

= Let Me In (film) =

Let Me In is a 2010 American horror romance film written and directed by Matt Reeves and starring Kodi Smit-McPhee, Chloë Grace Moretz, Elias Koteas, and Richard Jenkins. It is a remake of the Swedish film Let the Right One In (2008). It tells the story of a bullied 12-year-old boy who develops a friendship with a female vampire child in Los Alamos, New Mexico in the early 1980s.

Interest in producing an English version of Let the Right One In began in 2007 shortly before it was released to audiences. In 2008, Hammer Films acquired the rights for the English adaptation and initially offered Tomas Alfredson, the director of the Swedish film, the opportunity to direct, which he declined. Matt Reeves was then signed to direct and write the screenplay. Reeves made several changes for the English version such as altering the setting from Stockholm to New Mexico and renaming the lead characters. The film's producers stated that their intent was to keep the plot similar to the original, yet make it more accessible to a wider audience. Principal photography began in early November 2009, and concluded in January 2010. The film's budget was estimated to be \$ 20 million.

Let Me In premiered at the Toronto Film Festival on September 13, 2010, and was released in North America on October 1, 2010. The film was placed on several critics' top ten list. Many critics noted it as a rare Hollywood remake which stayed true to the original, while others criticized it for being too derivative of the Swedish film. The film earned \$ 24 million in box office revenue worldwide, of which \$ 12 million was earned in the United States and Canada. Chloë Grace Moretz won several awards for her performance with critics praising the on-screen chemistry with her co-star, Kodi Smit-McPhee. Let Me In was released on DVD and Blu-ray in North America on February 1, 2011, and in the UK on March 14, 2011. An official comic book miniseries prequel titled Let Me In: Crossroads was released after the film which establishes the back-story of Abby and ends where the theatrical film begins.

= = Plot = =

In March 1983, in Los Alamos, New Mexico, a disfigured man is taken to the hospital. An unnamed police detective (Elias Koteas) tries to question him about a recent murder. The detective is called to a phone and told that the man's daughter was just downstairs. While he is on the phone, the man jumps out of the window leaving behind a scrawled note that reads " I'm sorry Abby . "

Two weeks earlier, Owen (Kodi Smit-McPhee), an unhappy and lonely 12-year-old boy who is neglected by his divorcing parents, sees a young girl named Abby (Chloë Grace Moretz) and an older man, Thomas (Richard Jenkins), moving in next door and notices that she is barefoot despite the snow. Owen meets Abby one night and asks if she is cold upon seeing no footwear on her feet. Abby states that she doesn't get cold. Owen and Abby become close friends and start communicating by Morse code through the walls of their apartments. At school, a bully named Kenny (Dylan Minnette) and two of his friends Donald (Nicolai Dorian) and Mark (Jimmy " Jax " Pinchak) constantly terrorize Owen, who lies to his mother about it but tells Abby the truth. Abby encourages him to retaliate.

Thomas murders a man and collects the blood, but accidentally spills it. Hungry, Abby attacks a concerned neighbor named Jack (Chris Browning) to drink his blood, revealing that she is a vampire. On another night, Thomas hides in the back of a teenager's car, murders the passenger, and tries to flee, but crashes the car and becomes trapped inside. He pours concentrated sulfuric acid on his face, disfiguring himself to prevent his identification. He is taken to the hospital, bringing the story back to the first scene.

Abby learns what happened and climbs up the hospital building to see Thomas after speaking to the front desk worker who noticed that Abby is barefoot upon departure and couldn't find her afterwards. She knocks on the window and he points to his throat, unable to speak, and leans out of the window; Abby drinks his blood. Thomas passes out and falls to his death. That night, Owen

is awakened by Abby who insists he verbally invite her in . She spends the night in his bed upon discarding her clothes and agrees to be his girlfriend . The next day , Owen 's class goes ice @-@ skating on the river . Kenny and his friends threaten to throw Owen into a hole in the ice . Emboldened by his relationship with Abby , Owen hits Kenny with a metal pole , splitting his left ear and causing him to scream in pain . At the same moment , several kids spot a body encased in the ice and begin screaming . It is the body of Jack who Thomas threw into the (then unfrozen) river . Along with the body is Thomas 's bag .

