



December 10, 2015

Spectre



Spectre is a spectacular homage to the James Bond Series. If this is indeed the last time that Daniel Craig delivers the famous lines, then he certainly will go out with more than a few bangs and a whole lot of jaw dropping action. This time, we learn a little more about Bond, James Bond, as his past catches up with him in very unexpected ways. As we learn about his past, we are being set up for the future of the franchise. The opening credits are operatic and Sam Smith shines brightly with the opening sequence song *The Writings on The Wall*. Everything fits as perfectly as does the tailored Tom Ford suits. The cars are faster, the women smarter and the action off-the-excitement charts.

The Mexico setting provides the perfect place to hide behind the assassin's mask. What I have really appreciated about Daniel Craig in the role is that he conveys a different aspect of the man—vulnerability and a desire to really connect with the women in his life. Of all the actors who have played the spy icon,

Craig has been the most human and, in turn, the most interesting. No offense to any of the other actors as they all brought a different and special quality to the part, but in the hands of Sam Mendes, this Bond is a complete man who feels pain both physically and psychologically. I really connected to the Bond trying to deal with loss, grief and having to choose whether to continue on a lonely and dangerous road or take an even greater risk on love.

Spectre delivers in every way; a movie to just sit back and enjoy like a vodka martini, shaken not stirred. James Bond has always been a super anti-hero. His license to kill is a great burden. He takes it very seriously. As for villains, Christoph Waltz makes a great one. His quiet menace is a good counterbalance to the more extravagantly over-the-top portrayals. Lethal in his desire to destroy Bond, when you find out the motivation behind all the violence, you will be more intrigued and ready for the next installment. I will miss Daniel Craig. I hope the next actor to play Bond will respect the great work that he has done and learn from all the archetypes that have been embodied in the character. Just



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as each actor gave Bond a different face, the role will stretch and evolve to embrace the next one.

This is a high powered, fast paced and thoroughly entertaining movie that will help make the transition easier because it is so good. Get your Raisinets and head out to the aisles. Show how much escapist vehicles mean to you because we need to just get away from it all once in a while and James Bond is the best way to get that job done. I give *Spectre* four golden tickets.

