



FILM: **HEREDITARY**

FDG RATING: 1.0 ☹️○○○○○

Film Discussion Group (FDG) Scale is 1-5 (5 is best)

Ari Aster: *director*  
Toni Collette: *actress, Annie Graham*  
Gabriel Byrne: *actor, Steve Graham*  
Alex Wolff: *actor, Peter Graham*  
Milly Shapiro: *actress, Charlie Graham*

DATE: July 22, 2018

DISCUSSION SUMMARY: **HEREDITARY**

Horror films are historically out of scope for our film discussions, but we decided to leave our comfort zone for July, also due to a lack of worthy films while most distributors wait for more auspicious timing, closer to the Academy Awards. It was a bad decision.

We were sucked in by many positive reviews from respected published critics calling the debut feature from Ari Aster, “creepy beyond belief”, “an ambitious energy”, “a sense that the creaky old machinery of horror can be adapted to new and exciting uses.” We were ready to be scared and enjoy it. The most worthwhile comment explained the film’s haunting message “the social unit is, by definition, self-menacing, and that the home is no longer a sanctuary but a crumbling fortress, under siege from within.” OK. For the sake of comparison, *Silence of the Lambs* was creepy but it was a very good film.

*Hereditary* was not. For our film discussion group, *Hereditary* was gruesomely gory for the simple exploitation of horror. The story really didn’t make sense mashing up cultism with other horror elements. Psychological thrillers can be well done but this was bad horror, poorly done. Many of us wanted to walk out on the film. Those of us who were prepared to be scared, ended up questioning the entire premise. It was such an obvious set-up for disaster when mom tells her teenage son to take his younger, socially challenged sister along to his school party. If being much younger, and socially inept wasn’t enough, she is deathly allergic to peanuts as we see in an early scene when she is eating a chocolate bar and both mom and dad ask “...there’s no peanuts in that bar, because we don’t have the epi pen?” She nods no peanuts. The premonition is irritatingly obvious that she will have a deathly attack at a pivotal point in the story. The film degenerates increasingly from this point on. (Is *Hereditary* trying to replace *The Room* as the worst horror film ever made?)

Only a few discussion participants saw the film but unanimously gave the film a horrible score of 1, the lowest possible score on our scale of 1 to 5.

*(This is the lowest score we have ever given a film dating back to 2012.)*



See you at the movies!

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[www.filmdiscussiongroup.com](http://www.filmdiscussiongroup.com)