SPLIT (2016)

Title: Split
Year: 2016
Genre: Horror | Thriller
Runtime: 117 min
Director: M. Night Shyamalan
Actors: James McAvoy, Anya Taylor-Joy, Haley Lu Richardson

IMDb 7.6/10

Three girls are kidnapped by a man with a diagnosed 23 distinct personalities, and must try and escape before the apparent emergence of a frightful new 24th.
When it comes to M. Night Shyamalan, I have never been a big fan of his films. His twist at the end of each film tends to be poor and lacking in understanding, such as Signs when one learns that the aliens can not withstand water or wood. Something that should be thought about when they land on the planet full of it. Anyway, with Shyamalan's previous errors permanently engraved in mind, I did not go into the theater with an open mind.

And if one is to be honest, it was wrong of me to do it. For he seems to come back to making good movies again, this is a prime example of that. I love the whole concept of a man of twenty-three different personalities within themselves and must daily struggle to gain control. He kidnaps three young girls that he will sacrifice to another personality within itself, The Beast. The script changes very naturally between the character Kevin, the girls who are kidnapped and one of the girls' horrific childhood memories. There is not much to say when the whole structure is very well structured in this way. Good use of suspense and humor, in order to better understand the characters. However containing the script is still a bit wrong according to me - as the monster itself. Throughout the first and second act, we in the audience know more and more about the mysterious creature. The characters hints at a large muscular and hairy monsters, but when we finally get to see him, only James McAvoy (Kevin) without a shirt, and veins standing out all over his body. It is very disgusting to look at, but still not supernatural.

I do not know if the film is trying to do the supernatural or just say that it is a normal thing when it comes to mental illness. It feels like they go halfway with both options, when giving the monster a divine story, he climbs on the walls, and his skin is hard as steel, etc. But he still look like himself, as Kevin. This was very confusing to me then when I really began to analyze the film, scene by scene. The doctors and scientists in the movie talking about people with the same disease, can change their molecular structure and literally change what they want with their bodies. This idea I was okay with that, but it felt very exaggerated when you really get to see that the monster had a skin of steel. I simply think that they could only chose one of the ways when it comes to the concept. If they wanted to make him supernatural - Stop explaining it as part of the disease. If they wanted to make the monster to a medical part of the disease - they'd neglected to mention the supernatural, such as the skin. I'd rather see a knife going into his arm and no blood comes out. For it would make the monster state that Kevin is in - to be a more medically mode. Then there are reports of ordinary people who do not bleed when open wounds, or at least gives us the illusion that they do not.
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I might speculate too much on this subject, since Shyamalan's films usually contain subconscious communication and premises. He is a difficult person to understand, but this time it seems at least I understood him to a certain extent. He had a great team behind and in front of the camera. The actors did an incredible job to sell this concept - especially James McAvoy as Kevin. There were some situations in which his character was difficult to understand, terrifying and humorous at the same time. A person who simply are not easy to categorize and it is just like his character should be in this case.

The film was not flawless as I have mentioned, but it didn’t lack the appearance either. It had superb people who worked on this project, and relatively good story. It is a film that you can sit down in front of on a Friday night when you are hungry for an entertaining horror movie, but try not to read too much between the subconscious lines.