

# The Babysitter: Killer Queen

The Babysitter: Killer Queen is a 2020 American black comedy slasher film directed and produced by McG, from a screenplay he wrote with Dan Lagana, Brad Morris, and Jimmy Warden. It is a sequel to the 2017 film The Babysitter and stars Judah Lewis, Emily Alyn Lind, Jenna Ortega, Robbie Amell, Andrew Bachelor, Leslie Bibb, Hana Mae Lee, Bella Thorne, Samara Weaving, and Ken Marino. The film continues the story of Cole Johnson, two years after the events of the first film, who must again fight to ensure his survival after a secret is unburied, as he is hunted by demonic enemies, both old and new.

The film was released on September 10, 2020, on Netflix, receiving generally negative reviews from critics. As of November 2023, a sequel is still in development.

#### **Plot**

Two years after a satanic cult led by his former babysitter, Bee, tried to kill him, Cole Johnson is a junior in high school. He is unable to convince anyone, except for his best friend Melanie, of Bee's life-threatening plot; his parents and most others think he had a psychotic break. After he discovers that his parents have enrolled him in a psychiatric school, he escapes with Melanie, her new boyfriend, Jimmy, and their friends Boom-Boom and Diego to join a lake party.

At the party, Cole witnesses the arrival of new student Phoebe Atwell at the lake after finding a stuffed toy and directions to the lake. Later, Cole's friends play a party game on a boat when Melanie suddenly kills Boom-Boom with a boathook and saves her blood. Melanie, Jimmy and Diego are revealed as cult members. With Boom-Boom's blood as a sacrifice, they need Cole's blood as an offering of an "innocent" to make their wishes come true. Original cultists Sonya, Allison, Max, and John also appear, having been resurrected so they could partake in the ritual by sunrise. However, Phoebe suddenly appears, looking for gas for her jet ski, and provides Cole with some time to evade the cult members and escape with Phoebe on her jet ski.

#### The Babysitter: Killer Queen



Official release poster

Official release poster	
Directed by	McG
Written by	Dan Lagana Brad Morris Jimmy Warden McG
Based on	Characters by <u>Brian Duffield</u>
Produced by	McG Mary Viola Zack Schiller
Starring	Judah Lewis Emily Alyn Lind Jenna Ortega Robbie Amell Andrew Bachelor Leslie Bibb Hana Mae Lee Bella Thorne Samara Weaving

Once on land, Cole explains everything to Phoebe, who believes him, while the cultists give chase. Sonya makes the first attempt to kill them, but they end up running her over with a car left by a stranger and decapitate her with a surfboard. The cult gets into an argument after finding Sonya's body and splits into two groups: Allison, Max and John; Melanie, Jimmy and Diego. Max and John leave while Allison takes a break. She finds them, but the two trap her between a narrow wedge of rocks and rip her head off. The two board a boat and drive off, but Max catches the raft attached to the back of the boat and is able to pull himself onto the boat. However, Phoebe sets him on fire with a can of silly string and a lighter, then Cole shreds him with the boat's propeller. Diego and Jimmy supernaturally disintegrate when they attempt to back off from their pursuit of Cole.

	Ken Marino
Cinematography	Scott Henriksen
Edited by	Martin Bernfeld
Music by	Bear McCreary
Production companies	Wonderland Sound & Vision Boies/Schiller Film Group
Distributed by	Netflix
Release date	September 10, 2020
Running time	101 minutes $^{[1]}$
Country	United States
Language	English

Cole and Phoebe arrive at Phoebe's old family cabin, where

they take refuge and hope to wait out the night. In the cabin bunker, Phoebe reveals to Cole that her parents died because she crashed into them in a fatal car accident. Cole comforts her, and the two have sex. Melanie calls Cole's father Archie, who has been searching for him alongside Melanie's father Juan, and fakes being drunk so that he can pick them up, hoping to lure Cole out. Cole and Phoebe come out of the bunker armed with crossbows and John accidentally kills himself when a chandelier crashes on him. Archie gives Cole a sleeping drug so he can take him to his car as Melanie kills Juan with a machete and captures Phoebe.

