*The Witch*: By now you’ve read the hype. It’s a critic’s darling- which is very rare for a horror movie. So what makes it so great? Well, in my opinion it isn’t. It’s perfectly good, and that’s it. Let me tell you why.

Let’s start with what’s done right: The acting is beyond great. Well done by all and especially the children. Most of the time, children in movies are unbearable, but here they more than hold their own. The atmosphere is absolutely phenomenal. It’s like a black metal album cover come to life: the fog is dense, the forests are denser, and it is very, very dreary. The tension is built fairly well, especially towards the last quarter of the movie. Also, the dialogue and accents are probably the most realistic I’ve seen in a few years. Pretty much everything is done right with the exception of two things: the pacing and the story.

Let’s start with the pacing. Yes, this is a more “artsy” leaning horror movie. It moves slow, and that’s just fine. There is a difference between moving slow and going nowhere, though. Yeah, everyone will call me stupid or whatever, nah I got everything, yet it was still kind of pretentious. The pacing isn’t all that bad, though, and even welcomes a great break from the “LOL JUMP SCARE SO SCART OHEMGEE XD” “Paranormal Activity” shit we’ve had recently.

My second issue is the story. Yes, it builds slowly. We get it, muh tension and all that. Yeah, we get it, muh metaphors. Here is the thing, though: a movie doesn’t have to have payoff, but if you go down the payoff route, then you need to actually pay out. I won’t spoil anything (I’m not a fucking prick). Let’s just say it leaves you wanting more, which is also kind of a positive.

One last stand-out I forgot to coverX and I’m just too lazy to edit and find a place for it: the score. The score to this movie was flat out amazing, probably my second favorite horror score after “It Follows.” The score fits the movie flawlessly, slowly building up and then coming to a halt (which this movie does more than perfectly).

Overall, I’m going to give this a HIT, but be warned it is NOT your standard horror fare. For mainstream audiences, this is a VERY challenging movie and will cause a lot of conflicts between audiences and critics. My cinema absolutely hated it. People remarked audibly “what the fuck,” “fuck that,” and even laughed. The movie is creepy and makes you think, but it isn’t outright scary. It is more unsettling than anything, which to me is better than a cheap spike in audio.

PS: The movie needed more black Phillip tbh

Highlights: The score, the atmosphere, the acting , BLACK PHILLIP IS THE GOAT

Lowlights: The story is mostly used as a framing device of slow building tension- it is fairly shallow, the pacing is off, some scenes are highly questionable, will be hated by mainstream audiences, some of the dialogue is incomprehensible