

QLH S4E12_ Jennifer's Body

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SPEAKERS

Jessi Chartier, Jen Myers

J Jessi Chartier 00:04

Welcome to Quiet Little Horrors. Here we talk about the films that creep under your skin and take up residence in the dark. Let's talk about Jennifer's Body.

J Jen Myers 00:21

We talk about movies. So we're going to talk about parts of movies that may be spoilers. If that doesn't bother you, you can keep on listening. Or you can hit the pause button and go watch the films that we're talking about before you continue here. Consider yourself warned.

J Jessi Chartier 00:39

A newly possessed high school cheerleader turns into a succubus who specializes in killing her male classmates. Her best friend tries to save her from destruction. But can she do so in time? Feel like this movie has always been on the list of ones to watch for us.

J Jen Myers 01:00

Yeah, I mean, it's a little different. I don't feel like this is maybe as intensely psychological as others that we cover, especially like in tone. But it has a really unique perspective. And it's something that I think that has kind of historically been overlooked. It's having a bit of a resurgence re appreciation. But I think it's been a little bit overlooked before. So yeah, it's really worth having a conversation about

J Jessi Chartier 01:30

Yeah, for sure. And I think that one of the first things we wanted to talk about that I think is going to lead into all the other things that we want to talk about is how mismarketed this film

was. And let me give a quick plot point, kind of breakdown, and then we can talk about how it was marketed. And what we think about that, and how maybe we think we should it should have been marketed. But the plot point is pretty straightforward. You have two friends that are in high school, what is a good looking cheerleader, the other one's not is like the opposite of that she's more like the nerd. And ironically, not I shouldn't say ironically because you know, but in a typical trope, the girl who is more studious has a boyfriend and the cheerleader does not the cheerleader just kind of bounces around between guys. But they go to a club one night, at the behest of the cheerleader, Jennifer, and see a rock band, and she ends up, Jennifer ends up getting into their van with them and leaving much to the chagrin of her friends. And when Jennifer returns, she is first she comes back, she's covered in blood, and she's ravenous. She's very hungry. And she won't talk to her friend about what happened. But over the course of the remainder of the movie, you discover that she is seducing boys, and then killing them, eating them. And gaining that's how she gains there. That's how she stays beautiful. It's how she stays on top of things, etc. And then, as she continues, the best friend tries to save her. And so and then at the end, it's very strange. She makes this full transformation into this devil and ends up trying to eat her best friend and her best friend has to kill her. So there's the story. Jen, how was it originally marketed?

J Jen Myers 03:28

Yeah. And so to be clear, I did not catch us when it first came out. It just while I wasn't I don't think I was watching a ton of horror movies. And also, I had a very young kid at that point. So this did not pop up on my radar. So I think I really only caught up with it. You know about what, 10-15 years later when again, this sort of do this appreciation. So I had to kind of like learn about this in retrospect. But what I have learned is that the way they marketed this was basically like, look at Megan Fox, who is really sexy and pretty (which she is), but don't you teenage boys want to come watch a film with Megan Fox in it. And that was kind of it. And there could be nothing further from the points or the themes of this movie than that. So I think this came out in 2009. I think this came out right before we really had started to kind of deal with a lot of the inherent misogyny that I mean, I came of age as a teenage girl in the late 90s. And I look back now and realize they were rife with internalized misogyny in media and things like this. And so I don't think we had really shaken that out by the time this movie came out. And we were still going by these old playbooks of horror movies are for teenage boys, teenage boys want to see a hot lady in a horror movie. And that's how we're going to market this film even know that this film was written by a feminist woman, Diable Cody, was directed by a feminist woman, Karyn Kusama. And they both like approach this from a feminist perspective. And they just the studio did not market it that way whatsoever they like again, it couldn't have not have been more opposed. So what this movie you're actually is about is the way it got introduced into the world.

J Jessi Chartier 05:26

It did get introduced to the world very strangely. It was definitely one that on my radar, I'll talk about my experience with this movie, I was turned off to this movie because of the marketing. Like, I remember seeing the marketing and saying this is not going to be the movie I'm interested in. It's so shallow. It just, it's just about sex and gore. I had no idea it was going to be as good as it is. Yeah.