While stopping for gas, Cole regains consciousness, locks Archie out of the car, and drives back to the lake to save Phoebe. In a cove, Melanie holds Phoebe hostage before Cole shows up and volunteers to be sacrificed. Bee emerges from the water and is revealed to be Phoebe's babysitter who was responsible for the car accident that killed her parents. She made a deal with the Devil to save Phoebe's life in exchange for her soul. Sonya, Allison, Max, and John are resurrected again, and the four and Melanie drink the blood of Cole mixed with Boom-Boom's blood. However, since Cole has had sex with Phoebe and is therefore no longer "innocent", the ritual backfires and the five melt and disintegrate. Bee, who did not drink the blood, reveals that she orchestrated everything so that Phoebe and Cole could unite and defeat the cult, having had a change of heart after Cole's love confession after her initial defeat. However, since Bee is still technically a demon, she drinks the blood and disintegrates to save the two. Archie shows up and, having witnessed Bee's death, now believes what Cole said was true. As the sun comes up, Cole and Phoebe embrace in a kiss, while Archie looks on proudly.

#### **Cast**

- Judah Lewis as Cole Johnson, a high school student. He is bullied by his entire school because he tried to convince his classmates about the mysterious incident that happened at his house involving a satanic cult two years ago, which led people to think he is crazy. He also suffers from PTSD and takes multiple medications on a daily basis.
- Emily Alyn Lind as Melanie Cyrus, Cole's best friend and later his arch-enemy.
- Jenna Ortega as Phoebe Atwell, a new student attending Cole's school and the current love interest of Cole.
- Robbie Amell as Max, a resurrected cult member
- Andrew Bachelor as John, a resurrected cult member

- Hana Mae Lee as Sonya, a resurrected cult member
- Bella Thorne as Allison, a resurrected cult member
- Samara Weaving as Bee, secret leader of a devil-worshipping cult and Cole's former babysitter.
- Ken Marino as Archie Johnson, Cole's father
- Leslie Bibb as Phyliss Johnson, Cole's mother
- Chris Wylde as Juan Cyrus, Melanie's father
- Carl McDowell as "Big" Carl Davis
- Maximilian Acevedo as Jimmy, Melanie's boyfriend and fellow cult member
- Juliocesar Chavez as Diego, Melanie and Jimmy's friend and fellow cult member
- Jennifer Foster as Boom-Boom, Melanie, Jimmy and Diego's friend.
- Raymond Patterson as Mr. Nordy, a schoolteacher
- Helen Hong as Principal Highbridge
- Jason Rogel as Officer Phil
- Scott MacArthur as Leeroy, a drifter
- Amanda Cerny as Violet, a store cashier

### **Production**

#### Development

In September 2019, it was announced <u>Judah Lewis</u>, <u>Hana Mae Lee</u>, <u>Robbie Amell</u>, <u>Bella Thorne</u>, <u>Andrew Bachelor</u>, <u>Emily Alyn Lind</u>, <u>Leslie Bibb</u> and <u>Ken Marino</u> would reprise their roles from the first film in the sequel, with <u>McG</u> directing from a screenplay by McG, <u>Dan Lagana</u>, Brad Morris and Jimmy Warden, and Wonderland Sound and Vision and Boies/Schiller Film Group co-financing and producing. <u>McG</u> described the story as being based on <u>Faust</u> but with ridiculous jokes like in a <u>Mel Brooks</u> film. In October 2019, Jenna Ortega joined the cast in one of the lead roles.

The corduroy suit worn by Lewis is an homage to Wes Anderson. [4]

### **Filming**

Principal photography took place on location in Los Angeles, California, in 2019. [6]

# Music

Bear McCreary composed the score for the film.<sup>[7]</sup>

### Release

The film was released on Netflix on September 10,  $2020.^{[8]}$  In its debut weekend, the film was the second-most watched item on Netflix.  $^{[9]}$ 

# Reception

Early reviews for *The Babysitter: Killer Queen* were "leaning negative",  $\frac{[10]}{}$  with critics calling the film "uninspired" and "embarrassing".  $\frac{[11]}{}$ 

On <u>Rotten Tomatoes</u>, the film had an approval rating of 48% based on 42 reviews, with an average rating of  $4.9/10.^{\boxed{12}}$  On <u>Metacritic</u>, it has a weighted average score of 22 out of 100, based on reviews from 6 critics, indicating "generally unfavorable reviews".  $\boxed{13}$ 

Dennis Harvey of *Variety* wrote: "Fans of the original will no doubt tune-in expecting more high-grade guilty-pleasure fun, only to get way too much of a no-longer-very-good thing instead." [14]

Felix Vasquez Jr. of *Cinema Crazed* called it "flawed but a lot of fun, and has a good time with its gore and grue as the original did". [15]

David Gelmini of Dread Central awarded it a score of 4.5 out of 5, calling it a "worthy sequel with a decent amount of gore and suspense", and praising the performances of the lead actors. [16]

# Sequel

In September 2020,  $\underline{\text{McG}}$  stated that he had plans for a third and final film to conclude the series, stating that it would depend on the success of *Killer Queen*. He reiterated that he had a story ready for a third movie but that there was no confirmation from Netflix that a third movie will actually be made.