Later , Owen sees Abby and hoping to make a blood pact with her , cuts his finger . Unable to control herself , Abby laps up a drop of Owen 's blood revealing her vampire form . Not wanting to hurt Owen , the barefoot vampire flees and instead attacks a woman named Virginia (Sasha Barrese) upon jumping out of a tree . Virginia 's boyfriend Larry (Dylan Kenin) witnesses the attack and calls an ambulance upon chasing her off . The next night , Abby admits to Owen that she is a vampire and that Thomas was not her father . Owen discovers an aged photo of her with Thomas as a young boy . As Thomas continued to age , he posed as Abby 's father while she did not physically age past twelve .

In the hospital the next morning , a nurse goes into Virginia 's unit to open the curtains and finds Virginia feasting on her own bloody wrists . She has been turned into a vampire by Abby . As sunlight enters the room , Virginia bursts into flames that quickly spread throughout the unit , killing them both and setting the entire floor on fire .

Owen sneaks out to spend the night at Abby 's . The next morning , the detective forces his way into Abby 's apartment and finds her asleep . He begins to uncover a window but is distracted by Owen . Abby wakes and attacks the detective to feed on his blood . The dying detective appeals to Owen for help , but Owen does not intervene . Abby tells Owen she will have to leave town . They share a kiss and he watches tearfully as she enters a taxi and leaves .

During Owen 's swim class , Kenny , his sadistic older brother Jimmy (Brett DelBuono) , and their friends , are seeking revenge for the injury Owen had inflicted to Kenny 's ear . They ambush Owen and throw him into the pool . Jimmy says that if Owen can hold his breath underwater for three minutes , he will only be cut on the cheek , otherwise Jimmy will poke out one of Owen 's eyes . Owen is forced underwater by Jimmy . After one minute , Kenny and his friends realize this is excessive and try telling Jimmy to stop , but he angrily refuses . But then an unseen assailant breaks through the skylight , attacking the bullies , and Owen sees torn @-@ off limbs sinking into the pool all around him . Owen emerges from pool to catch his breath and then sees a pair of familiar bare feet come near him . He then looks up , faintly smiling to see an off @-@ screen Abby .

Owen leaves town in broad daylight on a train , traveling with a large trunk . From inside , a message in Morse code is tapped out . Owen taps out a response and then looks out the window , quietly singing to himself " Eat some now , save some for later , " the jingle of Now and Later candy , which Abby and Owen had shared in an earlier scene .

= = Cast = =

Kodi Smit @-@ McPhee as Owen , a 12 @-@ year @-@ old bullied schoolboy , later Abbey 's boyfriend .

Chloë Grace Moretz as Abby , a vampire who poses as Thomas 's daughter , later Owen 's girlfriend .

Richard Jenkins as Thomas , a man who is Abby 's adult companion .

Cara Buono as Owen 's mother , the unnamed mother of Owen .

Elias Koteas as Policeman

Elias Koteas also provides the voice of Owen 's father .

Sasha Barrese as Virginia , a woman who is one of Abby 's victims .

Dylan Minnette as Kenny , the bully who torments Owen .

Ritchie Coster as Mr. Zori?

Jimmy Pinchak as Mark , one of Kenny 's friends .

Nicolai Dorian as Donald , one of Kenny 's friends .
Colin Moretz as Cashier
Dylan Kenin as Larry , Virginia 's boyfriend .
Brett DelBuono as Jimmy , the older brother of Kenny .
Chris Browning as Jack , a man who is one of Abby 's victims .

