

I did not understand the critical reception to 2018's *A Quiet Place* in any way, shape, or form. I was excited to see the movie and walking out of the theater on opening night the feeling of overwhelming confusion swept me right back to my car where I promptly forgot about the whole movie. It's by no means the worst movie I have ever seen, and elements of it are competent and, at least I thought at the time, "this is kind of impressive considering it was John Krasinski's directorial debut". But not only was it not, that excuse doesn't really pass for me when it comes to a horror movie like; some famous directors find their roots in low budget horror because it's a fun place to start. You can go a little more over the top, you don't need as much polish, and you can kind of get away with whatever you want because horror movies are often judged to a different and lower standard.

In the wake of the recent wave of successful arthouse horror masterpieces such as *The Lighthouse*, *Get Out* and *Killing of a Sacred Deer* I feel that the place and perception of horror is shifting. You still see movies like *The Conjuring 2* come out to be profitable despite being awful, received with a critical lukewarmness, and easily forgotten by the time the sequel, which will be nearly identical, comes out in a year and some change. I don't blame people who wanna see these movies, and I don't mind being in a cycle where one big franchise goes for a decade at a time and they trade off. I preferred the *Saw* films, but to each their own, seeing a horror movie once or twice a year with a big crowd is fun.

So when I saw and immediately forgot about *A Quiet Place*, a movie that's so dull and unoriginal I can't muster any more clever adjectives than that, I thought it would never darken my doorstep again. Surely this would be a blip on the radar, and I could just wait for the next Conjuringverse whatever movie to push it gently aside. Unfortunately and inexplicably most people really liked *A Quiet Place* and after reading the overwhelmingly positive reviews, reviews that are so confusing to read I still don't understand the appeal of the film, I knew I wasn't going to escape it so easily. I did not rewatch the original before going into the theater to see *A Quiet Place Part 2*, and having not seen any trailers I didn't know what I was going to be getting into other than the fact that John Krasinski would have more creative control, since everyone gave him credit for the first film's success. I always thought it was because it came out during that period where every millennial just watched *The Office* over and over again on Netflix instead of having a personality and went to see Jim fight monsters on the big screen.

So what did we end up with? *A Quiet Place Part 2* picks up immediately where the first film left off and chronicles the adventures of the remaining three characters as they meet one other character, and then they fight some monsters. The monsters being weak to the feedback from a cochlear implant is used to kill a few bad looking CGI beasties, and never once does the movie ever attempt to be logical or believable as the damn thing never runs out of batteries nor do they try to find more. Instead they introduce one of this generation's most underrated talents Cillian Murphy to be a stand in for John Krasinski's character, and he begrudgingly accompanies the eldest daughter on a quest to find a broadcasting radio station in the hopes of sending the feedback sound as far as possible to create a zone safe from the alien invaders.

If that doesn't sound like much it's because this is a 90 minute movie with the substance of a 20 minute short film; the 15 total minutes of dialogue are all mumbled and spread across an obnoxious 90ish minute film to no effect. The movie would be just as good with absolutely no sound, and probably a hell of a lot scarier. There are 5 jump scare moments that don't work because the scenes leading up to them are people slowly walking, with eerie high strings playing and you know that a jump scare is coming in exactly 20 seconds. I don't like the way they shoot anything in this movie that's supposed to be scary because it's so obvious what's going to happen that you can't possibly get invested in the success of these characters. For example : even if Emily Blunt's character and newborn baby were dangling above a pit of sharks during a blood moon you know they aren't going to die, because a movie this safe and bland would never even approach something so dark. The only part of this movie that caught me off guard was a scene that ripped off the god awful Netflix smash hit *Bird Box* in which some sick looking shirtless people threaten Cillian Murphy by tying a noose of bells around his neck. It only caught me off guard because it's so insanely stupid and I had to stifle laughter through the whole pointless scene.

It's very difficult to explain why this movie isn't tense or scary but for the hell of it let's try; at a very basic level a movie makes you scared because it simulates danger. Jump scares are the easiest way to understand how this works; when your simple human brain gets startled your brain is receiving a new piece of stimulus so fast, one that you're often being manipulated into worrying about, that it tries to have a fight or flight response **before** it can interpolate that you are still physically separated from the movie. So to be scared during a movie you either have to be worried about the situation, worried about something bad happening to the characters you're attached too, or put in a situation where your ability to perceive what is happening is impaired IE if the movie presents you with something so strange that you have no idea how to interpret it you can get scared via a lack of understanding.

This is a lengthy way of saying *A Quiet Place Part 2* does none of these things well and isn't scary at any point. The alien invaders would be a lot scarier if they did anything but run like lanky gorillas and smack people out of frame. They look a bit strange, but the CGI isn't good enough to make them look convincing so that also flops. Finally they're not even that weird or threatening, their weaknesses are swimming and audio feedback, two things you could easily encounter anywhere on earth at any time. I liked the introductory scene of this film, which shows the aliens crash landing on earth and causing mayhem and destruction, but it was a little jarring to see so few of them and having to imagine that they ENDED HUMANITY in a little over a year. There's so many things they aren't capable of, and as a person viewing the movie I don't think they look that scary or even very original. They fit well in this movie honestly.

A Quiet Place Part 2 is a boring movie; it's the kind of movie that I never want to have to see or even think about ever again because it is wafer thin and devoid of any value. It doesn't look nice, the acting isn't good and there's barely any of it, the effects are bad, the story barely showed up to party, I don't remember if there's music or not and I just saw the movie, and as a horror movie it doesn't do anything that I haven't seen a thousand times over. I do understand the positive critical reception, I assume

everyone is just being nice to throw movie theaters a bone but the movie I saw was an unsalted cracker on a white plate that I had to eat with a fork. Unpleasant, uninteresting, and unoriginal throughout. I will not see the next one, and just like the movie this review is now abruptly over.