In November 2023, McG stated that a third movie is still in development and that he is still searching for a "third star" to be in the movie. [19]

# References

- 1. "The Babysitter: Killer Queen" (https://www.netflix.com/title/81012366). *Netflix*. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20200902001521/https://www.netflix.com/title/81012366) from the original on September 2, 2020. Retrieved August 13, 2020.
- 2. "The Babysitter: Killer Queen" (https://media.netflix.com/en/only-on-netflix/81012366). Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20200704115820/https://media.netflix.com/en/only-on-netflix/81012366) from the original on July 4, 2020. Retrieved July 4, 2020.
- 3. Kit, Borys (September 25, 2019). "Judah Lewis Returning for Sequel to Netflix Horror Flick 'The Babysitter' (Exclusive)" (https://www.hollywoodreporter.com/heat-vision/judah-lewis-mc g-returning-sequel-netflix-horror-flick-babysitter-1243455). *The Hollywood Reporter*. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20200726101312/https://www.hollywoodreporter.com/heat-vision/judah-lewis-mcg-returning-sequel-netflix-horror-flick-babysitter-1243455) from the original on July 26, 2020. Retrieved October 18, 2019.
- 4. Oller, Jacob (September 11, 2020). "The Babysitter: Killer Queen's McG talks Supernatural's end, Tarantino kills, and social media woes" (https://www.syfy.com/syfywire/babysitter-killer-queen-mcg-interview-supernatural). SYFY WIRE. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/2020 1203212714/https://www.syfy.com/syfywire/babysitter-killer-queen-mcg-interview-supernatural) from the original on December 3, 2020. Retrieved September 13, 2020.
- 5. Galuppo, Mia (October 18, 2019). "'Jane the Virgin' Actress Jenna Ortega Joins 'The Babysitter' Sequel (Exclusive)" (https://www.hollywoodreporter.com/heat-vision/jenna-ortega -joins-babysitter-sequel-1248717). *The Hollywood Reporter*. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20200803081433/https://www.hollywoodreporter.com/heat-vision/jenna-ortega-joins-babysitter-sequel-1248717) from the original on August 3, 2020. Retrieved October 18, 2019.

