

A series of concentric, curved lines in shades of gray, resembling ripples in water or sound waves, centered around the title.

Repercussions

by Eric Cullen Hackler

All characters'
ages/races/gender identities/appearances
are open to interpretation

1 EXT. RUSH HOUR STREET - END OF DAY

Bo jostles uncaringly along the busy sidewalk. They look worn out and beaten down.

Bo is looking at their phone. Everyone around is looking at their phones.

The noise of the city is aggressively augmented by a cacophony of notifications, news reports, and social media ads that follow each person like an auditory cloud of gnats.

2 EXT. BUS STOP - LATER

Bo absentmindedly scrolls on their phone as they wait. People come and go around them causing highs and lulls in the various cacophonies.

3 INT. CITY BUS - LATER

Bo sits alone on the crowded bus. Everyone else is scrolling or swiping on their phones.

The cacophony remains. Bo looks more worn out. They put the phone away. Their cacophony becomes muffled. The cacophonies around them remain.

4 INT. BO'S APARTMENT BUILDING - LATER

Bo arrives and trudges up the stairs toward their unit.

Their muffled cacophony remains.

5 INT. BO'S APARTMENT - LATER

Bo, exhausted, flops onto their couch. They try to relax, but the muffled cacophony in their pocket continues until they pull their phone out and begin scrolling - returning the cacophony to full volume.

Bo unconsciously begins tapping a simple rhythm on the coffee table with their free hand. The cacophony quiets a bit.

Bo keeps tapping, now bouncing their foot to the beat. The rhythm begins to draw their attention - almost silencing the cacophony.

Bo stops tapping and looks back at their phone. The cacophony begins to pick up again. Bo quickly resumes tapping and watches their phone as the cacophony loses steam. Bo cracks a sly smile.

6 INT. BO'S APARTMENT - MONTAGE

The sound of Bo's tapping on the table continues as Bo moves around the apartment finding other objects to tap out new rhythms on.

Their phone sits screen-up on the coffee table. Notifications crash across its screen, but the cacophony is barely a whisper.

Bo's various little rhythms coalesce into a fun dance beat. Swept up in the music, Bo dances joyfully around the apartment.

7 INT. BO'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Suddenly Bo spins toward the door and everything stops. BELLE (Bo's partner) is standing in the open doorway looking very surprised.

Caught, Bo's energy disappears and they look sheepishly at Belle, then away at their phone. The cacophony begins to swell.

Belle cautiously and deliberately puts their things down before looking seriously back at Bo.

Suddenly Belle smiles widely and begins clapping out their own new rhythm.

Bo grins back as their music returns, now enhanced by Belle's. They both begin dancing to the beat.

8 INT. BO'S APARTMENT - MONTAGE

SHELLI (a friend), TOM (Bo's parent), & RIFF (a neighbour) arrive one at a time and quickly get swept up in the music, adding their own little rhythms to the song.

9 INT. BO'S APARTMENT - LATER

The 5-piece percussion group's number reaches a crescendo as they all play together - finally ending on a big flourish.

Silence. A moment's peace. Bo smiles.

After a second, Belle's phone gets a notification.

Belle reaches for their phone. The cacophonies from the group's almost-forgotten phones begins to come back.

Bo grabs Belle's hand.

Bo guides Belle's hand away from the phone and uses it to tap Belle's rhythm anew on the table. Belle and Bo look into each other's eyes and both smile. Glancing around at the group, they nod their heads to the beat as if counting 1...2...3...4...

10 INT. BO'S APARTMENT BUILDING - MOMENTS LATER

The song comes back in strong.

The group heads out into the evening sunlight together.

11 EXT. MONTAGE - MULTIPLE DAYS - DAY

The group performs various acts of service around town. At each one, they're playing their rhythms on whatever surfaces/objects are available to them.

Bo & Belle lead the first event. Shelli, the next. Tom and Riff team up on the last.

One by one, the people they're helping put their phones away. They engage with our group and sometimes even move to the beat.

Their song endures as they share it with their community.

The montage ends with the group walking off arm in arm. The song hits a crescendo and (mostly) ends.

CUT TO BLACK

12 CREDITS

Bo's original rhythm continues into the credits. The others fade in and out in sequence. Near the end, there's a space of just Bo again as if inviting the audience to add their own rhythm.

The credits end with the whole chorus joining back in.

The film ends mid-measure. Hopefully the music endures.