= = Production = =

= = = Development = = =

According to Hammer Films executive producer Nigel Sinclair , interest in the project initially began in the middle of 2007 , before the original *Let the Right One In* had screened for audiences . The rights for the English @-@ language film were later acquired by Hammer Films at the 2008 Tribeca Film Festival , where *Let the Right One In* won the " Founders Award for Best Narrative Feature , " and Matt Reeves was quickly introduced as the director . John Nordling and Carl Molinder , the Swedish producers of the original film , were both involved as producers for the adaptation . Tomas Alfredson , the director of the Swedish film , was initially asked to direct the remake , but he turned it down stating that " I am too old to make the same film twice and I have other stories that I want to tell . " Hammer Films producer Simon Oakes initially referred to the film with " If you call it a faithful remake , I think that 's true to say that 's what it is . It 's not a reimagining ; the same beats [are there] , maybe the scares are a little bit more scary . " He later said , " I call it his [Reeves '] version . I don 't call it his remake or his re @-@ imagining of it . " The decision to make a new film adaptation has been criticized by Tomas Alfredson . He has stated on numerous occasions that he is not in favor of remaking his film . " If one should remake a film , it 's because the original is bad . And I don 't think mine is , " he said . Producer Donna Gigliotti said , " We 're incredibly admiring of the original , but to be honest with you , that picture grossed \$ 2 million . It 's not like we 're remaking *Lawrence of Arabia* . " Producer Simon Oakes made it clear that the plot of *Let Me In* would closely resemble that of the original film , except that it will be made " very accessible to a wider audience . "

Writer John Ajvide Lindqvist , on the other hand , says that Reeves told him that he " will make a new film based on the book , and not remake the Swedish film " and so " it 'll be something completely different , but it 's going to be really interesting to see . " Reeves expressed his intent to retain the book 's early 1980s setting and his admiration for the book and Alfredson 's adaptation . " It 's a terrific movie and a fantastic book . I think it could be a really touching , haunting and terrifying film . I 'm really excited about what it could be " , he said . In response to the criticism he said , " I can understand because of people 's love of the [original] film that there 's this cynicism that I 'll come in and trash it , when in fact I have nothing but respect for the film . I 'm so drawn to it for personal and not mercenary reasons ... I hope people give us a chance . " When Reeves was initially approached , he at first was against the idea but after reading the novel gained a better appreciation for the story ,

I said ... that we shouldn 't remake it . I read the book too and was completely taken with it and I was really intrigued how personal the story felt . I thought John Lindqvist had written this terrific story , and he also adapted it for the film ... I wrote Lindqvist and told him that it wasn 't just that I was drawn to the story because it was a brilliant genre story ? which it is ? but also because of the personal aspect of it . It really reminds me of my childhood .

= = = Adapting and writing = = =

In adapting the film , a few adjustments were made , such as changing the names of the protagonists to Owen and Abby , and moving the setting from the Stockholm suburb of Blackeberg to " a small New Mexico town . " Reeves was also asked to change the ages of the main characters , but he refused , saying that " would ruin the essence of the story and change everything

completely ... we need that childlike innocence . " He also told his actors to not watch the original film beforehand so " we could make our own version but stay very true to the essence of the story . " The filmmakers have noted that " they intend to forge a unique identity for Let Me In , placing it firmly in an American context " , while at the same time paying respect to the original . In comparing his adaptation to the Swedish one , Reeves admitted to not adding many different details from the book that weren 't in the original film , stating that " the story was so big that you couldn 't really add a lot of stuff in without taking away the focus of the coming of age story so I tried to have allusions and references to stuff in the book . " Reeves also admitted to borrowing elements from the Swedish film , stating " There are things that [Lindqvist] adapted brilliantly in the movie and I borrowed from that because I thought he did a great adaptation . But there are some things that hopefully don 't detract and fit into the context of the story . It 's a mixture of details from the book , the original film and things that grew out of adapting it . " In adapting the story for American audiences , Reeves stated that keeping the 1980s time period within the film was critical in exploring the theme of good and evil . He used Ronald Reagan 's " evil empire speech " as an example of American thought during that period . Reeves stated , " The idea of Reagan 's ' evil empire ' speech and that whole sort of school of thought was that evil was something that was outside of us . Evil was ' Other , ' it was over there , it was the Soviets " . Reeves felt that this idea was central to the main character Owen , as he " would be grappling with these very , very dark feelings but being in a kind of American town where there was that sort of [Reagan era] mindset and religiousness . How would you fit in ? How would you feel about yourself being confused and being 12 or 13 years old and not knowing what it means that you wish you could kill those kids who were terrorizing you every day ? The humanity of that . "