J Jen Myers 05:52

Which Yeah, again, like we said it had, I think people have finally caught up with that now. So it has joined a little bit of a a new cult following, I think. And also, I think it goes hand in hand where people are saying, Okay, wait, this was the first time around, you did this all wrong. This is actually a really good movie. It's just such a classic example of people. We're ready to get it, then. And I think we're ready to get it now, which is great. So now we just need to make sure everybody sees it.

J Jessi Chartier 06:24

Well talk about what you would really connected with you for the film. What did you enjoy most?

J Jen Myers 06:30

Well, I love stories about teenage girls who are dealing with a Well, I mean, there's coming of age, it's not just coming of age, though. It's kind of like, you know, honestly, when it comes down to I think one of my favorite horror tropes is the danger and darkness inside teenage girls. I love it can't get enough of it. It's my favorite thing. And, you know, these episodes haven't come out quite yet. But I think we can tease we've got a couple episodes coming out that I think also touch on this stuff that was really excited about so I think this is a good kind of prequel to something like Like I'll we'll talk a little bit about one of my all time favorite movies is Picnic at Hanging Rock, which is the complete opposite tone of Jennifer's Body. But I can maintain, I will maintain that they have similar thematic grounds in terms of these coming of age stories exploring what's inside teenage girls, and or you know, what kind of power there is in there, and that sort of thing. And so that's what really resonates for me. And this film, is that sort of exploration. I mean, this is a very, kind of, yeah, who are we're horror forward tongue in cheek exploration of that sort of thing. But essentially, that is what it is about. And it's also that goes hand in hand with exploring the intensity of friendships and relationships between teenage girls, but it's all kind of like, tangled up in a bloody ball for me, and I just love it.

J Jessi Chartier 08:06

Yeah, I like I agree with you in regards to the messiness of being a teenage girl. I mean, it is. It is a hot mess. Well, and I'm not saying it's any worse or better for guys, but

J Jen Myers 08:20

it's just it's a particular thing. Yeah.

J Jessi Chartier 08:23

It's a very particular thing. And what I liked about how this movie kind of, I liked how this movie played off of more of the friendship. Like it's really a movie about two friends. Yeah, it's, you

know, and I think that that was one of the reasons it was mis marketed is like, I just don't I just don't I have no desire to watch. Megan Fox, kill boys, from a male perspective, because she's gorgeous. Like, I really thought this was going to be a male lens movie. And it is not. It absolutely is not. Yeah. It is not told through the boys point of view. It is not there like side characters almost in this Well,

J Jen Myers 09:01

I mean, and I think this is an appropriate time to, I think one of the most famous quotes of this movie when Jennifer, the succubus character that she becomes into, and Neely is her friend, and Neely says, you know, something along the lines that you're killing people. And Jennifer says, I'm not killing people. I'm killing boys. Yes, but that's that's the perspective.

J Jessi Chartier 09:25

Right, exactly. But even that, like, could have been positioned in a male gaze type of way. Like we could have had the protagonist being like one of the men that she is hunting, who stops her but it's not it's it's nearly it's what is her name again?

J Jen Myers 09:43

Needy. I sent nearly I think that I put an L in there. So her full name is I think it's Anita and her nickname is Needy, which is another kind of Yeah, I think there's there's something in that so yeah, there's Jennifer and Needy.

J Jessi Chartier 09:58

Yeah, there's Jennifer and Needy. That's right. That's right. And I mean, the I do like the fact that it is a very raw movie with these two girl, these two young women who are kind of trying to figure out their way in life. And it's clear that they've been friends for a really long time. It's clear that they've experimented with each other in regards to their own sexual prowess. It's just it's, it's just a really nice, unfiltered and uncensored rationalized friendship. Ya know what I mean? Like for sure. And I think that there's, you know, someone had said, someone in the movie had said somebody like, I mean, you get the impression that the only reason that anybody thinks they're friends is because they're sleeping together, but, and they clearly may have had some experimentation in the past. But it doesn't seem like that. That's the base of their friendship, but their friendship is really based upon how do we survive life together? And get through it, because it's really kind of stressful and a hot mess.

