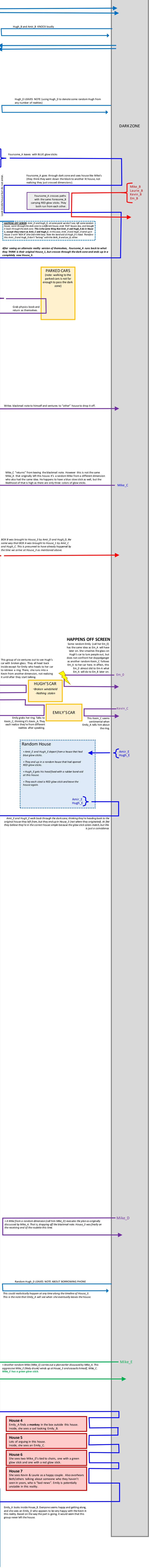
She sees Kevin & Laurie as a happy couple. Also overhears Beth/others talking about someone who they haven't seen in years, who is "bad news". Emily is potentially unstable in this reality.

House 8

Emily_A (unseen by the others)

**** IN THIS HOUSE, I will subscript everyone with an _8, so we know they originated in this house ****

Mike_8
Kevin_8
Hugh_8
Amir_8
Laurie_8
Beth_8
Lee_8
Em_8



DARK ZONE

Mike_B
Laurie_B
Kevin_B
Em_B

PARKED CARS
(note: walking to the parked cars is not far enough to pass the dark zone)

Grab physics book and return as themselves.

HAPPENS OFF SCREEN

Some random Emily (call her Em_0) has the same idea as Em_A will have later on. She smashes the glass on Hugh's car to lure people out, but does not confront her doppelganger as another random Kevin_C follows Em_A to her car here. In effect, this Em_0 almost did to Em_A what Em_A will do to Em_B later on.

HUGH'S CAR
-Broken windshield
-Nothing stolen

EMILY'S CAR

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House 4

House 5

House 6

House 7

House 8

House 8

+ Still unseen by the _8 group, Emily_A steals the vial of ketamine from the kitchen of this house

Emily_A (unseen)

+ Group_8 hears the smash and goes outside to check out their cars.

Emily_8
Mike_8
Kevin_8
Hugh_8
Amir_8
Laurie_8
Beth_8
Lee_8

Group_8 checks their cars and heads back inside.

Emily_8 heads to her car to get her ring, not knowing that Emily_A is hiding on the other side.

Emily_A

+ Group asks Emily_A where she was, she lies and tells them she was looking at the comet. They all go out to look.

Mike_8
Kevin_8
Hugh_8
Amir_8
Laurie_8
Beth_8
Lee_8
Emily_A

Look @ Comet

Lights briefly shut off then come back on and they go back inside.

SHORT POWER FLICKER

EMILY_A SMASHES HUGH'S WINDSHIELD THEN GOES AND HIDES BY EMILY_8'S CAR

EMILY_A KNOCKS EMILY_8 OUT WITH KETAMINE, PUTS HER IN THE TRUNK, and TAKES EMILY_8'S SWEATER.

From this point on, lots of speculation is involved. This is just one man's opinion, feel free to formulate your own.

In some separate, unseen reality, yet another version of Emily (say, Emily_B) is undergoing a similar thought process as our Emily_A. That is, she goes "shopping" through realities, finds one she likes with yet another "happy" version of herself (say, Emily_C).

In this reality, Emily_B tries to drug and hide Emily_C as well. Eventually, the drugged Emily_C regains some consciousness and escapes the trunk (it's possible that Emily_B did not do as good of a job at containing Emily_C as Emily_A did to Emily_8). Being still slightly under the influence of ketamine, Emily_C stumbles out of the car, or whoever she is (also plausible that Emily_B "disposed" of her in a different way) and accidentally passes through the dark zone, making her way into the same reality as Emily_A.

Emily_C

After being drugged by Emily_B, she regains slight consciousness, still under heavy sedation, and manages to escape towards the dark zone.

Drugged Emily_C stumbles into House_8 and is seen by Emily_A.

Emily_C

+ Emily_A sees Emily_C crawling. She probably thinks it's Emily_8.

+ Emily_A tosses Emily_C into the bathroom and attacks her with a toilet tank lid until she presumably DIES.

+ Emily_A puts Emily_C in the bathtub and closes the shower curtain.

+ Emily_A loses her ring in the process, so she takes the ring off of Emily_C's finger. (We see Emily_A's ring on the bathroom floor.)

+ Emily_A walks out of the bathroom

**The reason I believe this happens from some unknown reality is because there's no way Emily_8 would have time to recover from the ketamine blast and make it back inside by the time Emily_A sees her crawling in the hallway.

Remember that different realities can take place during different timelines.

Plus, this reinforces the potentially exacerbating consequences of tinkering with alternate realities and the exponentially outward domino effect it can have across several of them. **

EMILY_A BLACKS OUT in the presence of friends.

Okay, so my theory here is that Emily_A passing out signifies the effects of the comet ending the decoherence of the multiverse theory.

Beyond this point, it is pointless to try and find a "concrete" solution to what happens. The director has deliberately left things vague and unsolvable, meaning your solution will depend on whichever possibility seems the most plausible to you, but anything past this point will involve some level of assumption and/or speculation.

It's also mostly futile to try and pin every single explanation to a quantum physics theory. This is a science fiction film, and even considering a non-fiction explanation, the mechanics of quantum physics are largely unknown and based on probability. Therefore, there's likely no one qualified to make statements about the "physics" behind this movie with absolute certainty. EVERYTHING will involve some level of uncertainty.

