

Same But Different

by Shane Schick

Spot the continuity error in the film:
the mug that changes colour
before it reaches her lips,
the buttons on his shirt that
mysteriously come undone
or the tattoo that somehow
migrates a few inches south
from where it was before.

Spot the continuity error in life:
the faithful friend who
suddenly stops calling,
the career-making job that
ends in a layoff after
barely more than a year,
or the late-in-age love story
that's reduced overnight
into visits in long-term care.

Spot the continuity error in the dream:
the scrambling of space and time,
with people popping up
from unrelated chapters of a life
and smacking into each other
like the flaps from some cootie catcher
of the unconscious, the unseen
manipulation of which is ended
by the opening of eyes that,
regardless of what they're watching,
never manage to act quickly enough
to spot precisely where the editing
might have been improved.

