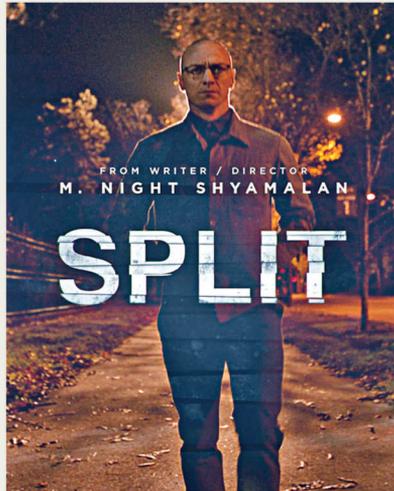


# SPLIT

**Director:** M. Night Shyamalan  
**Screenplay:** M. Night Shyamalan  
**Cast:** James McAvoy, Anya Taylor-Joy  
**Strength:** Acting  
**Weakness:** Screenplay  
**Duration:** 117min  
**Rating:** 7/10

**PLOT:** Three teenagers are kidnapped by a ruthless stranger named "Kevin", a victim of childhood abuse with severe "Dissociative Identity Disorder" and was



imprisoned in a basement. They soon learn that their captor has a multiple personality disorder and try to find out which personality will help them to escape. Kevin's psychiatrist, Dr. Karen Fletcher rushes to Kevin's home and suspects that he is responsible for the kidnapping. Before she can help, she is caught, drugged and locked up. Then Kevin goes into a train car and becomes "The Beast".

**REVIEW:** "Split" is the perfect title for the movie because it is about a man with 23 different personalities. The screenplay is written by the director Shyamalan himself, and it shows its weaknesses on multiple occasions. Tagline of the movie is very catchy and this movie contains fascinating visual appeal. "Split" showcases an award-worthy performance from James McAvoy. He is absolutely incredible in each role, completely believable and able to flip between the characters with a twist of his face or a lean in his eyes. From obsessive-compulsive maintenance man Dennis to a playful 9-year old boy, he brings all the characters to life. One of the trios is Casey, superbly played by Anya Taylor-Joy. The film gives twist-hunters much to chew on and also tells the story of a split in the world. But there are a few plots holes that cannot be avoided. "Split" could have been an abduction thriller, a psychological drama or perhaps a twisted action film. Instead, its attempt to combine all these elements lead to a less satisfying experience than McAvoy's personalities. Overall, this film is very well done and is worth a watch despite its shortcomings.

Reviewed by Saqiba Nawshin Junnurnine



# NOCTURNAL ANIMALS

**Director/Screenplay:** Tom Ford  
**Cast:** Amy Adams, Jake Gyllenhaal, Michael Shannon, Aaron Taylor-Johnson, Isla Fisher  
**Strength:** Suspense, Thriller, Cinematography  
**Weakness:** Ending  
**Runtime:** 106min  
**Rating:** 7/10

**PLOT:** While reading a book written by her ex-husband, the art gallery owner Susan Morrow starts seeing her life from a new perspective, slowly and steadily going back to past decisions which still haunts her in the present.

**REVIEW:** "Nocturnal Animals" is the kind of movie that is difficult to explain in a few words. The film revolves around multiple subplots which diverges into one grand display of the life of Susan Morrow (Amy Adams). This thriller movie manages to keep the viewer at the edge of the seat by constant plot-switching, which is accompanied by brilliant cinematography and excellent acting. One thing that will confuse viewers at first is the blurring between Amy's present world and her past. The movie seldom indicates when Amy is having a flashback, or when she is imagining the events of

the book as she is reading it. But that confusion will soon wear out as the plot thickens and the main character of the book 'Nocturnal Animals', Edward Sheffield (Jake Gyllenhaal), succumbs himself into a path of revenge.

Significant portions of the movie focus on the plot of the book, which comes as no surprise as the movie is named after the very same book. The utilization of the story of the book 'Nocturnal Animals' is what brings out the best part of the movie "Nocturnal Animals": the suspense. The turmoil of Edward Sheffield is heart-wrenching and cruel, and as Amy reads on, the suspense builds up in a frightening manner. Credits need to be given to director and writer Tom Ford for managing impeccable screenplay, which makes the movie a sheer treat to experience. The movie wraps itself up in an open-ended conclusion, leaving the viewer to question the life of Susan: Is she happy? Does she want to go back to her previous life? What made her change? Did she really love her ex-husband? The answers lie within the viewer and the viewer's interpretations only.

Reviewed by Shams Rashid Tonmoy

# HARAAMKHOR

**Director:** Shlok Sharma  
**Stars:** Nawazuddin Siddiqui, Shweta Tripathi  
**Strength:** Acting, Direction  
**Weakness:** Screenplay, Writing  
**Runtime:** 87min  
**Rating:** 5.5/10

**PLOT:** Haraamkhor is a Bollywood movie based on a story in a small village in Madhya Pradesh. Shyam Tekchand (Nawazuddin Siddiqui) was a maths teacher who gets intrigued with Sandhya (Shweta Tripathi), a 14-year old student from his class. Sandhya's father was an alcoholic who had a relationship with another woman after Sandhya's mother died. Sandhya used to go to Shyam Tekchand for tuitions and in spite Shyam being much older and married, a contorted relationship ensues between them. The entire story disentangles when Kamal (Irfan Khan) and Mintu (Mohd Samad) are introduced into the story. Kamal was Sandhya's tuition mate and Mintu was Kamal's good friend. Slowly Kamal also falls in love with Sandhya and his friend Mintu suggests bizarre ways to help Kamal to get Sandhya.

**REVIEW:** "Haraamkhor" is a very impudent movie which deals with the reality that remains hidden, especially in small towns and villages. The director Shlok Sharma did a decent job with his direction but the screenplay was weak. Some parts of the movie tend to get boring because of the poor writing. Apart from that, another problem with the movie was

editing, which in several places jars while some scenes appear unorganized. The storyline was based on a common dilemma and the director managed to domicile the contention without taking sides, which was indeed exemplary. Nawazuddin and Shweta acted brilliantly. Shweta played the role of a 14-year old girl veraciously, while Nawazuddin again proved his caliber with his acting. The movie had some



lambent moments in it despite of the fact that it was a serious movie. The relationship between Sandhya and her alcoholic police officer father was not portrayed properly. The music for this movie was composed by Jasleen Royal.

Reviewed by Sheikh Sayem Ahmed