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Ghosted (2023 film)

Ghosted is a 2023 American romantic action-adventure comedy film directed by Dexter Fletcher and written by the writing teams of Rhett Reese and Paul Wernick, and Chris McKenna and Erik Sommers, from a story by Reese and Wernick.^[1] The film stars Chris Evans, Ana de Armas, Adrien Brody, Mike Moh, Amy Sedaris, Tim Blake Nelson, Marwan Kenzari, and Anna Deavere Smith.

Produced by Apple Studios and Skydance Media, it was released by Apple TV+ on April 21, 2023. Despite receiving generally negative reviews from critics, it became Apple TV+'s most watched film debut.

Plot

At a Washington, D.C. farmers' market, lonely Sadie meets Cole, a romantically needy vendor. They share an enjoyable all-night date, culminating in sex, and Cole returns home but his texts to Sadie go unanswered. Cole's sister suspects she is "ghosting" him, but their parents convince him to surprise Sadie in London, after locating her via a tracker on his inhaler that he accidentally left in her bag.

In London, Cole is abducted to Pakistan by arms dealers who believe him to be legendary CIA operative "the Taxman". Before he can be tortured with insects to extract a passcode, he is rescued by Sadie, who reveals herself to be the Taxman. After a chase through the Khyber Pass, they escape Cole's captors, who are working for Leveque, a disgraced French Intelligence agent selling a stolen bioweapon called "Aztec", for which he needs the passcode.

Reaching a nearby town, Cole and Sadie argue over their lies to each other, and meet Marco, her old contact and former lover. He warns Cole that Sadie cares more about the success of a mission than her boyfriends' lives, and agrees to take him home. Their plan is interrupted by a succession of bounty hunters after Leveque puts a price on Cole's head; Marco is killed, but the bounty hunters all kill each other. Learning that Leveque is seeking the passcode, Sadie is determined to recover Aztec using Cole as bait.

Sadie delivers Cole to Leveque, who leaves his henchman, Wagner, on a plane with Sadie, Cole, and the locked case containing Aztec. Their cover is blown when Wagner discovers a

Ghosted



Official release poster

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Directed by | <u>Dexter Fletcher</u> |
| Screenplay by | <u>Rhett Reese</u> <u>Paul Wernick</u> <u>Chris McKenna</u> <u>Erik Sommers</u> |
| Story by | <u>Rhett Reese</u> <u>Paul Wernick</u> |
| Produced by | <u>David Ellison</u> <u>Dana Goldberg</u> <u>Don Granger</u> <u>Chris Evans</u> <u>Ana de Armas</u> <u>Jules Daly</u> <u>Paul Wernick</u> <u>Rhett Reese</u> |
| Starring | <u>Chris Evans</u> <u>Ana de Armas</u> <u>Adrien Brody</u> <u>Mike Moh</u> |

picture of the two in bed together on Cole's phone, but Cole parachutes to safety with the Aztec case and a wounded Sadie. Landing on Socotra Island, he uses his agricultural knowledge to treat her, reconnecting with her in the process. They are ambushed by Leveque's men, and Wagner escapes with the case while Cole and Sadie are rescued by U.S. Marines.

At CIA headquarters, Sadie is suspended for losing Aztec and tries to apologize for putting Cole in danger, but he is hurt by her commitment to her mission above all else. He helps to decipher the passcode, and agrees to continue to masquerade as the Taxman, luring Leveque with an offer to sell it.

Leveque meets Cole at a revolving restaurant with his own buyer for Aztec, Mr. Utami, and has the agents monitoring Cole killed. Sadie arrives, restoring Cole's trust in her, and she sells the passcode to Mr. Utami for \$10 million. She immediately uses the money to place a bounty on Leveque, and they are suddenly surrounded by bounty hunters.

A gunfight erupts, damaging the revolving mechanism and spinning the restaurant at high speed. Leveque shoots Utami, and Cole kills Wagner by throwing him into the mechanism. Sadie manages to send Leveque crashing through a window to his death and narrowly saves the Aztec device. Rekindling their relationship, Sadie meets Cole's family, as they find time for each other between—and during—her missions.

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| | <u>Amy Sedaris</u> |
| | <u>Tate Donovan</u> |
| | <u>Tim Blake Nelson</u> |
| | <u>Marwan Kenzari</u> |
| | <u>Anna Deavere Smith</u> |
| Cinematography | <u>Salvatore Totino</u> |
| Edited by | <u>Chris Lebenzon</u> Jim May Josh Schaeffer |
| Music by | <u>Lorne Balfe</u> |
| Production companies | <u>Apple Studios</u> <u>Skydance</u> |
| Distributed by | <u>Apple TV+</u> |
| Release date | April 21, 2023 |
| Running time | 116 minutes |
| Country | United States |
| Language | English |

Cast

- Chris Evans as Cole Turner
- Ana de Armas as Sadie Rhodes
- Adrien Brody as Leveque
- Mike Moh as Wagner
- Tate Donovan as Cole's dad
- Amy Sedaris as Cole's mom
- Lizze Broadway as Mattie Turner, Cole's sister
- Mustafa Shakir as Monte Jackson
- Anthony Mackie as the Grandson of Sam
- John Cho as the Leopard
- Sebastian Stan as God, a bounty hunter
- Ryan Reynolds as Jonas
- Anna Deavere Smith as Claudia Yates
- Tim Blake Nelson as Borislov
- Tiya Sircar as Patti
- Stephen Park as Utami
- Humza Shabazz as Announcer

