

The Darkest Corner of Paradise

USA 2010

produced by

Sara Weintraub, Henry Weintraub, Joseph Sullivan (executive), Leif Fuller (executive), Joey Stutz(executive), Matt Depew (executive) for 531 Productions

directed by Henry Weintraub

starring Patrick O'Driscoll, Kato Buss, John Schmor, Sara Weintraub, Lorien Emmerich, Richard Leebrick,Joey Stutz, John Zoller, Leif Fuller, Yonatan Schultz, Maryjane S. Dunne, Martin Brown, Ryan Duncan, Ryan Gregg, Hannah Hickman, Alexis Schaetzle, Patrick Stutz

written by Michael Burgner, Henry Weintraub, music by Zac Sawyer

review by

Mike Haberfelner

Judging from his degree in accounting, one can assume that college graduate Peter (Patrick O'Driscoll) hasn't set his goals too high - and still he's disappointed by real life, when he can't find a proper job in finance (the economic downturn, you know) and instead becomes a gofer at a local ice skating rink. The job is by no means challenging, but that's exactly why it wears him out, intellectually mostly, and the fact that even the cashier of the place (Lorien Emmerich) looks down on him doesn't really feed his ego. And the rathole he's forced to call an apartment is of course not the kind of retreat he has been looking for either ...

Then one day everything changes: Just outside his front door, a disoriented woman with a wound on her forehead runs into Peter's arms, and when he takes her in to take care of her, it's not long before he's knocked out, and when he briefly comes to, he sees her being killed before his very eyes.

When he comes to for good though, the girl and every trace of her are gone - and without a body or evidence, the police is less than interested. Peter now makes it his goal, maybe the first one he's ever had, to find out what has happened - but all he has to go on is a tattoo he remembers having seen on the girls body ... and yet, he manages to track down the tattooist who has created it - which is a bad thing, because the tattooist decides it's a good idea to kill Peter (for reasons Peter doesn't understand).

Peter survives the attempt on his life though, and now he plans to go after the tattooist and his friends - but it hasn't 100% dawned upon him that if he's able to track down them, they might be able to track him down just as easily ...

What sounds like your typical, testosterone-driven revenge flick ... quite simply is not. Instead this is a rather lyrical, even elegical mood piece filmed in stark black and white, deliberately slow in pace and based on carefully arranged images much rather than action. But that's not at all to say the film is dull, it's actually emotionally very involving and manages to tell an all-too-familiar story in a very unusual and interesting way (so unusual and interesting in fact that one doesn't mind that large chunks of the plot remain unexplained).

Now despite its plot, this might not be the right film for the die-hard action fan, but especially if you're less than interested in yet another revenge flick, you'll want to watch this - recommended!

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