**The Witch (2015) Movie review**

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The Witch film is directed by Robert Eggers released in 2015, which is an intimidating cinematic experience that serves traditional storytelling to the audience. This film reflects an eye-catching exploration of horror and mythological human psychology. Besides, this movie is a feminist narrative that mainly focuses on an American colonial family as they are out casted by the community and it seems to be an otherworldly curse, is more like a sermon. Most of the movie deals with many death scenes, along with suspense behind all these deaths.

To commence with the main roles of the film: Thomasin, William, Katherine, Caleb, Mercy and Jonas were portrayed by Anya Taylor-Joy, Ralph Ineson, Kate Dickie, Harvey Scrimshaw, Ellie Grainger, and Lucas Dawson, respectively. They all are living in the same nuclear family, there’re William, his wife Katherine, eldest daughter Thomasin, son Caleb, a set of twins Mercy and Jonas and an infant son Samuel. This family was banished from the Puritan plantation controlled by the church due to differences in religion principles. Although the eldest daughter Thomasin was very close to her father (William), the relation she shares with her mother (Katherine) has become very strained since her youngest brother Samuel went missing. Therefore, she always becomes the suspicious person while any death or horrific incident occurs. While William is the main pillar of the family and doing a job as a farmer to feed his family, Katherine spends her days crying and praying, where Caleb is adventurous person and the twins play with the family’s billy goat, Black Phillip, who the children say talks to them.

Moreover, the dialogue delivery is a bit hard to follow as it is very “olde English” to add to the historical accuracy of the piece. Talking about the plot of the film, in the 1630s New England, William and his Puritan family are banished from a Puritan settlement over a religious dispute. Then they start living at the edge of a forest, just near their cottage and farm. When little Sam suddenly disappears Katherine blames Thomasin for it, there is actually a sinister force working silently to bump the family members off. There’s also the family pet goat they call Black Phillip, whose revelation comes very late in the film. Furthermore, Thomasin undergoes puberty under the mistrustful eyes of her family, but in realistically, they’re not too concerned with her when crops are failing, money is scarce, and Samuel is missing. However, there are other subplots in “The Witch”, but all roads eventually lead to Thomasin. That’s the dark beauty of Eggers’s expansive story. It takes a while for Thomasin’s clan to even consider that their problems are caused by witch, before that, there are only signs and portents, particularly evil-looking animals: a tetchy goat, a twitchy hare, and some talkative crows. Afterall, suddenly the family’s day-to-day troubles almost all of which stem from the fact that their land seems cursed- takes the form of a fairy tale witch.

In contrast to the Hollywood Narrative style, this movie is lacking at some aspects of the traditional style: the movie is 1hour and 32 minutes long. In addition, this film fails to establish long shots along with climax resolution which makes the movie quite boring for the audience. However, the actors are all good at reciting this strange dialect and demonstrating the paranoia spreading through the family thanks to religion and superstition. It is also refreshing to see a film that doesn’t really focus on jump-scares and annoying “cattle-prod” techniques to make audiences scared. ‘The witch’ is genuinely disturbing without resorting to these techniques.

In terms of emotional response, I personally found it is very strange and gory when it needs to be. Besides, I found these strange scenes quite fascinating and educational as the film almost seems like a historical document. Even this movie leaves me with a lot of burning questions in my mind. But it is an excellent R rated stellar horror masterwork of New-England Folktale along with drama and fantasy. The witch is yet another fine product from A24 films, retaining its high quality up to the very end, certainly earning its reputation as one of the modern era’s most psychologically tasking films.

To recapitulate, in my point of view by watching ‘The Witch’ movie viewers can experience the fear, anxiety etcetera. However, due to short term storytelling and intense, unsettling scenes, it may not be suitable for all audiences, but if someone like me likes to watch spooky story with old legends and dark magic, it’ll be really exciting and scary movie.

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