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Claustrofobia

REVIEWED BY: Matt Posted on 25/09/2012



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Eva (Carolien Spoor) is at a crossroad in her young life. She is struggling with her veterinary studies, her budding acting career is rapidly turning into a dead end and she has just moved into a new apartment. There, she has to deal with the attentions of her quiet neighbour downstairs, her creepy landlord and the **Hardware**-esque peeping tom across the way. But the real horror begins soon after when she awakens chained to a bed in a dingy basement with no idea who her captor is or why she is being held.

Dutch horror flick Claustrofobia treads some pretty well-worn ground, taking in elements of kidnap thrillers with a touch of the so-called 'torture porn' sub-genre, although there is little gore here. It is this familiarity that holds the film back from being exceptional.

There is certainly a lot to like here. The movie looks great; director Bobby Boermans shoots using a lot of close-ups and shallow depth of field to paint a scene from details. It works well to get a lot of mileage out of only a handful of main locations. Working within the formula, the narrative does try to mix things up a little. The reasoning behind the kidnapping is certainly unique and this is the first movie I have ever seen where somebody is killed with an iPad.

There is a solid line in tension as Eva tries to escape her predicament. The identity of her captor is revealed fairly early on and the focus shifts to a detective closing in and Eva trying to find a way out. The story rattles along without any lag in the pacing.

Claustrofobia is an above-average thriller. It may be telling a familiar tale, but it tells it well. Not a classic for the ages, but a solid evening's entertainment.

DISC DETAILS:

DIRECTOR(S): Bobby Boermans | COUNTRY: Netherlands | YEAR 2011 | DISTRIBUTOR(S): MVD Visual | RUNNING TIME: 87 minutes | ASPECT RATIO: 2.35:1 | REGION: 1 / NTSC | DISCS: 1

EXTRAS:

None.

RECOMMENDED VIEWING:

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- [Martyrs](#)
- [The Vanishing](#)
- [The Disappearance of Alice Creed](#)

IMAGE GALLERY:



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