

All the Old Knives

All the Old Knives is a 2022 American spy thriller film directed by Janus Metz Pedersen and written by Olen Steinhauer. It is based on Steinhauer's 2015 novel of the same name. The film stars Chris Pine, Thandiwe Newton, Laurence Fishburne, Jonathan Pryce and David Dawson.

All the Old Knives was released by Amazon Studios in limited theaters across the United States, and on digital via Amazon Prime Video, on April 8, 2022.

Plot

In early 2020, CIA officer Henry Pelham is informed by his boss, Vick Wallinger, that the CIA has reopened the case of Turkish Alliance 127, a 2012 terrorist hijacking which ended in tragedy. Headquarters suspects there was a leak from the Vienna station, where Henry and Vick work. Henry is sent to interview Celia Harrison, who also worked at the Vienna station at the time of the hijacking. Henry and Celia were lovers, but she left him shortly after the event.

Celia, now retired, lives in Carmel-by-the-Sea, California with her family. Henry meets her at an upscale restaurant, which is almost empty of customers and staff. As Henry and Celia talk, she reveals that an Austrian intelligence agent named Karl Stein approached her shortly after she moved to Carmel. He wanted her to inform on her coworkers, but she refused. Henry has Celia recall the events of the hijacking.

In a flashback to 2012, Flight 127 is on the runway when it is hijacked by four armed militants belonging to an Islamic terrorist group. The Vienna station jumps into action to address the crisis and learns that Ilyas Shushani, a Chechen and former informant for Henry, may be involved. The hijackers threaten to kill the passengers unless several of their comrades are released from custody. Ahmed, a CIA courier who happened to be on the plane, contacts the CIA and suggests an attack via the plane's undercarriage. Celia connects with a possible source named Mohammed, but the meeting seems to yield nothing of value. Henry tells Celia and her mentor, Bill Compton, that when Henry

All the Old Knives



Official release poster

Directed by	<u>Janus Metz Pedersen</u>
Screenplay by	<u>Olen Steinhauer</u>
Based on	<i>All the Old Knives</i> by <u>Olen Steinhauer</u>
Produced by	<u>Mark Gordon</u> <u>Steve Schwartz</u> <u>Paula Mae Schwartz</u> <u>Nick Wechsler</u> <u>Matt Jackson</u>
Starring	<u>Chris Pine</u> <u>Thandiwe Newton</u> <u>Laurence Fishburne</u> <u>Jonathan Pryce</u>

worked in Moscow his superiors forced him to betray Ilyas to the Russian government as a trade-off for intel on an imminent attack on a U.S. embassy.

The Vienna station receives another message from Ahmed saying that the terrorists have a camera mounted on the plane's undercarriage and the assault should be called off. Celia notices differences in the language of Ahmed's messages and fears he has been compromised. Checking the station's phone logs, she notices that a call to Iran was placed from Bill's office phone. Then Ahmed is killed and thrown off the plane. The next day, Celia leaves both Henry and Vienna.

In the present, Henry asks why she ended their relationship so abruptly. Celia reveals that she saw a call on Henry's cellphone from the same Iranian number that she had found in the station phone logs. It is revealed that when the terrorists' demands were not met, they released sarin gas, killing themselves, the crew, and all passengers. The Vienna station is devastated by the outcome. Realizing that Henry was the leak, she left him but did not divulge her discovery to the CIA.

She further confesses that, after Henry contacted her to arrange this meeting, she contacted Karl Stein, and he arranged the meeting place, the staff, and fake customers, with the aim of poisoning Henry via his wine.

As Henry begins to succumb to the poison, Celia tearfully asks why he betrayed everyone to the terrorists. He explains that he was lured into a meeting with Ilyas, who had become radicalized and masterminded the hijacking. Ilyas' people staged the meeting between Mohammed and Celia to create the impression that Celia's life was in danger. This pushed Henry into revealing the plan for an undercarriage assault, and then the presence of Ahmed on the plane, in exchange for her life.

Henry comes to terms with his impending death, and Celia returns home to her husband and children. Karl calls Vick to report that Henry has died, revealing that they had been working together the entire time.

Cinematography	<u>Charlotte Bruus Christensen</u>
Edited by	Mark Eckersley Per Sandholt
Music by	<u>Jon Ekstrand</u> <u>Rebekka Karijord</u>
Production companies	<u>Entertainment One</u> <u>Chockstone Pictures</u> Big Indie Pictures Potboiler Productions Jackson Pictures
Distributed by	<u>Amazon Studios</u>
Release date	April 8, 2022
Running time	101 minutes
Country	United States
Language	English

Cast

- Chris Pine as Henry Pelham
- Thandiwe Newton as Celia Harrison-Favreau
- Laurence Fishburne as Vick Wallinger
- Jonathan Pryce as Bill Compton
- Ahd Kamel as Leila Maroof
- Abdul Alshareef as Suleiman Abdulwahed
- Gala Gordon as Waitress
- Jonjo O'Neill as Ernst Pul
- David Dawson as Owen Lassiter

