

TAKE 1 : ONE MAN'S OPINION

...because film is largely subjective

by Frederick William Springer III



Cabin in the Woods

Release Date: 13 April 2012

Review Date: 5 June 2012

Runtime: 95 Minutes

Rating: 1 (of 6)

The most concise review: Do you remember *The Happening*? Yea, well, I'd rather sit through a second screening of that than one of *Cabin in the Woods*.

The parts that were supposed to be scary weren't scary (and, for the premise of the movie to work, they really ought to have been). The parts that were supposed to be funny just about always fell flat. Anything else I'd like to say would be considered in the realm of SPOILERS so STOP READING now if you're still inclined to see it for yourself.

The characters weren't developed enough to really care about any of them, which is sort of ironic because one of the voyeurs makes a point of saying he feels for the surviving girl soon to meet her doom. Really? Why? What did she encounter or experience that those slaughtered did not? In fact, of the group, she had it easiest--she wasn't stabbed by knives or daggers, she wasn't caught in a bear trap, she sustained no notable injuries. And let's not forget, she was the reason they were all being killed in the first place.

The revelation that past deities now live beneath the earth's surface and they remain complacent only as long as periodical human sacrifices take place to appease them seems very much unbelievable. If you were a mighty, powerful God that once ruled the Earth, would you acceptingly move beneath it? Can you imagine any person with a position of power doing so? Hell, even a person with no power at all, someone like myself, wouldn't agree to that.

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Then there's the fact that this situation is playing out almost simultaneously all over the globe. Statistically speaking, how likely would it be that every single experience elsewhere would meet in failure and everything then hinge on the American scenario? We know this has been going on for thousands of years, so it's not like this is something new and the proctors don't know what they're doing. For all the other locations to bomb doesn't seem realistic within the confines of this movie.

This smells very much of writer Joss Whedon with the Hellmouth on one hand and a government conspiracy on the other. The thing is, *Buffy* was an entertaining bouquet of fragrant, blooming flowers-- till season 4 anyway, but I digress-- whereas this is a stinking, rotting corpse.

The writers did have a chance to give an unusual twist to their story at the end (though, it would have hardly redeemed them), but opted to let it fall by the wayside. Much is made of the importance of "the virgin" being the last to be killed, if killed at all--"virgin" here meaning more innocent and pure, if it really means anything at all, as we know the character isn't a virgin sexually. Yet the girl tries to kill the character regarded to as "the fool," though he has risked his own life to save her and even does so again after her transgression. The more satisfying twist would have been for him not to save her after she tried to kill him and for her to consequently die, only to find out that the assumptions were incorrect-- she was the fool and he is actually the virgin, order restored to the world, and the door open to many crappy sequels. In how many horror movies does the guy wind up being the virgin? It would have been a nice play against stereotype.

On an end note, it's also good to remember that CGI usually doesn't make a story good. In this case, it makes a bad story worse. Fortunately, I wasn't too upset about this heaping pile of shit ripping me off--I only paid \$1.50 at the bargain theater to see it. If you pay anything more for *Cabin in the Woods*, you're paying way too much.