

Deep Water (2022 film)

Deep Water is a 2022 erotic psychological thriller film directed by Adrian Lyne,^[3] from a screenplay by Zach Helm and Sam Levinson, based on the 1957 novel of the same name by Patricia Highsmith. The film stars Ben Affleck and Ana de Armas, with Tracy Letts, Lil Rel Howery, Dash Mihok, Finn Wittrock, Kristen Connolly, and Jacob Elordi appearing in supporting roles. It marks Lyne's return to filmmaking after a 20-year absence since his last film, *Unfaithful* (2002).

Deep Water was released on Hulu on March 18, 2022, following several delays due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Plot

Melinda and Vic Van Allen live with their young daughter Trixie in Little Wesley, Louisiana. Vic has retired early after developing guidance chips for combat drones, and his complicated relationship with Melinda is held together by a precarious arrangement: they sleep apart and Melinda takes lovers openly, even in their family home, while Vic finds solace in raising his large collection of snails. Their open marriage is no secret to their concerned friends, and Vic grows increasingly jealous, while Melinda laments his lack of passion.

Melinda invites her latest lover, Joel, to a neighbour's party. Alone with Joel, Vic tells him that he murdered Melinda's previous lover Martin, who has recently disappeared. The story spreads through their circle of friends, raising the suspicions of noir writer Don Wilson. Joel comes to dinner with the Van Allen family, and Vic elaborates in private that he killed Martin with a hammer, frightening Joel into leaving town. A TV news report reveals that Martin's body has been found shot to death, and a suspect is arrested.

Vic confronts Melinda after she gives money to Charlie, her new lover and piano teacher. She invites Charlie to a friend's pool party and introduces him to Vic, toying with his jealousy. Rain sends everyone inside, leaving Vic and Charlie alone in the water. After Melinda discovers Charlie's body drowned in the pool, the party is questioned by police, and Melinda is quick to accuse Vic of murdering Charlie. He later asks if she is scared of him, and she says she is not as "I'm the one you killed for".

Deep Water



Official release poster

Directed by	<u>Adrian Lyne</u>
Screenplay by	<u>Zach Helm</u> <u>Sam Levinson</u>
Based on	<i>Deep Water</i> by <u>Patricia Highsmith</u>
Produced by	<u>Arnon Milchan</u> <u>Guymon Casady</u> <u>Benjamin Forkner</u> <u>Anthony Katagas</u>
Starring	<u>Ben Affleck</u> <u>Ana de Armas</u>
Cinematography	<u>Eigil Bryld</u> ^[1]
Edited by	<u>Tim Squyres</u> <u>Andrew Mondshein</u>
Music by	<u>Marco Beltrami</u>

Production companies	<div>20th Century Studios^[a]</div> <div>Regency Enterprises</div> <div>Entertainment One</div> <div>New Regency</div> <div>Keep Your Head</div> <div>Entertainment 360</div> <div>Film Rites</div>
Distributed by	<div>Hulu (United States)</div> <div>Amazon Prime Video</div> <div>(International)</div>
Release date	March 18, 2022
Running time	115 minutes
Countries	United States <div>Canada</div>
Language	English
Budget	\$49 million ^[2]

Distributed by	<div>Hulu (United States)</div> <div>Amazon Prime Video (International)</div>
Release date	March 18, 2022
Running time	115 minutes
Countries	United States <div>Canada</div>
Language	English
Budget	\$49 million ^[2]

Release date	March 18, 2022
Running time	115 minutes
Countries	United States Canada
Language	English
Budget	\$49 million ^[2]

- Ben Affleck as Vic Van Allen
- Ana de Armas as Melinda Van Allen
- Tracy Letts as Don Wilson
- Grace Jenkins as Trixie Van Allen
- Dash Mihok as Jonas Fernandez
- Rachel Blanchard as Kristin Peterson
- Kristen Connolly as Kelly Wilson
- Jacob Elordi as Charlie De Lisle
- Lil Rel Howery as Grant
- Brendan C. Miller as Joel Dash
- Jade Fernandez as Jen Fernandez
- Finn Wittrock as Tony Cameron
- Michael Braun as Jeff Peterson
- Devyn Tyler as Mary Washington
- Michael Scialabba as Kevin Washington

- [Jeff Pope](#) as Chief Nichols
- [Paul Teal](#) as Deputy Clark
- [Juliet Brett](#) as Chelsea (Babysitter)
- [Damon Lipari](#) as Carlyle
- [Joel R. Martinez](#) as David Ricigliani
- [Jaren Mitchell](#) as John
- [Ahmad Harhash](#) as Sam

