

‘Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald’ : Apocalypse too soon

The team behind “Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald” throws **an awful lot** at the screen during this two-hour-plus diversion. As is often the case in a Rowling production, evil is ascendant, seeping through both human and magic realms like poison gas.

an awful lot 非常多

Mostly, though, because Rowling builds worlds, what “Grindelwald” has is a great deal of story. The movie is **chockablock** with stuff: titular creatures, attractive people, eye-catching locations, **tragic** flashbacks and spectacular violence.

chockablock 塞得满满的

tragic 悲剧的；悲伤的

This is the second movie in what promises to be an extended “Fantastic Beasts” franchise. It centers on Newt Scamander (Eddie Redmayne), a “magizoologist” who studies, rescues and nurses magical creature. Not much has happened since the last movie. Once again, Newt is **scurrying** about while evil doings unfold in separate storylines. These have become more transparent as fascism has seeped into the story, totalitarianism’s threat increasingly giving dark meaning to all the violence and ugly phrases like “pure blood”.

scurry 疾跑

On the page, Rowling is a master storyteller. What occasionally trips her up is **plot** structure --- the arrangement of all her attractive, **whirling** parts. Its behind-the-scenes talent ensure that “The Crime of Grindelwald” is scattered with minor pleasures. There’s also the Zouwu, a charming monster with a catlike face and a long body that moves around like a Chinese New Year dragon, **upstaging** everyone who shares the screen with it. Yet, by the time Rowling has gathered all the storylines together, the movie has loosened its **grip** on you. That tightens only when the story tantalizingly shifts to Hogwarts, where Dumbledore, fond memories and the promise of better stories await.

plot 情节

whirling 旋转的

upstage 抢镜头

grip 紧握