= = = Casting = = =

In July 2009 , audition tapes were leaked to the Internet , showing Chloë Grace Moretz , Mary Mouser , and Ariel Winter auditioning for the role of the vampire , Abby . Smit @-@ McPhee , in an interview with The Herald Sun , hinted that he may have landed the role as Owen . The casting of Moretz and Smit @-@ McPhee in the leading roles was confirmed on October 1 , 2009 , along with the addition of Richard Jenkins as Abby 's adult companion . In a press release , director Matt Reeves described Smit @-@ McPhee , Moretz and Jenkins as his " absolute dream cast " , and added that he " couldn 't be more excited to be working with them . " Both Smit @-@ McPhee and Moretz were cast before the release of The Road or Kick @-@ Ass , and the films ' directors John Hillcoat and Matthew Vaughn respectively each praised the young actors and recommended them to Reeves .

= = = Filming = = =

Principal photography began in Albuquerque , New Mexico on November 2 , 2009 . Filming took place in several different New Mexico locations , before concluding in Albuquerque in January 2010 . A large section of the film was filmed at Los Alamos High School in Los Alamos , New Mexico . Los Alamos County granted a special request from the film 's director and producer to name the town in the movie " Los Alamos , New Mexico . " The local police department loaned the film crew 1980s style uniforms and patrol cars to use for the film and over 100 local teenagers were cast as extras . Reeves felt that Lindqvist 's story was very naturalistic and wanted the film to be shot the same way . After viewing Bright Star , he hired Greig Fraser as his cinematographer because he admired Fraser 's work with natural light on the film . Shortly before filming , Reeves sought advice from Steven Spielberg for directing child actors . Spielberg instructed Reeves to have the two leads each keep a diary in character with the intention of sharing with Reeves what they wrote in it . Reeves stated , " It was all a process of trying to , not only guide them , but in places , trying to let them guide me toward their perspective . That was important . "

= = = Visual effects = = =

Method Studios was contracted to handle the film's visual effects work . The studio's supervisor Sean Faden , worked alongside the film's visual effects supervisor , Brad Parker throughout the production . Several of the film's scenes proved to be a challenge for the team . Director Reeves wanted the " car @-@ crash " sequence to appear as if it were filmed uncut in first @-@ person . Several plates were shot with the first involving actor Jenkins backing the car out of the gas station and swerving , the second plate shot had a model of the car capable of being spun mechanically on a " rotisserie " in front of a blue screen which could simulate the car's roll down the hill . Jenkin's stunt double and a dummy were placed in the car as the rotisserie spun with additional effects work used to animate the dummy as the car rolled . The two shots were then combined to deceive the viewer into believing that it was one complete shot . Houdini software was used for much of the film's shots which involved Abby in her vampiric form . Faden noted the techniques used in another challenging shot important to Abby's character in which she begins bleeding when she enters Owen's apartment without invitation . Faden stated , " Normally in such a scene , the character would be shot on set , dressed in blood . But in this case , the timing of the bleeding was so dependent on the emotional beats of the scene that this technique wouldn't have allowed us enough control . " Actress Chloë Grace Moretz was first shot with minimal prosthetic blood applied to her face for reference . Then using techniques utilized in a prior Method Studios film , A Nightmare on Elm Street , Faden had the Houdini software track Moretz's shaking movements and render the gradual release of blood from her face .

