

# Becky (2020 film)

***Becky*** is a 2020 American action thriller film<sup>[3][4]</sup> directed by Jonathan Milott and Cary Murnion, from a screenplay by Nick Morris, Lane Skye, and Ruckus Skye. The film stars Lulu Wilson, Kevin James, and Joel McHale. McHale and Wilson portray Jeff and Becky, a father and daughter whose vacation home is besieged by a gang of Neo-Nazis led by James's character, Dominick.

*Becky* was scheduled to have its world premiere at the Tribeca Film Festival in April 2020, but the festival was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It was released on video-on-demand, digital platforms and in select drive-in theaters on June 5, 2020, by Quiver Distribution and Redbox Entertainment. The film received mixed reviews from critics, though many praised Wilson's performance. A sequel, *The Wrath of Becky*, had its world premiere at South by Southwest (SXSW) on March 10, 2023, with Wilson returning in the title role.

## Plot

Thirteen-year-old Becky Hopper is questioned about a recent incident at her family's house. She gives vague answers and claims not to remember anything apart from some minor details. The story unfolds through her flashbacks.

Becky's mother died a year earlier, and she has a strained relationship with her father Jeff. In an attempt to reconnect with her, they go on a trip to her mother's old lakefront home. Meanwhile, prisoner Dominick Lewis, a Neo-Nazi, and his men Wallace "Apex" Landham, Sonny Cole, and Roman Hammond are transferred in a prison van. The group kills an inmate to get the van to pull over, kills the guard and escapes. They stop a car and steal it, killing the occupants in the process.

Jeff's girlfriend Kayla and her young son Ty arrive at the house, upsetting Becky. Jeff announces his engagement to Kayla. Becky storms out of the house, followed by her Cane Corso dog, Diego. At her small fort in the woods, she accidentally knocks over a box of old possessions: a Canadian coin, a bird skull and a key whose bow is formed in the shape of a valknut. Dominick and his men show up at the family house, take everyone hostage, and demand the key. Kayla and Ty try to escape but are caught by Apex, who

*Becky*



Theatrical release poster

<b>Directed by</b>	Jonathan Milott Cary Murnion
<b>Written by</b>	Nick Morris Lane Skye Ruckus Skye
<b>Produced by</b>	Raphael Margules J.D. Lifshitz Jordan Yale Levine Jordan Beckerman Russ Posternak
<b>Starring</b>	<u>Lulu Wilson</u> <u>Kevin James</u> <u>Joel McHale</u>
<b>Cinematography</b>	<u>Greta Zozula</u>
<b>Edited by</b>	Alan Canant
<b>Music by</b>	<u>Nima Fakhrara</u>

tries to help them, while Cole kills Dora, the family's other dog. Jeff lies about Becky's presence to protect her, but Dominick shoots Kayla to get the truth out of them.

Becky becomes aware of the assailants' presence and talks over a walkie-talkie, pretending to call the police. Dominick calls her bluff and begins torturing Jeff to lure her out. Dominick allows Jeff to talk to Becky, but Jeff tells her to run. Jeff breaks free and finds Becky, telling her he loves her, before Dominick shoots him dead. Dominick demands the key, but Becky gouges out his left eye with it before fleeing with Diego.

Dominick goes back into the house and sends Cole and Hammond to retrieve the key. Cole chases Becky back to her fort and tries to negotiate, but she ambushes and kills him with colored pencils and a sharp ruler.

Apex shows Kayla and Ty compassion, and Dominick tries to have Apex reaffirm his loyalty to him. After finding Cole's corpse, Hammond chases Becky down to the lake, where she makes him trip and land on a wooden plank of nails. Hammond falls in the lake, and Becky uses a nearby boat propeller to kill him. She is found by Apex, who momentarily incapacitates Diego. Not wanting to hurt Becky, Apex urges her to flee.

