

Love Lies Bleeding (2024 film)

Love Lies Bleeding is a 2024 neo-noir romantic thriller film directed by Rose Glass from a screenplay she co-wrote with Weronika Tofilska. It is a co-production between the United Kingdom and the United States. The film stars Kristen Stewart, Katy O'Brian, Jena Malone, Anna Baryshnikov, Dave Franco, and Ed Harris. Set in 1989, its plot follows the relationship between a reclusive gym manager, who is part of a crime family, and an ambitious bodybuilder who commits a string of murders once they get wrapped up in organized crime.

Love Lies Bleeding premiered at the Sundance Film Festival on January 20, 2024. It was released theatrically in the United States by A24 on March 8, 2024, and in the United Kingdom by Lionsgate UK on May 3, 2024. The film received positive reviews from critics.

Plot

In 1989, gym manager Louise "Lou" Langston meets and falls in love with a young woman, Jaqueline "Jackie" Cleaver, who is a bodybuilder working out at her gym. Jackie, unbeknownst to Lou, has just gotten a job at a shooting range owned by Lou's estranged father, Lou Sr., after having sex with Lou's brother-in-law J.J. Jackie herself is a vagrant, passing through town on her way to a bodybuilding competition in Las Vegas. Lou offers her steroids, which Jackie initially hesitates but ends up using it. Jackie asks to stay at Lou's apartment and her request is accepted.

The pair have dinner with J.J. and Beth, Lou's sister, who does not fully realize his abusive actions. Lou defends Beth and threatens J.J. In return, J.J. tells Lou that he had sex with Jackie, which angers her. While driving home, Lou forces Jackie out of the car, mentioning she wants J.J. dead, but hurriedly lets her back in when two FBI agents arrive. The next day, at a hospital, Lou visits Beth, who has been admitted after J.J. had battered her; Lou Sr. arrives and promises to care for Beth. Jackie, emotionally unstable from spontaneous substance abuse, breaks into J.J.'s home and brutally beats him to death.

A distressed Lou arrives at the scene, admitting she did not actually want J.J. dead. The two drive his corpse and car into a ravine, where Lou formerly helped her father kill his business

Love Lies Bleeding



Theatrical release poster

Directed by	Rose Glass
Written by	Rose Glass Weronika Tofilska
Produced by	Andrea Cornwell Oliver Kassman
Starring	Kristen Stewart Katy O'Brian Jena Malone Anna Baryshnikov Dave Franco Ed Harris
Cinematography	Ben Fordesman
Edited by	Mark Towns
Music by	Clint Mansell
Production companies	A24[1][2][3] Film4 Escape Plan Lobo Films

rivals and dispose of their bodies. On the way there, Lou's friend Daisy, who is infatuated with her, spots them and makes note of Jackie driving Lou's truck. Lou cleans up evidence of the murder while Jackie continues her steroid addiction, growing more agitated. Following an argument, Jackie wounds Lou, then leaves and hitchhikes to Las Vegas. During the competition, Jackie hallucinates vomiting a fully grown Lou due to steroid-induced psychosis and contestants commenting on her weight. In reality, Jackie has vomited on the floor; in her psychosis, she assaults another contestant, which lands Jackie in jail.

Meanwhile, armed with full knowledge of J.J.'s murder, Daisy blackmails Lou into a relationship with her. Lou Sr. bails out Jackie and coerces her to kill Daisy, the sole witness to the murder, with a suppressed pistol. Lou and Daisy are just arriving at her apartment when Jackie shoots Daisy from behind. In a state of panic, Jackie returns to Lou Sr., only to be knocked unconscious. He tells Lou that he has arranged for Jackie to go to prison for double homicide, but she threatens to expose his operation if Lou Sr. does so, causing him to hang up in a rage.

As Lou is cleaning up Daisy's body, she is attacked by a figure whom she manages to fatally shoot, revealing the figure as a police officer on Lou Sr.'s payroll. Realizing her father aims to kill her, Lou bludgeons the officer with a gun and makes her way to his manor, where she encounters Beth who has learned about Lou's involvement with J.J.'s death. Beth denounces Lou, who accepts it before forcing Jackie's location from her. She frees Jackie and tells her to run, before being shot in the leg by Lou Sr. He reveals to Lou that her mother is not dead, but left due to their actions; Lou Sr. for his criminal business and Lou for helping him. Jackie arrives, having grown to gigantic size, and pins down Lou Sr. Lou shoves a gun into his mouth, but relents and leaves him for the police.