Production

The project began development in 2013, with [Adrian Lyne](#) set to direct and [Fox 2000 Pictures](#) set to finance. Fox 2000 sold the rights to [New Regency](#) in 2018. In August 2019, the project saw new developments; [Ben Affleck](#) and [Ana de Armas](#) agreed to star,^[3] with [Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures](#) agreeing to handle the distribution via their [20th Century Studios](#) label.^[4] In October 2019, [Tracy Letts](#) and [Rachel Blanchard](#) joined the cast of the film.^[5]

Filming began in [New Orleans](#) on November 4, 2019, with the additions of [Dash Mihok](#), [Lil Rel Howery](#), [Jacob Elordi](#), [Kristen Connolly](#), [Jade Fernandez](#) and [Finn Wittrock](#) to the cast.^{[6][7][8]} In December 2019, [Michael Braun](#) joined the cast of the film.^[9]

Release

Deep Water was originally scheduled to be released on November 13, 2020,^[4] but was delayed to August 13, 2021,^[10] and again to January 14, 2022.^[11] On December 9, 2021, it was taken off the release schedule.^[12] Four days later, it was reported that the film would move to a [Hulu](#)-exclusive release in the United States and an [Amazon Prime Video](#)-exclusive release internationally.^[13] On February 14, 2022, it was announced that the film would be released on Hulu on March 18, 2022, and on Prime Video for a simultaneous international release.^[14]

Reception

Audience viewership

According to [Samba TV](#), 826,000 U.S. households watched *Deep Water* during its first weekend on Hulu.^[15] According to the streaming aggregator [Reelgood](#), *Deep Water* was the 4th most streamed movie across all platforms, during the week of March 23, 2022,^[16] the 4th during the week of March 27, 2022,^[17] and the 6th during the week of April 7, 2022.^[18]

Critical response

On the review aggregator website [Rotten Tomatoes](#), 36% of 226 critics' reviews are positive, with an average rating of 4.9/10. The website's consensus reads: "Viewers desperately seeking a new erotic thriller might find *Deep Water* worth a dip, but it's far from director Adrian Lyne's best work."^[19] [Metacritic](#), which uses a weighted average, assigned the film a score of 53 out of 100, based on 46 critics, indicating "mixed or average" reviews.^[20]

Natalia Keogan of *Paste* rated the film 8 out of 10, asserting, "There's a very good chance that the film's zero-sum game will not appeal to everyone, least of all those who flip it on with the hopes of a tumultuous sex-fueled affair. More akin to the similarly Affleck-starring *Gone Girl* than *Fifty Shades of Grey*—or if we're using Lyne's filmography as a reference, more akin to *Lolita* than *An Indecent Proposal*—*Deep Water* is a sweat-inducing psychological scheme that is constantly aiming to intrigue and titillate. The paperback pulp origins of Highsmith's original story are kept intact, alleviating any semblance of eye-roll worthy ridiculousness that doesn't at least try to make an interesting point. As each shocking revelation tacks on another clue in the sprawling mystery, the audience isn't sure just who or what to believe—making the film's fiery ending all the more jaw-dropping."^[21] Rex Reed of *Observer Media* gave *Deep Water* a grade of 3 out of 4 stars, writing, "Ben Affleck plays a diabolical husband with the calm, resolute demeanor of a mathematician solving an elaborate calculus problem. Ana de Armas plays a wife with carnal ingenuity. She keeps finding handsome new guys to reduce the boredom, and he keeps thinking up ingenious new ways to murder them. Heading the exceptional supporting cast is actor-playwright Tracy Letts, as the suspicious neighbor whose radical discovery of the truth fatally backfires. How she finally traps her husband and ends the charade gives the film its "gotcha" moment, but *Deep Water* has shock effects when and where you least expect them. It's the kind of riveting and dynamic thriller from start to finish we used to take for granted in the good old days, don't see much anymore, and could definitely use a lot more of."^[22]