J Jen Myers 11:00

Yeah, I think I mean, there's, I think there's a lot of ways you can interpret the nuances of the relationship. But I think that the important part is that they do encompass a lot, it the relationship encompasses a lot of nuance. And I think this is something that does crop up with the intensity of friendships between teenage girls, that sometimes the lines get blurred, and

that doesn't necessarily mean that they have only romantic or sexual feelings for each other. But it doesn't mean that they don't have those either. It's it's just this really intense bond, I think. And I think that it's really all tied up in Yes, their own coming of age stories, which I think also, there's a very realistic metaphor here in the sense of like, what it's like to be friends with somebody for, you know, your whole lives growing up, which usually become because of proximity, right? Like you become friends with the people you're in school with, or you live down the street from or something like that. And then you start growing up into different people. And it doesn't mean you still aren't connected, but it's going to start looking differently, the older you get. And then if you you know, go to different colleges, or you start different lives, then I think that there's almost a crisis of intensity here of kind of like, you know, what does this mean? Now, what does this mean that we might be different people than we were when we were kids? And we might be going in different directions, which is what does all that mean? And I think it dredges up a lot of really deep, profound emotions.

J Jessi Chartier 12:31

That's an interesting, like, take on it. I guess I hadn't thought about it that way before about how this the girls are growing so close together, but then also so close apart?

J Jen Myers 12:45

Well, they're I mean, they're different people. Right. And that's not to say that different types of people don't have like, lasting relationships or anything like that. But they approached the world in a very different way. And I think that that's kind of played out. So as Jennifer, you know, goes farther into, I mean, oh, so she's literally like, possessed by a demon. Right. And I think that's so we want to refer to it, I guess, kind of kind of becoming this demonic being, you know, the further she goes into this, the more Needy is trying to like pull her back. And then I think it's really interesting. So at the very, very end of this movie, like I think it's actually like in a rolling with the credits right after the main storyline ends. Need, he goes after the rock band that did this to Jennifer in the first place. And she kills them all.

J Jessi Chartier 13:44

Let's talk a little bit about that. Yeah, the ending. And my so my first impression was that Jennifer's Body was going to be a revenge mill, that Jennifer was coming back kind of like, Drag Me To Hell. And it's not the case. So at the end, when Needy has to kill Jennifer, Jennifer does, basically take a bite out of Needy. And the stinger that you're talking about is really Needy talking about, hey, sometimes I've learned or I've read that if the demon bites you, you walk away with some of its powers. And so the impression is that you're right. She's She escaped, by the way media has been arrested and put in an insane asylum. Because we think because of the fact that Jennifer is dead, and she killed her.

J Jen Myers 14:39

I think that's kind of the ostensible reason if I'm not mistaken. Yeah,

J Jessi Chartier 14:42

yeah. And so she ends up breaking out of the insane asylum, or the penitentiary, or whatever breaks out of it clearly with some kind of supernatural powers. And then yes, it's very clear that she's going to go kill the rock band, and I run tickly Jen, who is the person that picks her up in hitchhiker?

J Jen Myers 15:04

Oh, sorry. Yeah, it's Lance Hendriksen.

J Jessi Chartier 15:07

So perfect. It's like king pulls. It knows like, okay, yeah, I love this movie.

J Jen Myers 15:12

Ya know, it's so good. I love Lance Hendriksen. Just yeah, yeah, I almost forgot about that, too. Which you got? It makes no reason. I love Lance. But yeah, it's okay. So that reminds me of something else. But really quickly, I wanted to tie a bow on this particular topic, remind me to come back to Lance. Yeah, but no, absolutely. And that's the thing is like, while it's clear in the movie that Needy now has supernatural powers. And yes, they have this like a narrative threads, like, okay, she's been, you know, kind of, I guess, infected with demonic powers. But to me, it's also like, that's such a clear metaphor, though, for Needy is like, you know why? And I, she spent all this time trying to get Jennifer to like, like, behave, to not do those things. And then she ends up being like, okay, fine, I'm going to be like that, too. It's almost like, I kind of put it in this, this metaphorical context of Jennifer was kind of the bad girl, Needy was always trying to get her to behave. And at some point Needy realizes that it's not worth it. Like, you're you're paying, you're playing somebody else's game, and that there was a power and being able to, to not play that game to do what you want. And I mean, obviously, this is a very, you know, in the movie, they're like, actually killing people. So I'm not saying that the message of the previous go to that. But I do think there is this kind of underlying, you know, how girls are supposed to behave and what you're supposed to do, and that sort of thing, where I feel like in the end, whatever needs Needy, like held back before or, you know, tried to stop happening. She is now fully that herself. And there's something kind of great about that in the context of the movie.

J Jessi Chartier 17:15

Mm hmm. Yeah, it's almost she's not necessarily possessed. But she's almost like a better version of herself now.