- Corey Johnson as Karl Stein
- Nasser Memarzia as Mohammed Dudayev
- Michael Shaeffer as Treble
- Orli Shuka as Ilyas Shishani
- Derek Siow as Gene Wilcox

Production

The film was announced in May 2017, with Chris Pine and Michelle Williams in negotiations to star. James Marsh was set to direct, with The Mark Gordon Company and Entertainment One financing.^{[1][2]}

In September 2020, with Williams, Marsh and The Mark Gordon Company no longer involved with the film, Thandiwe Newton was cast to replace Williams and Janus Metz was hired as director.^[3] In November 2020, Jonathan Pryce and Laurence Fishburne joined the cast.^[4]

Metz revealed filming had begun by December 2020 in London.^[5] Filming wrapped in London in February and moved to Monterey and Carmel-by-the-Sea, California, in March.^[6] Metz revealed that principal filming wrapped in mid-March.^[7]

Jon Ekstrand and Rebekka Karijord composed the film score.

Release and reception

The film was released in limited theaters and on streaming on Amazon Prime Video on April 8, 2022.^[8]

Critical response

The review aggregator Rotten Tomatoes reported an approval rating of 63% based on 123 reviews, with an average rating of 6/10. The website's critics consensus reads: "*All the Old Knives* suffers in comparison to the dialogue-driven spy thrillers of the past, but the chemistry between its stars simmers even when the story doesn't."^[9] Metacritic assigned the film a weighted average score of 62 out of 100 based on 32 critics, indicating "generally favorable reviews".^[10]

Audience viewership

According to Samba TV, *All the Old Knives* was watched by 637,000 US households in its first weekend streaming on Prime Video.^[11]

References

1. Kroll, Justin (May 5, 2017). "Chris Pine and Michelle Williams to Star in 'All the Old Knives' (EXCLUSIVE)" (<https://variety.com/2017/film/news/chris-pine-michelle-williams-all-the-old-knives-1202409928/>).
2. Aslam, Amna (March 5, 2022). "All The Old Knives Latest Trailer, Release Date, Cast" (<https://openskynews.com/all-the-old-knives-latest-trailer-release-date-cast/013426/>).

3. Kroll, Justin (September 17, 2020). "Amazon Studios Lands Rights To Thriller 'All The Old Knives' Starring Chris Pine And Thandie Newton; 'ZeroZeroZero's Janus Metz Signs On To Direct" (<https://deadline.com/2020/09/amazon-all-the-old-knives-chris-pine-thandie-newton-zerozerozeros-janus-metz-1234578013/>).
4. Donnelly, Matt (November 19, 2020). "Jonathan Pryce, Laurence Fishburne Join Chris Pine in Amazon's 'All the Old Knives' (EXCLUSIVE)" (<https://variety.com/2020/film/news/jonathan-pryce-laurence-fisburne-amazon-all-the-old-knives-1234835969/>).
5. "Janus Metz Pedersen Posts" (<https://www.facebook.com/login/?next=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2Fjanus.metz%2Fposts%2F10158578482181226>). *Facebook*.
6. Copitch, Josh (February 25, 2021). "An Amazon original film to be shot in Monterey, Carmel starting in March" (<https://www.ksbw.com/article/amazon-film-crew-to-be-in-monterey-and-carmel-in-march/35621160>). *KSBW*.
7. "Janus Metz Pedersen Posts" (<https://www.facebook.com/login/?next=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2Fjanus.metz%2Fposts%2F10158869274566226>). *Facebook*.
8. Devore, Britta (February 24, 2022). "'All the Old Knives': Chris Pine and Thandie Newton's Spy Thriller Movie Sets April Release Date on Prime Video" (<https://collider.com/all-the-old-knives-chris-pine-thandie-newton-release-date-prime-video/>). *Collider*. Retrieved February 24, 2022.
9. "*All the Old Knives*" (https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/all_the_old_knives). *Rotten Tomatoes*. Fandango Media. Retrieved September 23, 2023.
10. "*All the Old Knives* Reviews" (<https://www.metacritic.com/movie/all-the-old-knives>). *Metacritic*. Fandom, Inc. Retrieved April 28, 2022.
11. "All The Old Knives was watched by 637K U.S. households in its first weekend streaming" (<https://www.joblo.com/all-the-old-knives-watched-by-6-3-7-u-s-households/>). *JoBlo*. April 15, 2022. Retrieved July 8, 2022.

External links

- *All the Old Knives* (<https://www.allmovie.com/movie/v731279>) at *AllMovie*
 - *All the Old Knives* (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt3706352/>) at *IMDb*
 - *All the Old Knives* (https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/all_the_old_knives) at *Rotten Tomatoes*
 - *All the Old Knives* (<https://www.metacritic.com/movie/all-the-old-knives>) at *Metacritic*
-

Retrieved from "https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=All_the_Old_Knives&oldid=1224083133"

▪