

'Girl In The Spider's Web' - A Gloomy Formula Story

Film: "The Girl In The Spider's Web"; Director: Fede Alvarez; Cast: Claire Foy; Rating: ** (2 stars)

God and the godforsaken Crime Thriller genre move in uncertain ways. The uncertainties of the plot in this unwanted excruciatingly self-conscious sequel to a film that worked three years ago because its violence addressed itself to a relatable heroine and also because it starred Bond Daniel Craig, are so widespread that by the time we wearily reach the shootout in an abandoned warehouse setting at the climax, we just want some warmth and a cup of coffee.

The Girl In The Spider's Web is an unbearably glum piece of nihilistic cinema. Nature is robbed of all joy and humankind is denuded of any hope. In the beginning we see two adolescent sisters, one of whom is trapped in the clutches of her evil father while the other escapes in a freefall that could have killed Catwoman.



Not our heroine. She grows up with a nose ring and an attitude to match. Calling herself Lisbeth, Claire Foy, an actress I immensely admired as Neil Armstrong's wife in the recent biopic, is grievously out of her depth in the part of a wounded abused

freelance agent. Making it worse is the actress (Sylvia Hoeks) who plays Foy's sister.

Their confrontation at the snowcapped precipice at the end is maddeningly anti-climactic with both the actresses plunging rather than rising to the occasion.

Then there is a little boy who knows the secret code to crack open a computer programme that could destroy the world and a journalist-friend-lover played by Sverrir Gudnason, a man so stupid he repeatedly risks his life, marriage and reputation for Lis-

beth although she is clearly using him for her own purposes. And he doesn't even get sex in return. At least none that we see.

For a film brimming with anxious energy the characters are woefully frigid.

The action sequences are laughable. Ten minutes into the tale of digital Gothicism Claire Foy's Lisbeth's home blows up. She jumps into the bathtub and is saved.

We couldn't hope for a safer world. The setting is mostly the snowcapped wilderness that claims to be Stockholm. So far Sweden was always the land of rhapsodic joy, the land of AB-BA's songs for me.

That just changed. Do us a favour. Leave the girl with the golden tattoo caught in a spider's web (etc, etc) to her own devices.

She is really not interesting enough for us to invest two hours of our time as she cracks some complicated code on her computer. Not when Ralph is breaking the Internet.

Kim Kardashian Says She Was High On Ecstasy When She Made Sex Tape

LOS ANGELES: Reality TV star Kim Kardashian West has revealed she was high on ecstasy when she first got married, and when she made a sex tape.

On Sunday's episode of "Keeping Up with the Kardashians", Kim reflected on her "wild" years during a conversation with Scott Disick and Kendall Jenner, who kicked things off by mentioning that she had "heard stories" about Kim, reported people.com.

"You went to Disney and you were all high or something - or Six Flags," said Disick, 35.

"I didn't know you got high,"



said Jenner, 23. "I got married on ecstasy. The first time," Kim, 38, said of her wedding to music producer Damon Thomas in 2000.

"I did ecstasy once and I got married. I did it again, I made a sex tape. Like, everything bad would happen," Kim said.

Disick and Jenner were shocked. "You were high on ecstasy when you made that sex tape?" Disick asked of the 2003 sex tape that Kim infamously starred in with Ray J.

"Absolutely. Everyone knows it," Kim said. "Like, my jaw was shaking the whole time."

Katherine Heigl Thrilled About Turning 40

LOS ANGELES: Actress Katherine Heigl says she is thrilled about turning 40.

Heigl celebrated her 40th birthday on November 24 and commemorated the occasion with an introspective social media post.

The actress shared photographs from her birthday soiree. Standing in front of huge silvery balloons of the number 40, she grinned as she posed in a sweater and jeans, reports dailymail.co.uk.

"Well... I am officially 40 years old. I know you are going to think I'm full of it but the truth is... I'm pretty damn thrilled to be 40," she began her post. A candlelit room provided a festive backdrop for the former "Grey's Anatomy"



star's bash. "For one thing, as my mother always says 'Getting older is better than the alterna-

tive'. Too true mother, too true," she wrote. 40 feels to me like a certain kind of freedom. Freedom from self doubt, insecurities, self loathing, uncertainties and anxieties of my 20s and 30s."