Becky makes her presence known to Kayla and Ty; Kayla tries to distract Dominick by asking him about the key's purpose. Becky sets off the car alarm to lure Dominick out, while Kayla tries to free herself. Apex fends off Dominick long enough for Becky to run a lawnmower over Dominick's head, and then shoots the apologetic Apex dead. Kayla and Ty come out with Diego and sit beside Becky as they wait for the police. In the present, Becky claims she does not remember the gang's deaths, with a cold look on her face, one hand nonchalantly playing with the key dangling on a string around her neck.

<b>Production companies</b>	Yale Productions BoulderLight Pictures
<b>Distributed by</b>	<u>Quiver Distribution</u> <u>Redbox Entertainment</u>
<b>Release date</b>	June 5, 2020
<b>Running time</b>	93 minutes
<b>Country</b>	United States
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Box office</b>	\$1.1 million <sup>[1][2]</sup>

## Cast

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- Lulu Wilson as Becky
- Kevin James as Dominick
- Joel McHale as Jeff
- Robert Maillet as Apex
- Amanda Brugel as Kayla
- Isaiah Rockcliffe as Ty
- Ryan McDonald as Cole
- James McDougall as Hammond

## Production

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In May 2019, it was announced [Simon Pegg](#) and [Lulu Wilson](#) had joined the cast of the film, with Jonathan Milott and Cary Murnion directing from a screenplay by Nick Morris, Lane Skye and Ruckus Skye.<sup>[5]</sup> In July 2019, it was announced [Kevin James](#) had joined the cast of the film, replacing Pegg who dropped out due to a scheduling conflict.<sup>[3]</sup> In August 2019, [Joel McHale](#), [Amanda Brugel](#) and [Robert Maillet](#) joined the cast of the film.<sup>[6]</sup>

## Release

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The film was scheduled to have its world premiere at the [Tribeca Film Festival](#) on April 20, 2020.<sup>[7]</sup> However, the festival was postponed due to the [COVID-19 pandemic](#).<sup>[8]</sup> That same month, [Quiver Distribution](#) and [Redbox Entertainment](#) acquired distribution rights to the film and set it for a June 5, 2020, release.<sup>[9]</sup>

Through its first 10 days of release, the film ranked as high as 8th on [Spectrum's](#) rental charts and 12th at the [iTunes Store](#).<sup>[10]</sup>

## Reception

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### Box office

*Becky* made \$205,797 from 45 theaters in its opening weekend, finishing second among reported films.<sup>[11][12]</sup> It made \$192,138 from 50 theaters in its second weekend, becoming the first film to officially top *The Wretched* at the box office.<sup>[13][14]</sup> It made \$85,056 the following week but was itself dethroned by newcomer *Followed*, before returning to first in its fourth weekend.<sup>[15][16]</sup>

### Critical response

On review aggregator [Rotten Tomatoes](#), the film has an approval rating of 72% based on 120 reviews, with an average rating of 5.9/10. The website's critics consensus reads: "*Becky* isn't quite able to sustain enough intensity to fully take advantage of its premise, though it serves up entertainingly nasty thrills for genre fans."<sup>[17]</sup> On [Metacritic](#), the film has a weighted average score of 54 out of 100, based on 22 critics, indicating "mixed or average reviews".<sup>[18]</sup>

Dennis Harvey of *Variety* called the film an "over-the-top yet effectively taut thriller" and "Wilson's nimble half-brat, half-she-devil performance is key to our buying the basic premise, aided by solid supporting cast contributions. James grows less intimidating the more dialogue he's given in an otherwise trim script by marital duo Ruckus and Lane Skye."<sup>[19]</sup> Jordan Mintzer of *The Hollywood Reporter* wrote: "*Becky* tends to work best when it revels in the blood-splattered set pieces of its script (written by Ruckus Skye, Lane Skye and Nick Morris), going that extra mile and a half in the gore department (special effects makeup was by Karlee Morse) to create some truly disgusting moments, albeit ones that are laced with a grim sense of humor."<sup>[20]</sup>

## Sequel

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A sequel, *The Wrath of Becky*, had its world premiere at *South by Southwest* (SXSW) on March 10, 2023, with Wilson returning in the eponymous role.<sup>[21]</sup>

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