J Jen Myers 17:22

Yeah, yeah. No, that's, that's a really great way of putting it. Yeah. And well, and that really ties

into the coming of age theme, right? It's like, this is how these women learned how to be themselves in a very violent, bloody way. But I don't know, metaphorically. Isn't that how it? Is? This how it feels sometimes? Yep. Okay. Well, I can I can segue into what else I wanted to talk about, which is the fact that lanes Lance Hendriksen is at the end of this film, I think, points to something else that I like about this film is this is a film that's very aware that it's a horror film, and very aware of the tropes that it's playing with and ultimately subverting. And I think that's why it's so interesting that he's in there, as you know, something of a recognizable horror icon. I think that it points to the how this entire film is like, we know what we're doing here. We we are taking horror tropes. And we are using them in very specific ways from a very specific perspective. And we know, we know, we know we're doing this and I think that's really interesting. Did that come through for you when you were watching it?

J Jessi Chartier 18:31

It did at the beginning, it did at the end, and it did occasionally throughout the rest of the movie. But it wasn't a consistent theme. But I'm glad it wasn't. Because otherwise, I would have been really annoying. Okay, there were moments, I almost want to say it was made a little bit more subtle, because there were just like the comments would percolate that theme occasionally. But it wasn't constantly in your face. So like if you if you worry that this movie is going to be just a allegory like a heavy, heavy, heavy, heavy allegory, kind of like what possession was where it was kind of hard to follow it. This is not that at all. This is just not a fun story on the top, so you can enjoy it for what it is. But you can also see all the tropes, you can see all the archetypes you can play around with those things. And it is AI doesn't take itself too seriously at the same time. So I think I think you're right, I think it almost knew it was going to be a cult classic. Yeah. And so kind of like leaned into that just a little bit underneath the surface.

J Jen Myers 19:35

Hmm, that's what Yeah, that's a good way of phrasing it. You're right. Well, because you're right. If it was, when I say self aware, I don't mean in an annoying way. It's not always, you know, shoving its elbow in your ribs being like, get it get it. It's not that. But like I said, I do think it is and I think that's what you're describing to that. It is in its context, but it's also telling a story within that context about character. others, yes. Who have their own has its own motivation as a story. It's not it doesn't just exist to be self aware which Yeah, would wear thin very quickly. So yeah, that's a good, good way of putting it. But I do think that it is also interesting because it's, again, it's not self aware, just to be self aware, it's self aware to point out that most horror films do not have this feminist perspective, that it's kind of doing things in a little bit of a different way. Like Jennifer is not just even as she grows more and more monstrous. She does not become this one dimensional character. She's always a very complicated character. And you always see her as a full person and the full depths of her relationship with needy. No, there's never any point. She just becomes a faceless monster.

J Jessi Chartier 20:52

Right? Yeah. And she almost seems there were moments of regret to like, initially, she's super excited about this newfound power that she has. Yeah. But then she starts to kind of realize how destructive it is for her

how destructive it is for her.

J Jen Myers 21:07

Well, that kind of traps her too, right, because I don't know if we got into this too deep. I think you did mention it in the synopsis, but she has to keep killing and eating boys too. I mean, yes, to maintain her beauty, but it's it seems like it's like her lifeforce. You know, yes, but it is also like, yeah, she like glows after she's just killed and fed. So there is a little bit of a sense of, I think you could also draw out a metaphor here to of women needing to present themselves a certain way and maintain that and what it costs. And so you definitely feel that there's a sort of sadness in Jennifer as it goes along, because she kind of ends up being kind of a victim of her own appetites and needs. And she can't stop it. She can't stop it. And I think that's another reason why needy know, she has to stop it because Jennifer can't do it herself.

J Jessi Chartier 22:04

Agreed. I mean, even Jennifer goes to the point of where she starts to seduce her Needy's boyfriend. Yeah. And that was just such a great scene. So there's a great scene in the pool. It's just, I just think it's, I don't know, I thought it was just a beautiful scene. So there's a scene where Jennifer seduces Needy's boyfriend, after needy has broken up with him, because she's afraid he's going to get hurt. And Jennifer seduces him and pulls him into an old abandoned pool. And it's just as beautifully shot scene and but even then, there's like, it's true. Here's a great example of how this movie rolls. Okay, so they're in the pool. And Jennifer is trying to devour. I don't remember his name, the boyfriend

J Jen Myers 22:55

I don't either, actually, I could find it though.