== Music and soundtrack ==

Let Me In : Original Motion Picture Soundtrack is the film's soundtrack album . It was released by Varèse Sarabande on October 12 , 2010 . The music was composed by Michael Giacchino . Giacchino stated that scoring the film was a difficult " balancing act " for some scenes . He mentioned , " I was always trying to say , ' let's take music out ! ' and Matt [Reeves] was like , ' no , put it in ! ' " In composing the score , he stated that he also applied certain musical themes to each character for which the audience could respond to as the story progressed . Composing the score to convey the correct emotion was also a challenge for Giacchino who said , " ... it was tricky finding the right balance of , well , should this be scary ? Or should this be sentimental ? Or should it be emotional ? Or should it be this ? It was a weird balance because you're dealing with a dynamic that is quite questionable as far as what everyone's intentions are in the film .

== Release ==

== Box office ==

It was announced on August 17 , 2010 , that Let Me In would have its world premiere at Toronto International Film Festival on September 13 , 2010 , and its U.S. premiere on the opening night of Fantastic Fest on September 23 , 2010 . Overture Films released promotional items placed in small plastic evidence bags . With a budget estimated to be \$ 20 million , the film was released on October 1 , 2010 , in North America opening at # 8 on its debut weekend with an estimated \$ 5 @. @ 1 million in 2 @, @ 020 theaters . The film's international release began on October 6 in European markets with other markets following thereafter . During the film's 10 @-@ week theatrical run , Let Me In grossed over \$ 24 million worldwide , \$ 12 @. @ 1 million of which was from the United States and Canada . The film was # 5 among the ten lowest @-@ grossing releases of 2010 from major studios (movies released in over 1500 theaters) .

== Critical response ==

Let Me In received critical acclaim upon release . Review aggregation website Rotten Tomatoes gives the film a score of 88 % based on reviews from 220 critics , with an average score of 7 @. @ 6

/ 10 . The consensus is that " similar to the original in all the right ways ? but with enough changes to stand on its own ? Let Me In is the rare Hollywood remake that doesn 't add insult to inspiration . " Let Me In was included on Rotten Tomatoes list of the ten best reviewed wide release films of 2010 in addition to being the best reviewed horror film of 2010 . Metacritic gave the film an average score of 79 % based on 35 reviews , judged to be " generally favorable reviews " . According to Metacritic , Let Me In was one of the ten best @-@ reviewed wide release films of 2010 and the best reviewed film of the year in the horror category . Particular praise was given to the film 's two leads , Kodi Smit @-@ McPhee and Chloë Grace Moretz , for their chemistry and maturity on @-@ screen .

Acclaimed horror author Stephen King wrote " Let Me In is a genre @-@ busting triumph . Not just a horror film , but the best American horror film in the last 20 years . " Joe Morgenstern of The Wall Street Journal wrote that the film " is more than a respectful remake ; ' Let Me In ' is quietly stylish and thoroughly chilling in its own right . "

Lou Lumenick of The New York Post called Let Me In " the scariest , creepiest and most elegantly filmed horror movie I ? ve seen in years ? it positively drives a stake through the competition . " A. O. Scott of The New York Times wrote " what makes ' Let Me In ' so eerily fascinating is the mood it creates . It is at once artful and unpretentious , more interested in intimacy and implication than in easy scares or slick effects . " Roger Ebert of the Chicago Sun @-@ Times praised the film while comparing it to the original . He stated , " Reeves understands what made the first film so eerie and effective , and here the same things work again . " Rolling Stone film critic Peter Travers , who was initially skeptical , gave the film a positive review while writing , " I thought for sure that any Hollywood remake of Tomas Alfredson 's artful Swedish vampire film , Let the Right One In , would be a crass desecration . Well , color me blushing " and " Prepare to be wowed . It 's a spellbinder . " Roger Moore of Orlando Sentinel gave the film 3 @.@ 5 out of 4 stars , stating , " Reeves has Americanized a very good foreign film without defanging it . "