- 6. D'Alessandro, Anthony (September 25, 2019). "Ken Marino Returning For Netflix's 'The Babysitter 2'" (https://deadline.com/2019/09/the-babysitter-2-netflix-ken-marino-cast-120274 5078/). Deadline Hollywood. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20200916154752/https://deadline.com/2019/09/the-babysitter-2-netflix-ken-marino-cast-1202745078/) from the original on September 16, 2020. Retrieved October 18, 2019.
- 7. "Bear McCreary Scoring McG's 'The Babysitter: Killer Queen' " (https://filmmusicreporter.com/2020/09/10/bear-mccreary-scoring-mcgs-the-babysitter-killer-queen/). Film Music Reporter. September 10, 2020. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20200926170154/http://filmmusicreporter.com/2020/09/10/bear-mccreary-scoring-mcgs-the-babysitter-killer-queen/) from the original on September 26, 2020. Retrieved September 10, 2020.
- 8. Squires, John (August 2, 2020). "Sequel *The Babysitter: Killer Queen* Coming to Netflix in September!" (https://bloody-disgusting.com/movie/3627296/sequel-babysitter-killer-queen-coming-netflix-september-images/). *Bloody Disgusting*. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20200914183144/https://bloody-disgusting.com/movie/3627296/sequel-babysitter-killer-queen-coming-netflix-september-images/) from the original on September 14, 2020. Retrieved August 2, 2020.
- 9. "VOD Box Office: Universal Thrives, 'Sniper' Series Stays Alive, 'Mulan' Hides, 'Cuties' Rises" (https://www.indiewire.com/2020/09/vod-box-office-king-of-staten-island-bill-and-ted-1234586227/). September 14, 2020. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/2021122600410 6/https://www.indiewire.com/2020/09/vod-box-office-king-of-staten-island-bill-and-ted-12345 86227/) from the original on December 26, 2021. Retrieved May 2, 2021.
- 10. "Netflix's The Babysitter: Killer Queen Reviews Are In, See What Critics Are Saying" (https://www.cinemablend.com/news/2554483/netflixs-the-babysitter-killer-queen-reviews-are-in-see-what-critics-are-saying). CINEMABLEND. September 10, 2020. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20201016045650/https://www.cinemablend.com/news/2554483/netflixs-the-babysitter-killer-queen-reviews-are-in-see-what-critics-are-saying) from the original on October 16, 2020. Retrieved September 11, 2020.
- 11. Moniuszko, Sara M. "Critics slam 'The Babysitter: Killer Queen' as 'uninspired' and 'embarrassing'" (https://www.usatoday.com/story/entertainment/movies/2020/09/11/the-baby sitter-killer-queen-reviews-critics-slam-sequel/3468274001/). *USA TODAY*. Archived (https://wwb.archive.org/web/20200912002855/https://www.usatoday.com/story/entertainment/movies/2020/09/11/the-babysitter-killer-queen-reviews-critics-slam-sequel/3468274001/) from the original on September 12, 2020. Retrieved September 11, 2020.
- 12. "The Babysitter: Killer Queen (2020)" (https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/the\_babysitter\_kill er\_queen). Rotten Tomatoes. Fandango. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/2022061719 5523/https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/the\_babysitter\_killer\_queen) from the original on June 17, 2022. Retrieved October 10, 2021.
- 13. "The Babysitter: Killer Queen Reviews" (https://www.metacritic.com/movie/the-babysitter-killer-queen). Metacritic. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20210509140855/https://www.metacritic.com/movie/the-babysitter-killer-queen) from the original on May 9, 2021. Retrieved June 1, 2021.
- 14. Harvey, Dennis (September 10, 2020). "'The Babysitter: Killer Queen' Review: A Fun Ride Derails in Overblown, Unfunny Netflix Sequel" (https://variety.com/2020/film/reviews/the-bab ysitter-killer-queen-review-1234764481/). Variety. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/202 00913110348/https://variety.com/2020/film/reviews/the-babysitter-killer-queen-review-12347 64481/) from the original on September 13, 2020. Retrieved September 13, 2020.
- 15. Felix Vasquez Jr (2020). <u>"The Babysitter: Killer Queen (2020)" (http://cinema-crazed.com/blog/2020/09/10/the-babysitter-killer-queen-2020/)</u>. *Cinema-Crazed.com*. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20200913070100/http://cinema-crazed.com/blog/2020/09/10/the-babysitter-killer-queen-2020/) from the original on September 13, 2020. Retrieved September 13, 2020.

- 16. Gelmini, David (September 16, 2020). "THE BABYSITTER: KILLER QUEEN Review One Of The Best Horror Sequels In A Long Time" (https://www.dreadcentral.com/reviews/343554/t he-babysitter-killer-queen-review-one-of-the-best-horror-sequels-in-a-long-time/). Dread Central. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20201205144215/https://www.dreadcentral.com/reviews/343554/the-babysitter-killer-queen-review-one-of-the-best-horror-sequels-in-a-long-time/) from the original on December 5, 2020. Retrieved December 31, 2020.
- 17. "The Babysitter 3 Already Planned From Original Director" (https://screenrant.com/babysitter-3-netflix-director-sequel-plans-confirmed/). Screenrant. September 11, 2020. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20200914183149/https://screenrant.com/babysitter-3-netflix-director-sequel-plans-confirmed/) from the original on September 14, 2020. Retrieved September 13, 2020.
- 18. Stone, Sam (September 11, 2020). "McG Confirms Sequel Plans for *The Babysitter: Killer Queen*" (https://www.cbr.com/mcg-confirms-sequel-plans-babysitter-killer-queen/). CBR. Retrieved September 8, 2023.
- 19. Klein, Brennan (November 24, 2023). <u>"The Babysitter 3 Gets Confident Update From Director Of Netflix Horror Movies" (https://screenrant.com/the-babysitter-3-movie-update-director-mcg/)</u>. ScreenRant. Retrieved December 27, 2023.

### **External links**

- The Babysitter: Killer Queen (https://www.imdb.com/title/tt11024272/) at IMDb
- The Babysitter: Killer Queen (https://www.netflix.com/title/81012366) on Netflix

Retrieved from "https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=The\_Babysitter:\_Killer\_Queen&oldid=1216640055"