J Jessi Chartier 22:57

And Needy breaks in. And there's this gorgeous scene of her pulling him out, and are trying to save him. And Jennifer floats up and is just looking. I mean, it's just, it's beautiful. There's, she's got a white dress on. Water is dripping. And greenery is everywhere. It's very raw in nature, like the nature has taken over in this pool. And it's almost like a little goon with concrete is and the lighting is gorgeous, etc. So it's very artistic. But the dialogue almost contradicts that where it's, he's the boyfriend says something like, Oh, my God, she's floating or she's flying. And needy goes, she's floating. It's not that exciting. It's not that impressive. And then Jennifer adds a clip back of like, Why do you always have to degrade everything I do. Like it just there's just such a great juxtaposition between what you visually see is going on, and the dialogue between the characters of the actual that's why I say it's almost tongue in cheek, because it recognizes that it's a film, it's making this film. But then it's also kind of subverting that through some of the dialogue as well. And I just think that that's, it's just delightful.

J Jen Myers 24:09

Yeah, it's fun. And it also was kind of point I think that's what creates like the Well, honestly, that also creates the emotional core of this because no matter what kind of weird, supernatural things are happening, in the end, it's coming down to the relationship between these two girls, and everything that annoys them about each other and everything that they love about each other. Like, that's what is really going on here. And that's, that's what propels the whole the whole story.

J Jessi Chartier 24:40

Yeah, it's great. I think that there's also the relationship between Needy and her boyfriend is also really authentic. Do you know what I mean?

J Jen Myers 24:48

Yes. So I found out his name is Chip

J Jessi Chartier 24:52

Chip. That's, of course it's chip.

J Jen Myers 24:54

Of course it's Chip.

J Jessi Chartier 24:56

Of course it's Chip, but I really like so and what I like about well, how the After who played Chip is like, he played Chip as kind of like a real high school guy. Like, he's not totally confident. He doesn't like he's still trying to figure out his own life. But he's endearing. He's like, super endearing. And you can see why needy is attracted to him, because they're both on the same plane. And they're both tried to like, move through life together as well. And I don't know if that if Jennifer even sees that as a threat. I definitely think that ship sees Jennifer as a threat like,

J Jen Myers 25:32

Jennifer sees him as a threat she, I don't think she would ever admit it. And I think that's part of the problem, because I think that I think Needy is a lot more aware of kind of how much she kind of needs Jennifer than the reverse. And so I don't, I think part of is the Jennifer doesn't quite understand the nature of the relationship between the two. And maybe he doesn't quite get it either. But I think she understands more of it than Jennifer does. I also feel like, I mean, this is another kind of meta thread going on here. But I think that the way the character Jennifer kind of lives in this movie is similar to what happened to Megan Fox, like probably around this movie is the fact that she's very objectified. And it makes me feel like Jennifer is also very lonely because of it. Like she is the, you know, the perfect, gorgeous cheerleader. And

she I mean, she has friends and connections and everything. But it seems is it isn't there also a thing in there to where she doesn't seem to have a great home life. And at least not as strong as bond is like she has with me it's so clear that her bond was needy is like, the central relationship of her life.

J Jessi Chartier 26:52
Yes, that I agree with too

J Jen Myers 26:55
Yeah, and so I think that there's there's this kind of emptiness and sadness deep and Jennifer, the where she is because she is almost separated from everybody by her, you know, her great beauty and her persona of of being this kind of objects that everybody wants. I think that there's a loneliness and disappointment there. And so I think she absolutely is threatened by Chip and does not like the fact that Chip and Needy have a relationship because I don't think she has that sort of connection with anybody but Needy.

J Jessi Chartier 27:29
That's true. And she does end up going for Chip at the end in order to get back at Needy. Like, it's it's clear that she does depend on needy for a lot. But Needy doesn't depend on her as much like she recognizes that she needs Jennifer but she also has this really healthy relationship with this boy, right? You know, and I love that I don't think I would ever say this. I love the sex scene between Needy and her boyfriend because it's just so authentic. Like, it's just so awkward and so on, you know, it's just it's, it's just so real.