Heavy speculation: what happens to Emily_C's body? Did she die or was she alive? Did she vanish or did she actively flee?

If Emily_C was killed by Emily_A and her dead body vanished with no trace, it would parallel a story told EARLIER by Emily_A at the dinner part about how a wife killed her husband, but her husband was still alive and the police never found a dead body.

+ Emily_A wakes up on the couch, heads to the shower to hear someone inside.

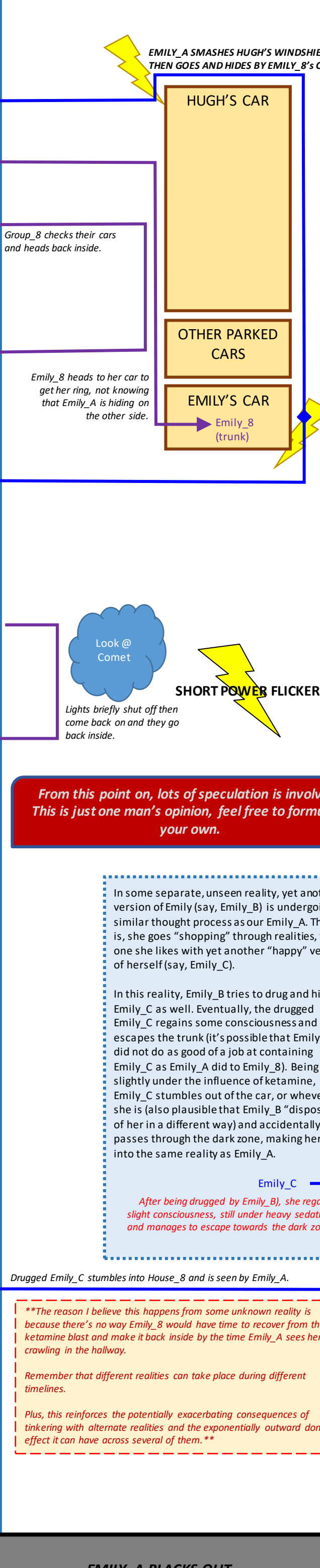
+ Beth_8 exits the shower, confirming that Emily_C is gone.

+ Emily_A meets Kevin_8 outside. He hands her the ring she lost in the bathroom during her struggle with Emily_C.

+ Emily_A now has two rings (the one she originally had and lost during her fight with Emily_C, and the one she physically stole from Emily_C.

+ Kevin_8 receives an incoming phone call and says to Emily_A, "That weird, it's you calling me."

+ Kevin_8 gives a strange look to Emily_A and she looks guilty.



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END CREDITS

Possible explanations to the final scenario, although NONE of them are entirely concrete or proven. All of them contain some kind of speculation:

+ Some people still think the Emily_8 that first gets attacked and stuffed into the trunk by Emily_A is the SAME Emily that crawls back into the house, woozy. This isn't necessarily impossible, but seems very unlikely that Emily_8 would be able to recover that quickly, escape from the car trunk, and make it all the way back inside. That's why I introduced Emily_C, which makes sense, since if Emily_A has this "idea," there are an infinite number of OTHER Emilys out there that would've had the same idea, but maybe didn't carry out the drugging/hiding as successfully. So one of these randomly attacked Emilys may have stumbled through the dark zone and into this House_8 reality.

+ People wonder how Emily got out of the tub. This is the biggest area of speculation. Was that Emily even dead, or still alive? Did she vanish, or did she run away? Seems unlikely that she'd run out of the house without saying anything (or being noticed by anyone) and call Kevin_8 the next morning from a remote location. So I've always assumed this bathtub Emily (Emily_C in my timeline above) vanished when the comet passed overhead completely (i.e., decoherence was re-established).

+ The problem with THAT interpretation, is that it doesn't explain the presence of two rings, nor does it entirely explain how Kevin_8 gets a call from some other Emily. The phone call alone implies that at least two Emilys exist in this final reality that we see (maybe more). So how could Emily_C in the bathtub vanish, but not whatever other random Emily is calling Kevin_8 at the end?

+ You can get into all sorts of whacky quantum theories – some of my favorites involved the "relative state" interpretation of the Many Worlds Theory. It essentially says that when a system comes to a point where a choice must be made, it splits into separate branches involving separate states, or separate outcomes of each possible path that could've been chosen. When an observation or measurement is made on this state, what the observer actually sees or interprets is a partial trace of a linear superposition of those separate states. You could toy with this idea and come up with a plausible (though completely unproven) explanation for how one Emily could vanish, but other versions of them remain, for the rings, etc.

+ The bottom line, though: it's not about the quantum event. Looking too closely at the science of it is missing the point of the film. Which is a parable for the choices we make (or DON'T make) in our life, and how they can lead us down entirely different paths. Sort of like an insular "butterfly effect."

The "dark space" in Coherence can represent some metaphorical "dark" place or event within our existence that we experience – something that changes us forever and irreversibly so, as evidenced by the fact that anyone passing through the "dark space" never returns to a house that is quite the same as the one they left.

Similarly, the movie (and more specifically the ending) tells us that we cannot come back from the choices we have (or haven't) made. When Emily hesitates in accepting the dance job, or refuses to commit to go with Kevin to Vietnam, she's making a choice (yes – indecision IS a choice). When this Emily is not happy with the consequences of her indecision, she tries to "Cherry Pick" the life she wants but didn't have the courage to choose the first time around, but life is not that simple, and choices can't be reversed so easily – this clearly parallels the fact that in her "final" reality, she has two rings and Kevin gets a call from some other Emily within that reality. You cannot escape your choices so easily. That phone call is signifying Emily_A's failure to reconcile the choices she WISHES should've made a long time ago.