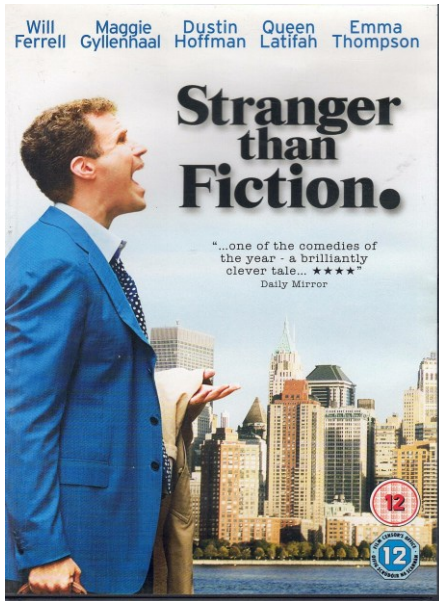
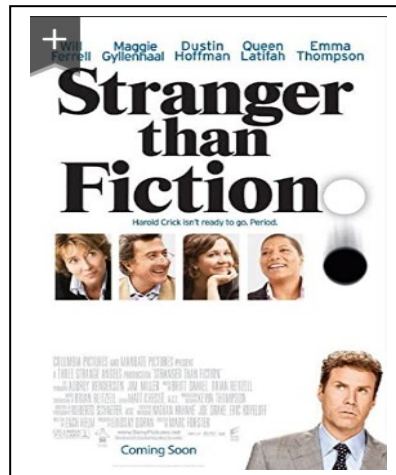


Title: **Stranger Than Fiction**



**ISBN: 5035822127234**

Library Image



# Storyline

Harold Crick is an Internal Revenue Service (IRS) agent living a solitary life of strictly scheduled routine. On the day he is assigned to audit an intentionally tax-delinquent baker named Ana Pascal, Harold begins hearing the voice of a woman narrating his life. When his wristwatch stops working and he resets it using the time from a bystander, the voice narrates that this action will eventually result in Harold's death.

Harold consults a psychiatrist who suggests he see a literary expert if he believes there is a narrator. He visits literature professor Jules Hilbert, who initially dismisses him. However, he recognizes omniscient narrative devices in what Harold claims the voice said, and is intrigued. He tries to help Harold identify the author and determine if his story is a comedy or tragedy.

As Harold audits Ana he develops an attraction to her, but when he obviously rejects a gift of cookies because it could be considered a bribe, he takes it as a sign he is in a tragedy. Jules tells Harold to spend the day at home doing nothing, and his living room is destroyed by a demolition crew that went to the wrong building. Jules takes such an improbable occurrence as proof that Harold is no longer in control of his own life, and advises he enjoy the time he has left, accepting whatever destiny the narrator has for him.

Harold takes time off work, takes guitar lessons, moves in with his co-worker Dave, and starts dating Ana. Since she loves him, he re-evaluates his story as a comedy. While meeting with Jules, Harold sees a television interview with author Karen Eiffel and recognizes her voice as his narrator's.

Jules, an admirer of Karen's work, says that all of her books are tragedies: the protagonist always dies. Karen has been struggling with writer's block on her next book because she cannot figure out how to kill Harold Crick, but has had a breakthrough and begun writing again.

Harold telephones Karen and stuns her by accurately recounting her book to her. They meet in person and she explains she has outlined the conclusion but not yet typed it in full. Her assistant, Penny, recommends Harold read the outline, but he cannot bring himself to do so, and gives it to Jules. Jules deems it Karen's masterpiece to which Harold's death is integral, and he consoles Harold that death is inevitable, but this death will hold a deeper meaning.

Harold reads the outline and returns it to Karen, telling her the death she has written for him is beautiful and he accepts it. He takes care of some errands and spends his last night with Ana. The next morning Harold goes about his routine again as Karen writes and narrates.

Karen reveals that when Harold reset his wristwatch, the bystander's time was three minutes fast, so he has reached the bus stop early. A boy riding a bicycle falls in front of the bus; Harold runs into the street to save him, and is hit himself. However, Karen, traumatized by the idea that she unwittingly narrated real people to their deaths, cannot bring herself to finish the sentence declaring him dead.

Harold wakes up in a hospital, and learns that shrapnel from his wristwatch – which was destroyed in the collision – blocked his ulnar artery and saved him from bleeding to death. Karen meets Jules and offers him a revised ending, and he finds the new ending weakens the book.

Karen replies the book was about a man who did not know he was going to die, but if Harold knew and accepted his fate, he is the kind of person who deserves to live. Karen's narration closes the film over a montage of Harold's newly invigorated life, ending on the ruined wristwatch that saved his life.

# Cast

Will Ferrell as Harold Crick, an IRS agent who starts hearing Eiffel's voice narrating his life.

Maggie Gyllenhaal as Ana Pascal, a baker who is being audited by Crick and begins to fall in love with him.

Emma Thompson as Karen Eiffel, an author known for killing the protagonists in her novels, but has been suffering from writer's block.

Dustin Hoffman as Professor Jules Hilbert, a literature expert advising Crick.

Queen Latifah as Penny Escher, an assistant who helps authors finish their works.  
Tony Hale as Dave, Crick's friend from his work.  
Tom Hulce as Dr. Cayly  
Linda Hunt as Dr. Mittag-Leffler, a psychologist whom Crick sees in hopes of solving his narration problem.  
Kristin Chenoweth as Book Channel Host

## Parents Guide

### Certification

Argentina:Atp Australia:M Austria:10 Brazil:10 Canada:PG (Alberta/Manitoba/Nova Scotia/Ontario) Canada:G (British Columbia/Quebec) Denmark:7 Finland:K-7 France:Tous publics Germany:6 Ireland:12A Israel:18 (self-applied) Italy:T Malaysia:U Mexico:B Netherlands:6 New Zealand:M Norway:11 Poland:12 Portugal:M/12 Russia:12+ Singapore:PG South Korea:12 Spain:A Sweden:7 Switzerland:12 (canton of Geneva) Switzerland:12 (canton of Vaud) Turkey:13+ (DVD rating) United Kingdom:12A United States:PG-13 (certificate #42015)

### Sex & Nudity

Mild

### Violence & Gore

Mild

### Profanity

Mild

### Alcohol, Drugs & Smoking

Mild

### Frightening & Intense Scenes

Moderate

MPAA Rated PG-13 for some disturbing images, sexuality, brief language and nudity