J Jen Myers 28:07
Yeah, no, I think so. I think that's something else where it kind of, for me goes into the idea of this film, playing with horror tropes, because it is significant to me that neither of our main characters are virginal girls that are usually featured in horror movies, like Needy, is it because they have and but and again, it's not a bad thing. Needy isn't because they literally show like you said this, this really, you know, sweet, realistic relationship she has with her boyfriend. And then the whole point of the film is that Jennifer is presumed to be a virgin, which is why she has sacrificed in this ceremony. And because she's not actually a virgin, this is why it goes wrong. And there it feels like there's some commentary going on there to where this idea that if you try to put girls into that, that box, things will go wrong. Like there's no need for that. But yeah, it is interesting. I think that that is a very essential way that girls have always been Well traditionally have been portrayed and slasher movies in particular. I mean, it's like the whole scream. bit, right. Where in scrim there, you know, they pull that out and talk about it and things like that. And I do feel like this film, it has a bit of a connection with scream in in the way that they're deliberately deconstructing some of these tropes and playing with them. But I think that's again, because this film is doing it in a very particularly feminist context. I think that the whole virginity thing is a good one that they they bring a lot more depth to this with the characters.

J Jessi Chartier 29:46

Yeah, they do bring a lot more depth to it. And it's also just a different point of view. You know, here we have to women as opposed to the fear or the threat of something external. It's more of the threat of something Internal.

J Jen Myers 30:01

Yeah. And that leads into I mean, this is again, another thing open to interpretation. But I feel if we talk about the sexual connection between the two girls, I kind of get the feeling that it's a lot more on Jennifer's side. Not that it's not on again and there. But like, that's something I always thought in this movie, that it could be something that that Jennifer has repressed and has stepped into, you know, the perfect, at least seemingly heterosexual cheerleader, as expectations. And as a way to be like that actually, underneath. That's not what she is at all.

J Jessi Chartier 30:38

Oh, interesting. I read that more as she was so bought into the expectations of a female figure, where the only value she brought was sex, that she brought that to every relationship, including her relationship with Needy, it was the only way that she saw herself being valued.

J Jen Myers 30:58

It's not necessarily mutually exclusive, either.

J Jessi Chartier 31:01

No, it's not your right.

J Jen Myers 31:02

Yeah, well, that's the thing. I think what's so great about this is that, because the film is kind of tongue in cheek, and on this, like, you can watch this film, and I think enjoy it decently while just like on the surface, right? Like these things happen to these characters. Wow. And then there's some fun dialogue and everything like, okay, great, fun, slasher movie, right, that sort of thing. But because the heart of it really is this complicated relationship between teenage girls, I think it opens up all of this stuff out under the surface. And I think especially for maybe those of us who have been teenage girls, I feel like we're gonna resonate with things that we recognize from our own experiences in a way that I think that is what you know, movies should be doing. And so there's a whole spectrum of feelings and impressions that we can take out of it. I think that's good. And it doesn't have to be one or the other. And I don't think the movie is

trying to say, is this or that is just like, Wow, isn't this relationship, intense and have all these different maybe implications, or just things that you can take out of it? And a lot of that will come? It depends on what you bring to it is what you take out of it.

J Jessi Chartier 32:18

That's a great way to put it, you know, and I didn't expect that from this kind of film. I went into it expecting it to be very surface level and it was not and I think I was surprised by that. It's pleasantly of course,

J Jen Myers 32:30

Well, that and that brings us full circle to where we started out with, right, is that you didn't know that because they didn't want you to know that because they didn't think anybody would be interested in that. And so they deliberately packaged this as a film that wouldn't do anything like that when in fact that is the thing that people remember it for.

J Jessi Chartier 32:49

Yeah, I do find it interesting that what else? Well, first off, what else has this director done? I know the writer has done some other stuff.

J Jen Myers 32:59

Well, I mean, this was after Jennifer's Body, but we actually covered another one of the films, Karyn Kusama directed The Invitation which we did an episode on a couple seasons ago. I can't remember remember but yeah, we did an episode on Karyn Kusama's The Invitation

J Jessi Chartier 33:20

Yeah, that was a great film.

