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TO JENNIFER REVIEW



[2013] Joe is a heartbroken young man. He's just received a rather upsetting text message from Jennifer (his girlfriend of two years). It's upsetting because it wasn't intended for him, but also because of its contents. Apparently Jennifer is asking for some random dude to come over and "finish" what he had started "last night." Infuriated by the prospects of her infidelity, Joe enlists the help of his cousin Steve to expose her. His plan is to have Steve film him while he chronicles his trip to Jennifer's home. His intent is to stake her out, catch her in the act, and then make her feel like the filthy slut he believes her to be. All the while using the video to show "the world" what a horrible person she is. Along the way the two are picked up by Steve's longtime, hard partying buddy Martin. However, Joe has two major problems during his trip: Steve is an asshole who ridicules him for his heartache and Martin really only cares about getting high and "bumping uglies." Eventually we arrive at his destination only to find out that things are not at all as they first seemed. The whole mess might be less about what Jennifer did to Joe, and more about what Joe has been doing to Jennifer. It all culminates in a confrontation that really doesn't end all that well for any of the people involved.



Shot by one of the characters, TO JENNIFER is another in the line of handheld horror that begs the same inevitable questions: who's showing us the tape, why do they continue to film during moments of extreme duress, (after the events depicted within) why was the film edited and certain content added in "post?" But, if you're going to take a film like this seriously those are things that need to be disregarded. However, even at just 74 minutes,

JENNIFER still feels long. A good hour of the film's run time is spent on (occasionally grating) character interaction. Yet, Pappas, Bressack, and Martin have a good rapport, and all three do a fine job of creating believable and entertaining personas. It is, however, a real shame that the film's more dramatic beats are grossly predictable, and because of this, do not deliver the required punch to the gut. When the shit does hit the fan, the viewer already knows what kind of shit is going to hit whose fan. Because of this, the final "showdown" is more anticlimactic than chilling, especially since Jennifer feels far too old and much too sophisticated to ever have crossed paths with Joe. There is one particularly horrific moment that Bressack saves for the end credits, and it's really good stuff. It's just far too little and much too late. [4/10]

DIRECTOR

James Cullen Bressack

CAST

Chuck Pappas, James Cullen Bressack, Jody Barton

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