David Rooney of *The Hollywood Reporter* appreciated Lyne's return to filmmaking, but gave the film a negative review and wrote, "Lyne's take on the material, scripted without distinction by Zach Helm and Sam Levinson, manages to drain all the subtlety and psychological complexity from Highsmith's story of marital warfare, transgression and obsession."^[23] Adam Nayman of *The Ringer* said, "Thrillers that don't quite stick the landing are common, and considering rumors of a troubled production, *Deep Water* is far from a disaster—or from the salacious camp classic the online hordes seem to be clamoring for. But it's also not good enough to serve as ground zero for some larger renewal of the erotic thriller. The frustration lies in watching people who know what they're doing fail to completely pull it off; the residual feeling is one of a missed opportunity. In the funniest—and most overtly Hitchcockian moment—Vic watches as something he'd tried his best to hide winds up coming back into plain sight. Affleck's half-guilty, half-impatient expression is hilarious, as is his half-hearted attempt to push the incriminating thing back out of view. It's the perfect emblem for a movie that isn't really trying to submerge its flaws."^[24]

Notes

- a. This film was originally in-production at 20th Century Studios, but the studio went uncredited upon release of the film. Despite this, 20th Century Studios did promote the film.

References

1. "DP Egil Bryld Teams With Director Scott Z. Burns, Actor Adam Driver To Tell A Hero's Story In 'The Report' " (<https://www.shootonline.com/news/dp-egil-bryld-teams-director-scott-z-burns-actor-adam-driver-tell-hero%E2%80%99s-story-report>). *SHOOTonline*. November 14, 2019.
2. "Fastlane NextGen: Initial Certification Search" (<https://fastlaneng.louisianaeconomicdevelopment.com/public/search/ent>) (Type "Deep Water" in the search box). Louisiana Economic Development. Retrieved May 10, 2020.

3. Fleming, Mike Jr. (August 1, 2019). "New Regency Bringing Adrian Lyne Back To Directing With 'Deep Water,' Ben Affleck, Ana de Armas In Talks For Patricia Highsmith Adaptation" (<https://deadline.com/2019/08/adrian-lyne-deep-water-ben-affleck-ana-de-armas-patricia-highsmith-adaptation-new-regency-1202658671/>). *Deadline Hollywood*.
4. Kroll, Justin (November 16, 2019). "Ridley Scott's 'The Last Duel' Gets the Greenlight as Disney Dates Multiple Titles" (<https://variety.com/2019/film/news/ridley-scott-the-last-duel-disney-dates-christmas-2020-1203406933/>). *Variety*.
5. Michael, Brendan (October 23, 2019). "Exclusive: Tracy Letts and Rachel Blanchard Join Ben Affleck in Thriller 'Deep Water' " (<https://collider.com/tracy-letts-rachel-blanchard-join-ben-affleck-movie-deep-water/>). *Collider*. Retrieved October 23, 2019.
6. "Current Productions" (<http://www.filmneworleans.org/for-filmmakers/current-productions/>). Film New Orleans.
7. Wiseman, Andreas; N'Duka, Amanda (November 14, 2019). "'Deep Water': Lil Rel Howery, Jacob Elordi & Dash Mihok Among Cast To Join Ben Affleck & Ana De Armas In Adrian Lyne Thriller, Cameras Roll" (<https://deadline.com/2019/11/deep-water-lil-rel-howery-jacob-elordi-dash-mihok-among-cast-to-join-ben-affleck-ana-de-armas-in-adrian-lyne-thriller-cameras-roll-1202785933/>). *Deadline Hollywood*.
8. N'Duka, Amanda (November 25, 2019). "Finn Wittrock Cast In New Regency Thriller 'Deep Water' Starring Ben Affleck" (<https://deadline.com/2019/11/finn-wittrock-ben-affleck-new-regency-deep-water-1202794945/>). *Deadline Hollywood*.
9. N'Duka, Amanda (December 13, 2019). "Lodric D. Collins To Play Smokey Robinson In Aretha Franklin Biopic 'Respect'; Vincent Pastore Joins 'The Birthday Cake'; Michael Braun In 'Deep Water' " (<https://deadline.com/2019/12/lodric-d-collins-smokey-robinson-aretha-franklin-biopic-respect-vincent-pastore-the-birthday-cake-michael-braun-deep-water-1202808911/>). *Deadline Hollywood*. Retrieved December 13, 2019.
10. D'Alessandro, Anthony (September 23, 2020). "'Black Widow' Jumps To Summer 2021 Spurring Marvel Pics Release Date Shift; 'West Side Story' Delayed A Year; 'Soul' Stays Theatrical" (<https://deadline.com/2020/09/black-widow-jumps-to-summer-2021-spurring-marvel-pics-release-date-shift-west-side-story-delayed-a-year-soul-stays-theatrical-1234582771/>). *Deadline Hollywood*. Retrieved September 23, 2020.
11. Rubin, Rebecca (March 23, 2021). "'Black Widow,' 'Cruella' to Debut on Disney Plus and in Theaters as Disney Shifts Dates for Seven Films" (<https://variety.com/2021/film/news/disney-postpones-black-widow-shang-chi-1234935874/>). *Variety*. Archived (<https://web.archive.org/web/20210323190428/https://variety.com/2021/film/news/disney-postpones-black-widow-shang-chi-1234935874/>) from the original on March 23, 2021. Retrieved March 23, 2021.
12. Welk, Brian (December 9, 2021). "'Deep Water' With Ben Affleck and Ana de Armas Pulled From Theatrical Release" (<https://www.thewrap.com/deep-water-ben-affleck-ana-de-armas-pulled/>). *TheWrap*. Retrieved December 9, 2021.
13. Palmer, Roger (December 13, 2021). "'Deep Water' Moving To Hulu" (<https://whatsondisneyplus.com/deep-water-moving-to-hulu/>). *What's on Disney Plus*. Retrieved December 13, 2021.
14. Sharf, Zack (February 14, 2022). "'Deep Water' Teaser Trailer: Ben Affleck, Ana de Armas' Erotic Thriller Debuts on Hulu in March" (<https://variety.com/2022/film/news/deep-water-trailer-ben-affleck-ana-de-arma-erotic-1235181185/>). *Variety*. Retrieved February 14, 2022.
15. "Deep Water ratings: 826K U.S. households got sexy with the Ben Affleck & Ana de Armas erotic thriller" (<https://www.joblo.com/deep-water-was-watched-by-826-k-u-s-households/>). *JoBlo*. 2022-03-23. Retrieved 2022-07-08.
16. "Reelgood Data: Disney's 'Turning Red' Most-Streamed Movie Through March 23 – Media Play News" (<https://www.mediaplaynews.com/reelgood-data-disneys-turning-red-most-streamed-movie-through-march-23/>). 25 March 2022. Retrieved 2022-10-05.