J Jen Myers 33:22

I don't know Well, I gotta be so this is another thing that really sucks about what happened with this film is I think this negatively impact her career and that is a horrible horrible thing. Because she she came out strong. I think her first big hit was Girlfight. And then I went oh, she also did Aeon Flux, which also flopped unfortunately but she's also doing she's also doing Yellowjackets she is I just watched I just watched the season two finale i this will reveal when we recorded this episode because I literally yesterday morning watch the season finale of season two of Yello jackets which is directed by Karyn Kusama. And so but also I mean, everything we've we don't need to get too deep into this, although part of me wants to because I'm all on a Yellowjackets thin . But like all virtually everything we've talked about in this episode has a part in Yellowjackets too. So that's why I think it's so exciting that she is so involved with

Yellowjackets because it's got so much of Jennifer's Body and all these things we're talking about the intensity between teenage girls, the violence of teenage girls are all of the stuff that like that's literally what Yellowjackets is about. So I think that maybe she is finding her path based on Jennifer's Body which is great. I love that. I love that for her and I love that for us. I hope that that continues to happen.

J Jessi Chartier 34:56

I agree. I think I'd like to see because so much of her writing and filmmaking I've liked and the same thing is true of Diablo Cody like I really like stuff that Diablo Cody has written because it challenges the standard form of what it means to be female. Hmm.

J Jen Myers 35:14

Yeah, I think that this I think one of the reasons Jennifer's Body works so much is that it has two very strong women's voices guiding it and yeah, it's they work together really well on this the voices do I assume that they did in person as well because the movie came out pretty good

J Jessi Chartier 35:42

I think it turned out great, even though it was mismarketed,

J Jen Myers 35:45

Even though it was mismarketed. And I mean, I think we're coming to the end of the conversation. So I just want to throw in here too. I think this this film also, I mean, I think it appeals to me, because I think I'm almost the exact same age as Diablo Cody. And so I do feel like there is a kind of, I don't know, this, this, this idea of women stepping outside of a box or this idea of like violence or passion or whatever insight of women coming out. I think that that aligns very well with the title of this film, which is from a song by Hole on the live through this album. And so I do feel like there is this great kind of the spirit of Courtney Love hovering over this film, and propelling it forward to but that also aligns and I think it aligns with it, I think it will resonate for lots of different generations. But I know for me, as someone who was a teenage girl in the 90s, listening to whole, and named Jennifer no less. Like, I really feel that this also resonates with a certain kind of generational journey, in terms of the way girls and women who are, you know, my age, but how we all we took in media and absorbed some not great messages about what we should be and how we should grow up. And that maybe we can, you know, fight back against that. As we grow up.

J Jessi Chartier 37:15

I connected in a similar fashion to this movie, because I'm also, you know, I came of age in the early 90s, early to mid 90s. And I feel like this movie did a really nice job of that. But I will say that I if I was going to compare this to Ginger Snaps for some reason Ginger Snaps is that that would hit me harder and deeper. And I don't know why. Hmm. Well, let's talk about that.

J Jen Myers 37:41

Because that is like when we move into other films that we recommend, if you like this film, I mean, we talked about Jennifer's Body, the next film talk about his Ginger Snaps. Like there's just no way, like they go together so well. I think Well, I think there's there might be a couple of reasons for that, as Ginger Snaps did come out earlier, like it's what 2001 I think, as opposed to Jennifer's Body is 2009. So it may capture that time period a little bit better, probably a little bit for both of us. I think also Ginger Snaps is much more focused on the coming of age themes.

J Jessi Chartier 38:16

That's true that it's much more direct,

J Jen Myers 38:18

it is a very direct metaphor. And for those who don't know, Ginger Snaps is a Canadian film, again, like from 2001, I believe about a pair of sisters and one, the older sister turns into a werewolf. And the relationship between them is different because they are literally sisters. They're not just like friends, right? And it's it's, you know, not a subtle metaphor that when a girl comes of age, something happens to her once or once a month that creates chaos, internally and then externally. But it's a very effective metaphor, and it really works in the movie, but I mean, I do love Ginger Snaps it's a really great film.

J Jessi Chartier 39:01

Yeah, and I think one of the reasons that Ginger Snaps worked, or hit me harder was because it was much more of a it was much more of a way to consume a fairy tale felt much more fairy tale esque. And Jennifer's Body felt much more almost like a moral story. Like don't get in the van.

J Jen Myers 39:29

When interesting, I don't know, I can kind of see that. I mean, yeah, they're they have very similar thematic ground, but they're very different type of stories. Yes. And I think that's what it comes down to. So but I like again, thematically that I think they go hand in hand and I think they're a great pair to talk about together, watch together.

J Jessi Chartier 39:47

They wouldn't make a good double feature, wouldn't they? Definitely.