- [Burn Gorman](#) as the English cabbie
- [Marwan Kenzari](#) as Marco
- [Israel Vaughn](#) as Martin
- [Victoria Kellher](#) as Edna
- [Jordan Blair Brown](#) as Joann
- [Zane Shaw](#) as Rockaoke patron
- [Stephanie Weis](#) as Maître d'
- [Dexter Fletcher](#) as Raoul

Production

In August 2021, [Chris Evans](#) and [Scarlett Johansson](#) entered negotiations to star in *Ghosted*, a film pitched by screenwriters [Paul Wernick](#) and [Rhett Reese](#) to [Skydance Media](#), with [Dexter Fletcher](#) attached to direct.^{[2][3]} In December 2021, Johansson had to exit the film due to a scheduling conflict, leading to [Ana de Armas](#) being cast in her place.^[4] In February 2022, [Adrien Brody](#) joined the cast.^[5] [Mike Moh](#), [Amy Sedaris](#), [Tim Blake Nelson](#) and [Tate Donovan](#) would be added in March.^[6]

Principal photography took place from February to May 2022^{[7][8]} at Tallulah Falls Lake in [Tallulah Gorge State Park](#), Georgia; [North Park Square](#), [Marietta](#), Georgia; [Chesapeake and Ohio Canal](#) between [Thomas Jefferson](#) and 31st Street in [Georgetown](#), the [Lincoln Book Tower](#), [Ford's Theatre](#) and the [Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts](#), all in Washington D.C.^[9] Scenes in the [Khyber Pass](#) mountains were filmed in [New Mexico](#), while the city of [Mingora](#), Pakistan, was filmed on a set in Atlanta.^[9]

Release

The film was released on [Apple TV+](#) on April 21, 2023.^[10] According to a [Samba TV](#) research panel of 3.1 million smart television households who tuned in for at least one minute, *Ghosted* drew in 328,500 viewers in the first two days, and is the most watched film debut in Apple TV+ history.^[11]

Reception

On the review aggregator website [Rotten Tomatoes](#), 25% of 118 critics' reviews are positive, with an average rating of 4.2/10. The website's consensus reads: "Listlessly wafting between action, comedy, and romance without ever solidifying into a satisfying whole, *Ghosted* earns a chorus of boos."^[12] [Metacritic](#), which uses a weighted average, assigned the film a score of 34 out of 100, based on 29 critics, indicating "generally unfavorable" reviews.^[13]

Benjamin Lee, writing for *The Guardian*, gave the film one out of five stars, criticizing the lack of chemistry between Evans and de Armas and calling the film "a staggeringly, maddeningly atrocious heap of increasingly boneheaded decisions that will act as depressing documentation of just how rotten things got in the current oversaturated streaming landscape."^[14] Writing for *RogerEbert.com*, Peter Sobczynski also criticized Evans and de Armas's lack of chemistry as well as Fletcher's direction, negatively comparing the film to *True Lies* (1994), *Mr. & Mrs. Smith* (2005) and *Knight and Day* (2010), and calling the film "a tedious exercise in sheer greed and laziness that presumes if enough money and famous faces are tossed into the mix, no one will notice, or at least mind, the utter vacuousness of the enterprise"; he gave the film 0.5 out of four stars.^[15] David Ehrlich of *IndieWire* gave the film a "C−" grade, criticizing the film's lack of

commitment to its concepts and ideas, writing that the film "has no interest in anything more than a casual relationship with its audience, as it reliably stifles a joke or kills the mood the *moment* it suspects that you might be about to catch feelings."^[16]

Conversely, Stephanie Zacharek at Time noted Evans and de Armas's chemistry more positively, while also noting the film's familiarity, writing: "*Ghosted* clacks along efficiently, ticking off all the expected boxes. There are no surprises here, just the pleasant ectoplasmic shimmer of a formula you've seen a million times before, vanishing almost as soon as the end credits start rolling."^[17]

In an article for BBC Online, Nicholas Barber muses that "viewers have different requirements when they're clicking away at home on a Tuesday night. *Ghosted* and its fellow direct-to-streaming movies provide precision-engineered undemanding escapism that the whole family can agree to sit through."^[18]

Accolades

| Award / Film Festival | Date of ceremony | Category | Recipient(s) | Result | Ref. |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|--|-----------|-------------|
| <u>Golden Raspberry Awards</u> | <u>March 9, 2024</u> | <u>Worst Actor</u> | <u>Chris Evans</u> | Nominated | <u>[19]</u> |
| | | <u>Worst Actress</u> | <u>Ana de Armas</u> | Nominated | |
| | | <u>Worst Screen Couple</u> | <u>Ana de Armas & Chris Evans (who flunked Screen Chemistry)</u> | Nominated | |

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External links

- *Ghosted* (<https://tv.apple.com/us/movie/ghosted/umc.cmc.6nodv9rf3ltk2ar3pfc8hced>) on Apple TV+
 - *Ghosted* (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt15326988/>) at IMDb
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