

“Hellraiser: Deader”

Third Revised Draft: 29/9/2002

A Script Review.

Warning: I intend to avoid any major spoilers for the film but I shall be making reference to smaller elements as well as few lines of dialogue. Though these may change from script to screen I urge anyone not wanting to hear or know anything about this film not to read any further.

Got that?

Sure?

Alright then, let's go.

First let's get the whole Pinhead matter out of the way. He isn't the star of the show, he was never meant to be a leading character and, in my opinion, the last couple of films have used Pinhead far better than either parts three or four. Thus I am relieved to say not only does Pinhead, in the script at least, feature as much as he did in Hellseeker but also that his appearances make sense within the story and the wider Hellraiser franchise.

Anyway, on to the story. Well, it's an interesting piece and though it does show that it was written as a non-Hellraiser script originally this actually helps rather than hinders. The plot has a centre that doesn't focus on “Hell” as much and instead follows the central character Amy Klein in her investigation of the Deader Cult.

There is a genuine mystery that builds up through the story and some interesting visual ideas that I hope make it into the final piece though I worry how the low budget may effect some of them. The story develops in a natural way and, in my view, lets us really get to know Amy and come to like her; in fact from the script along I would say she's the best hero the series has featured since Kirsty Cotton of the originals.

However, what I was really pleased to find and what I've felt the series missed since Part 2, was a strong antagonist; this character allows the story to become a “battle” without placing the Cenobites as the Evil villains (Part 3) or making them almost ‘morale’ (Part 5). The dynamic of the story, in my opinion, is the closest to the first film we've had yet (Part 2, whilst the best in the series, does have a different character structure to the original).

AMY
You know me?

WINTER
I chose you.

I can see some complaining about the character of “Winter” within the piece and the actions of the Deader Cult but for me this helps to further establish this as a FANTASY Universe where magics, rituals and demonic beings can all exist. Though people who speculated on certain things seen in pictures may be disappointed I ultimately think what we get here is an excellent idea and should please a large number of fans.

Gore and nudity? Well, if the script is kept to, we can expect plenty of that and not just for the sake of it. Once again I think the sex as used in the script is very Hellraiser and fits perfectly with the corruption and desire the series, at its core, is about. There are some good revelations in the story and a lot of references to the past and the series history which I hope will not be cut out of the finished film.

One concern many fans have is whether the film will be yet another surreal mind trip such as Parts 5 and 6. Those not wishing to know LOOK AWAY NOW!

LOOK AWAY!

OK, YOU WERE WARNED.

Well, the story does take place in the real world and it has a linear plot for the most part, however there are still surreal elements and parts similar to what has gone before but they are explained away within the film and, personally, I was happy with them.

Overall I really enjoyed reading the script and, if it is kept to, I honestly think it's the best sequel yet after the first two. There are some problems, there are things fans will debate over and argue through but, at the end of the day, this has got me even more anticipating of the films release. I just hope it's translated well to screen because if it is I think quite a lot of fans will enjoy it.

PINHEAD

A guide to the far reaches of pleasure. To a world where suffering is taken to a higher level.

Scarecrow.

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