

# 'Bird Box' Bucks Trend Of Santa, Romance And Horror

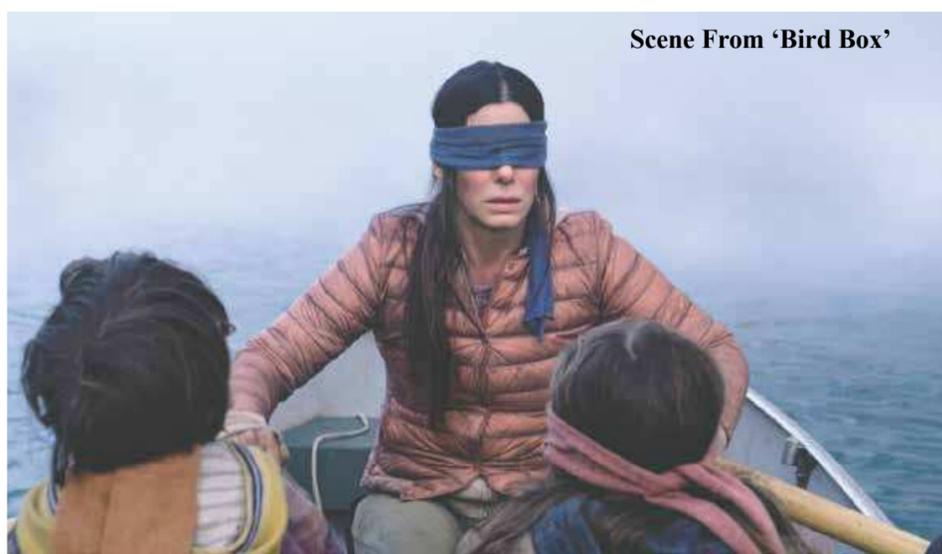
NEW YORK \_ For so long, movies around the holidays have been merry and bright. Lately, more and more seem murderous and designed to fright.

Take this winter, where, of course, sugary options abounded, such as "Mary Poppins Returns" on the big screen and "A Christmas Prince: The Royal Wedding" on TV. Then there's the post-apocalyptic survival story "Bird Box."

Released just days before Christmas on Netflix, the Sandra Bullock-led thriller is about monstrous entities that compel any human who sees them to quickly try to kill themselves. Not exactly the stuff of sugar plum fairies.

But even though Netflix declines to release viewership numbers, "Bird Box" seems to have struck a nerve, triggering the creation of memes and online chatter for a very dark film dropped into the festive period.

"I have never ever had as much attention or as many page likes, post likes/ shares and comments on any of my other pages as I have had on this one," says Heather Drake, who started a Facebook page for fans of the story and is not affiliated with the



Scene From 'Bird Box'

film or distributors. "It's been insane. I can't even come close to responding to all the feedback, if that tells you anything."

Critics have been mixed toward "Bird Box," with many noting similarities to John Krasinski's "A Quiet Place." Variety complained about the "inexplicably bland ensemble" and The Hollywood Reporter sniffed that it was "not all that it might have been." The Guardian declared it "a bird-brained mess."

In some ways, it shouldn't come as a surprise that a film about monsters attacking people showed up on the online video streamer on Dec. 21. Alternate Christmas movies are all the rage these days, from "Die Hard,"

"In Bruges," "Kiss Kiss Bang Bang" and "Lethal Weapon."

Drake thinks the holiday timing of "Bird Box" isn't that important, noting the need for fresh and intriguing movies during the holidays far from usual stale

fare like "It's a Wonderful Life" or "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer."

"I don't honestly think it would have mattered if it was Dec. 21 or July 21," she said. "However, Dec. 21 would give an advantage as many people are on vacation from school and work. And who doesn't want to cozy up and 'Netflix and chill' on a cold night when they don't have to worry about school or work the next day?"

Netflix's decision may also be an attempt to replicate last late-December's hit "Bright," starring Will Smith and Joel Egerton. That supernatural cop drama also wasn't received well by critics but garnered strong word-of-mouth interest and a sequel has been promised.

Bullock has been one of Hollywood's top stars since her 1994 hit "Speed" but had never made a horror movie until "Bird Box." She told The Associated Press before a special screening in New York this month that the risks she and the cast undertook were somehow appealing.

To evade the movie monsters, Bullock and two young children are blindfolded while navigating through a forest and a treacherous river. The title refers to a literal box of birds that her character carries \_ the birds begin to chirp when the unseen evil approaches. Like the timing of the final film, it seemed to be a fresh challenge.

"Anytime that they yelled 'Stop!' we knew we knew we had gotten to a place where we could all get injured," Bullock said. "And we fell. And I said don't stop the camera unless I say, 'Stop!'"

