



The Descent

By James Marriott

Auteur Publishing, United Kingdom, 2013. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 190 x 134 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. The story of an all-female caving expedition gone horribly wrong, *The Descent* (2005) is arguably the best of the mid-2000s horror entries to return verve and intensity to the genre. Unlike its peers (*Saw* [2004], *Hostel* [2011], etc.), *The Descent* was both commercially and critically popular, providing a genuine version of what other films could only produce as pastiche. For Mark Kermode, writing in the *Observer*, it was one of the best British horror films of recent years, and Derek Elley in *Variety* described it as an object lesson in making a tightly-budgeted, no-star horror pic. *Time Out*'s critic praised this fiercely entertaining British horror movie; while *Rolling Stone*'s Peter Travers warned prospective viewers to prepare to be scared senseless. Emphasizing female characters and camaraderie, *The Descent* is an ideal springboard for discussing underexplored horror themes: the genre's engagement with the lure of the archaic; the idea of birth as the foundational human trauma and its implications for horror film criticism; and the use of provisional worldviews, or rubber realities, in horror.



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