17. "Reelgood: Oscar Winner 'CODA' Most-Streamed Movie Through March 30 – Media Play News" (<https://www.mediaplaynews.com/reelgood-oscar-winner-coda-most-streamed-movie-through-march-30/>). April 2022. Retrieved 2022-10-05.
18. Connellan, Shannon; Haysom, Sam (2022-04-07). "'Moonshot' and 'Death on the Nile' are some of the most streamed movies this week. Here's the list" (<https://mashable.com/article/most-streamed-popular-movies-april-7>). *Mashable*. Retrieved 2022-10-05.
19. "*Deep Water*" (https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/deep_water_2022). *Rotten Tomatoes*. Fandango Media. Retrieved July 7, 2022.
20. "*Deep Water*" (<https://www.metacritic.com/movie/deep-water-2022>). *Metacritic*. Fandom, Inc. Retrieved March 19, 2022.
21. "Dare to Tread *Deep Water*'s Perfectly Pulpy Melodrama" (<https://www.pastemagazine.com/movies/deep-water-review/>). *Paste*. March 18, 2022. Retrieved October 5, 2022.
22. Reed, Rex (March 31, 2022). "'*Deep Water*' Is the Sort of Sexy Thriller We Used to Take for Granted" (<https://observer.com/2022/03/deep-water-is-the-sort-of-sexy-thriller-we-used-to-take-for-granted/>). *Observer Media*. Retrieved October 5, 2022.
23. Rooney, David (March 16, 2022). "Ben Affleck and Ana de Armas in Adrian Lyne's '*Deep Water*': Film Review" (<https://www.hollywoodreporter.com/movies/movie-reviews/deep-water-ben-affleck-ana-de-armas-1235111977/>). *The Hollywood Reporter*. Retrieved March 18, 2022.
24. Nayman, Adam (March 18, 2022). "If Only '*Deep Water*' Had a Satisfying Climax" (<https://www.theringer.com/2022/3/18/22984585/deep-water-review-ben-affleck-ana-de-armas-erotic-thriller>). *The Ringer*. Retrieved October 5, 2022.

External links

- *Deep Water* (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt2180339/>) at *IMDb*
 - *Deep Water* (<https://www.allmovie.com/movie/v7929494252>) at *AllMovie*
-

Retrieved from "[https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Deep_Water_\(2022_film\)&oldid=1222708294](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Deep_Water_(2022_film)&oldid=1222708294)"

▪