## Having A Penis Would Be Convenient: Keira Knightley

LOS ANGELES: Actress Keira Knightley thinks having a penis is "convenient".

In an interview to The Guardian, the 33-year-old actress insists she's never wanted a penis she does think it's handy to 'penis up a tree', reports femalefirst.co.uk

"Almost every character I've played has tried to break out of that image of femininity," Knightley said. She added: "That's why I like period films, because it's such an overt cage you put the woman in. That's always something I've really identified with. I feel like I sit somewhere else.

"I've never wanted a penis. Apart from to p\*s up a tree. Be-



ing able to do that standing up: so convenient. You can just whip it out and whatever. But the idea of something so vulnerable swinging between my legs, I think I'm all right without."

## Vicky Pattison Slams Online Trolls

LONDON: Reality TV star Vicky Pattison slammed trolls for criticising her "powerful" cleavage-flashing photo as she uploads make-up free selfie to show the "depth and honesty" on her Instagram page

The 31-year-old reality TV star took to Instagram to post a photo of her ample assets in a bathrobe, before later re-posting it alongside a bare-faced snap in front of a bowl of pasta.

Originally Pattison took to Instagram to post a snap which had her cleavage on display, gushing in the caption about how she loved her hotel's cosy bathrobes.

It read: "Another night at @parkplaza county hall tomorrow night... I've missed these robes!!

"I don't know what 2019 holds for me, if it's more time in London I really need to look into more permanent accommodation- I know that (I cannot keep surviving on mini bar jelly beans)."

However a few hours later Pattison proceeded to re-post the snap alongside one of her relaxing in bed, going makeup free as



she tucked into a plate of pasta, reports dailymail.co.uk.

"In my last post I posed in a robe with some POWERFUL cleavage on display and this for some reason attracted a significant amount of criticism from women predominantly. ...So I thought I'd pop this other pic up now this is not to appease these moaning myrtles- far from it.. in fact, I'm putting you on blast!

"As a woman, I'm proud of my

body, but also of my mind, my personality, my work ethic, my friends, my family, my realness and my strength and sense of humour which has got me through some dark times recently...!

"Yes, there may be a glam pouty selfie, similarly in the next post I may be laughing with friends, the next could be me in a bikini and finally I might be inhaling a bowl of pasta, makeup free and giving zero f\*\*\*\*.

"I show myself eating, drinking, exercising, laughing, loving and yes I even show my pain. Because I'm a human being with many different sides and I'm allowed to express myself however I want. My page shows depth and range and honesty- and heaven forbid some cleavage at times!"

She added: "Don't tell me what to put on my Instagram, don't tell me what I should and shouldn't do: it's 2019..Rant over. I'm going back to my pasta. I hope you all have a good night. (Yes even those who criticised me, I'm showing you love as I reckon you probably need it the most.)"

## Jennifer Aniston Spoils Her Godchildren With Candy & Love

LONDON:Actress Jennifer Aniston says she loves spoiling her godchildren with candies and lots of love.

She is godmother to her friends' children including her former "Friends" co-star Courteney Cox's daughter.

Aniston does not like to give advice to the children as she feels

they have been raised the right way, reported femalefirst.co.uk.

She said: "They are really extraordinary kids, they are all products of my girlfriends, who are women whom I've been in love with for 25, sometimes 30 years, who have brought them up the right way.

"I don't give them advice because I don't need to. I don't really give them anything except candy and a lot, a lot of love."

The "Dumplin'" star also shared that none of her godchildren view her as a glamorous figure.

"Me - glamorous? This takes a couple of hours to do. They don't know me as a glamorous person at all. They come over on the weekend -- we call it Sunday Fun Day and it's sort of a fun, magical place for them to visit. It's all sweatpants, jeans and flip-flops," she added.



## Emma Stone Says Turning 30 Left Her Gloomy

LOS ANGELES: Actress Emma Stone says she felt 'gloomy' for a week after turning 30. In an interview to British Vogue, the Oscar-winning actress said that she believes her self-confidence has grown in recent years and she has accepted that she will never be liked by everyone, reports dailymail.co.uk.

"I got gloomy for about a week, but realised the most interesting part about becoming an adult is most things become bittersweet. I'm still finding my voice."

The actress, who turned 30 in November this year, has taken the last year off work. She said: "I haven't worked since last December -- by the time I work again, it will have been 14 months."

Asked what she had gotten up to, she replied: "F\*\*k, I do not know. I didn't learn a language, I didn't learn to cook, I've been a little ... drifty."

"It's interesting, you saying about the public persona of my 'charm'. Nobody knows what they're doing! We're all just a bunch of people trying to figure out how to get through the day."



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