Heigl further said on Instagram: "I am steadier in my convictions. More certain of my strengths. More forgiving of my faults.

"I've spent the last five years of my 30s doing the work to evolve my mind and spirit.

"To move my heart towards a more profound and loving expression of my best self. I've read, studied, explored and practiced ways to expand my understanding of myself and the world around me."

'Captain Marvel' Big For Diversity: Ben

LOS ANGELES: Actor Ben Mendelsohn, who is featuring in an upcoming "Captain Marvel" movie, believes that the film will lead to more diversity in the movie industry. In an interview to hollywoodreporter.com, Ben said: "I think we have something really special here, and that all comes from a finely crafted script, it's absolutely beautiful.

"Obviously this is a big moment for Mar-

vel, and hopefully a sweeping change for inclusion and diversity in the industry."

Ben will be seen playing the part of Talos, leader of an alien invasion of Earth in the film.

The movie, which is the first to feature a solo female hero (Brie Larson as Captain Marvel), is being produced by Nate Moore. It also features Marvel Studios' first female director, Anna Boden.

I Won't See 'Harry Potter And The Cursed Child' In A Theatre Says Radcliffe

LONDON: Harry Potter star Daniel Radcliffe says he will never watch J.K. Rowling's sequel play "Harry Potter And The Cursed Child" in a theatre.



On the "Late Night With Seth Meyers" show, Daniel, who featured in the the play, admitted that he is not comfortable watching his movies and plays in theatres because he would be too concerned that he was being watched, reports dailymail.co.uk.

He said: "I'm probably not going to, I don't have plans to, I think it would throw me into some sort of existential crisis. It would not be a relaxing evening at the theatre. I would feel like I was being watched for my reaction. "And maybe that is completely conceited and egotistical and people wouldn't care, but I do feel if I was just surrounded by Harry Potter fans, it would be a little odd."

Daniel took on the role of Potter when he was just eleven years old and played the titular character for ten years. Penned by J.K. Rowling, the play runs over two parts, with each spanning a massive 2 hours and 50 minutes across separate performances.

Julie Andrews To Voice A Key Role In 'Aquaman'

LOS ANGELES: Veteran actress Julie Andrews will voice a key role in "Aquaman".

The movie, led by Jason Momoa, is from the house of DC Films and Warner Bros.

Andrews will voice Karathen, a mythical sea creature that helps Momoa's waterbound hero broker peace between Atlantis and the dry land, reported variety.com. According to Entertainment Weekly, Peter Safran, a producer on "Aquaman", said: "We wanted the Karathen to have the voice of a classic British actress, albeit

somewhat digitally altered.

"And when we found out Julie was interested and available and excited to do it, casting her was a no-brainer."

The film will hit the screens in India on December 14, a week ahead of its release in the US.

In the US, it opens two days before the release of "Mary Poppins Returns" when Emily Blunt will take on a role originated by Andrews in the 1964 Disney classic "Mary Poppins". Andrews won the Best Actress Oscar for the role.

Florian Munteanu Is Unique Says Sylvester Stallone

LOS ANGELES: Florian Munteanu is unique, says actor-producer Sylvester Stallone, who cast the German-Romanian boxer in "Creed II".

"I had a feeling about Florian. It's very hard to get the whole package when you're casting a role like this. We could find big guys who could fight but couldn't act. Or guys who looked great but couldn't fight. Florian is unique, said Stallone.

Florian was interviewed by Stallone on a Skype video. Recalling his interview moment, the 27-year-old boxer said he was "spellbound" to seeing Stallone.

"It was absolutely surreal, doing a Skype audition with Stal-

lone, who was a childhood hero of mine. Especially as a boxer, growing up with all the Rocky movies that I watched over and over again. I couldn't really describe the feeling I had when that computer screen opened, and I saw Stallone and realized it was actually happening."

Florian plays Ivan Drago's son Viktor in the movie. The film, being brought to India by Warner Bros Pictures, follows Adonis Creed training in order to defeat Viktor, the powerful athlete who killed his father in the ring more than 30 years prior.

"Creed II" is a sequel to "Creed" and the eighth instalment in the "Rocky" film series.

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