Let Me In was not well received by all critics . Some disputed Reeves ' claims that he was not remaking the film but re @-@ adapting the book , criticizing it for being too similar to the Swedish film . Josh Tyler wrote " The movie he ? s made is absolutely a direct remake of the 2008 film , the two are so similar that it ? s almost impossible to differentiate between them . " In a similar vein , Jamie S. Rich noted that while there was plenty of content in the original novel that the Swedish film omitted , " Reeves hasn 't really ferreted out anything new ; on the contrary , there is actually less plot in Let Me In than in the Alfredson version . " Beth Accomando wrote , " How Reeves can take the credit ' written and directed by Matt Reeves ' seems almost laughable when you note how similar the script and the direction are to the original . " In comparing the two films , she opined that the remake " makes obvious all that the original film made subtle and does so with less complexity . " Mark Kermode called it " the most utterly redundant remake of the year " .

According to Sukhdev Sandhu of The Telegraph , " Let Me In doesn 't need to exist unless , that is , the very notion of Swedish cinema is strange and unpalatable to you What ? s missing is the alluring otherness of Let the Right One In . That film 's brittle textures and haunted ambience seemed in some strange way to have sprung organically from the nation in which it was set . This remake , by contrast , smells of boardrooms and calculating machines . "

Let Me In was a critics ' pick as one of the Top 10 Best Films of 2010 at CNN and at MSN Entertainment for the 2010 Year in Review Special Features .

= = = Comic book prequel = = =

In April 2010 , it was announced that Hammer Film Productions and Dark Horse Comics were producing a four @-@ issue comic book limited series based on the film . Marc Andreyko wrote the comic . The series , titled Let Me In : Crossroads , is a prequel to the film . The first issue has Abby and her " guardian " facing a ruthless real @-@ estate tycoon who wants to steal their home and was released in December 2010 . Original author John Ajvide Lindqvist said " Nobody has asked me about [doing a comic] and I think that the project stinks . I am looking into this matter and hope that they have no right to do this . " Later , he informed fans that he had in fact unwittingly sold the rights for the comic to be made , stating that the producers had misinformed him as to the nature of the

contract he had signed .

= = = Author 's response = = =

John Ajvide Lindqvist , author of Let the Right One In , who also wrote the screenplay for the original Swedish film , was pleased with Let Me In . He said :

I might just be the luckiest writer alive . To have not only one , but two excellent versions of my debut novel done for the screen feels unreal . Let the Right One In is a great Swedish movie . Let Me In is a great American movie . There are notable similarities and the spirit of Tomas Alfredson is present . But Let Me In puts the emotional pressure in different places and stands firmly on its own legs . Like the Swedish movie it made me cry , but not at the same points . Let Me In is a dark and violent love story , a beautiful piece of cinema and a respectful rendering of my novel for which I am grateful . Again .

= = = Accolades = = =

= = = Home media = = =

Let Me In was released on DVD and Blu @-@ ray in North America on February 1 , 2011 , and in the UK on March 14 , 2011 . The disc includes an audio commentary with director Matt Reeves , a 17 @-@ minute featurette on the making of the film , a short that focuses on the art of the special effects , an in @-@ depth video about the process of making the film 's unique car crash scene , three deleted scenes , trailer and poster galleries and a digital copy of the film . The Blu @-@ ray disc contains an exclusive featurette titled " Dissecting Let Me In " . Both DVD and Blu @-@ ray come with a copy of the Limited Edition " Let Me In : Crossroads " comic book . As of April 2011 , DVD sales (not including Blu @-@ ray) totaled over 457 @,@ 000 units sold with over \$ 6 @.@ 2 million in revenue .