Lou and Jackie drive off, stopping the next morning when Lou realizes that Daisy is still alive in the truck bed despite her near-fatal wound; she nonchalantly strangles Daisy to death and dumps her body in a nearby field while Jackie sleeps.

Distributed by	A24 (United States) <u>Lionsgate</u> (United Kingdom)
Release dates	January 20, 2024 (<u>Sundance</u>) March 8, 2024 (United States) May 3, 2024 (United Kingdom)
Running time	104 minutes ^[4]
Countries	United Kingdom United States
Language	English
Box office	\$10.6 million ^[5] ^[6]

Cast

- Kristen Stewart as Louise "Lou" Langston, a reclusive gym manager^[8]
- Katy O'Brian as Jaqueline "Jackie" Cleaver, a rising bodybuilder^[9]
- Jena Malone as Bethany "Beth" Langston, Lou's sister
- Anna Baryshnikov as Daisy, a woman who is obsessed with Lou
- Dave Franco as J.J., Beth's husband
- Ed Harris as Lou Langston Sr., Lou's estranged father

Production

Love Lies Bleeding is a co-production between [A24](#) and [Film4](#). It is the second film to be directed by English filmmaker [Rose Glass](#). [Kristen Stewart](#) first mentioned her involvement in the film in March 2022, as she was a fan of Glass' previous work, *[Saint Maud](#)* (2019);^[10] her casting was confirmed in April.^[1] [Anna Baryshnikov](#), [Katy O'Brian](#), [Dave Franco](#), [Ed Harris](#), and [Jena Malone](#) joined the cast in June.^{[2][3]} O'Brian said in an interview that she had to audition for the part, her first leading role, six times.^[11]

Principal photography began in [Albuquerque, New Mexico](#), in June 2022.^[12] Production concluded by August 2022.^[13]

Release

Love Lies Bleeding had its world premiere in the Midnight section at the [2024 Sundance Film Festival](#) on January 20, 2024,^{[14][9]} followed by its European premiere on February 18 at the [74th Berlin International Film Festival](#) in the Berlinale Special Gala section.^[15] The UK premiere was held at the [Glasgow Film Festival](#) on February 28.^[16]

The film was released on five screens in New York City and Los Angeles by [A24](#) on March 8, 2024, before expanding wide on March 15.^[17] [Lionsgate UK](#) acquired the British distribution rights to the film in November 2023^[18] and it was released theatrically in the United Kingdom on May 3, 2024.^[19]

Reception

Box office

Love Lies Bleeding has grossed 8.4 million in the United States and Canada and 1.9 million in other territories.

In its opening weekend the film made \$276,618 from five theaters, a per-venue average of \$55,324.^[20] Expanding to 1,362 theaters the following weekend, the film made \$2.5 million, finishing sixth at the box office.^[21]

Critical response

On the review aggregator website [Rotten Tomatoes](#), 94% of 233 critics' reviews are positive, with an average rating of 7.8/10. The website's consensus reads: "Lust and violence collide to powerfully pulpy effect in *Love Lies Bleeding*, a well-acted addition to writer-director [Rose Glass](#)' growing body of exceptional work."^[22] [Metacritic](#), which uses a weighted average, assigned the film a score of 77 out of 100, based on 53 critics, indicating "generally favorable" reviews.^[23] Audiences polled by [PostTrak](#) gave the film a 78% overall positive score with an average 3.5 out of 5 stars.^[21]

[Manohla Dargis](#) of *[The New York Times](#)* wrote that the film, likely influenced by the works of [James M. Cain](#), [Jim Thompson](#), [David Lynch](#), and the [Coen Brothers](#), "For the most part... manages to transcend its influences enough to remain engaging; sometimes it does something even more interesting with its reference

points... Glass borrows liberally but not mindlessly."^[24] Saffron Maeve, for the *Toronto Star*, gave the film 3.5 stars out of 4, writing that "*Love Lies Bleeding* becomes increasingly convoluted [...] But this narrative estrangement is grounded in intention".^[25]


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External links

- [Official website \(<https://a24films.com/films/love-lies-bleeding>\)](https://a24films.com/films/love-lies-bleeding) 
 - *Love Lies Bleeding* (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt19637052/>) at **IMDb**
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