J Jen Myers 39:51

Jen Myers 39:52

Is there another film that you think would pair nicely with Jennifer's Body? I mean, I got I threw in Ginger Snaps and I'm like, I can't even think of anything else. But do you have any other suggestions?

J Jessi Chartier 40:03

You know, the only other one that kind of came to mind while I was watching this movie was Buffy the Vampire Slayer, which I'm sure someone out there is gonna be really angry that I'm comparing Jennifer's Body to Buffy the movie.

J Jen Myers 40:13

I mean, I have never seen that movie. So I'm not going to be angry at you.

J Jessi Chartier 40:19

Well, when people are allowed to be angry, like people are allowed to have their feelings. But the reason I think that this that one pair as well is just the if you liked the subtle tongue in cheek pnuus of Jennifer's Body, then I think you would like Buffy the Vampire Slayer. You know, because it's very tongue in cheek, it's a woman who has discovered she is has come of age and discover that her goal in life for her not even at her destiny is to be the slayer of evil. And she has to come to grips with that. So it's kind of like the opposite of Jennifer's Body who she's got to figure out how to use her power for good. And it's kind of interesting. It's just, there's so the interesting parallels there. Yeah, that's all that's the only other one I can think of.

J Jen Myers 41:09

No, it makes sense. I'm for what I know about the film like that makes sense to me. So yeah.

J Jessi Chartier 41:14

Well, what about you? Are there? Are there anything or even other medium, books? Or?

J Jen Myers 41:19

Yeah, no, that's a really good point. Well, it's honestly not to just go into promotion mode. But we have a couple episodes coming up, like I mentioned earlier that I actually do think travels similar thematic territory, even if they have a very, it's like the opposite of your Buffy suggestion where the tone is totally different, but the themes are similar. So I mean, we're going to talk about some coming of age films that center on girls growing up hatching and Picnic at Hanging Rock. Mm hmm. And so I kind of feel like, that's when I think about films like Jennifer's Body, there's any type of like, intense coming of age story that presents questions about how girls should grow up to be women, how they should, you know, choose to behave

and choose to interact with the world. That's what I think of when I think of Jennifer's Body a bit. So it may be a stretch to some people, but that's what comes up for me. So yeah, I you know what I recommend? I recommend staying tuned and listening to our next episodes.

J Jessi Chartier 42:29

Is that subtle? Yes. That's great. That's great. I love it. Well, if you have other movies, dear listeners that you think would pair well with this, let us know we'd love to hear about it. And you can reach us at Hello at quietlittlehorrors.com for an email address. Or you can also just go to quietlittlehorrors.com. You can find us on Instagram at [quietlittlehorrors](https://www.instagram.com/quietlittlehorrors). And then Twitter is the only one that's different, which is [quiethorrors](https://twitter.com/quiethorrors). So make sure you join us next time. Thank you so much for joining us with Jennifer's Body. Jen, this was great to talk about. Yeah. Final thoughts before we know,

J Jen Myers 43:08

it was just good to have something a little bit lighter than Possession. So hopefully we balanced out those two well enough. It's it's a lot of fun to watch. That's why I feel like even though so we put these films together in a single month, we usually have a stronger thematic connection between the films. And like I said, this doesn't have as direct of a connection, but I feel like they balance each other out pretty well.

J Jessi Chartier 43:39

So too, I think so too. I think that they they do a nice job of just approach in regards to the idea of Possession is very different. You know, it's just great. I love it. Well join us next time. So the next movie groupie that we're going to be doing is we're going to be doing a comparison of remakes. And we are going to be looking at the 1976 Carrie, which is just a classic I love Carrie, and then the 2013 remake. So if you are interested in getting ahead of the game, go check out those two movies and we will

J Jen Myers 44:16

just realize we're gonna have like three or so solid months of well, maybe not three solid like two and a half discussing coming of age type films, but I like that.

J Jessi Chartier 44:28

I you know, I think it's a common theme and horror. Yeah, I'm not gonna lie.

J Jen Myers 44:32

Oh, I love it. Yeah, and I think it works through really, we did talk about this before, but I think it works really well for horror stories centered on girls. There's something horrific about growing

up as a girl. And there's a reason that I think there's so many good horror movies about it.



Jessi Chartier 44:51

There are there are a lot. Well stick around for next time. Thanks, everybody for listening. Jen. Thanks so much for talking about Jennifer's Body with me today.



Jen Myers 45:00

All right, thank you. Bye