

# THE HOWL



Published on March 20th, 2018 | by The Howl

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## Film review: Lara Croft, Tomb Raider

By: Gursimran Hans

*Lara Croft* tells the story of how the titular character (Alicia Vikander) journeys to the island of Yamatai, in the Devil's Sea to find out what happened to her father (Dominic West) seven years ago. Tomb Raider is bought into the millennial age with a dramatic bike race across Shoreditch as the young Croft comes of age.

TOMB RAIDER Official Trailer #1 (2018) Alicia Vikander, Lara Croft Tomb Raider Review



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Vikander does a stunning job. Croft is not a caricature as she has often been accused of. She's a complex, likeable character in her own right. Brave and tough, but her inexperience shows. She has no more difficulty than a male rookie would nor is she ever really sexualised.

West produces a stunning performance also as do Walton Goggins and Daniel Wu who play main antagonist Matthias Vogel and Hong Kong sailor Lu Ren, who lost his father on the same damned voyage as Lara lost hers.

Despite the fantastic cast and fantastic acting, the direction and writing of the film let it down.

Lara only survives because she's slightly less stupid than her opponents. There were countless occasions where if her rival hadn't been incompetent, she would have died. Indeed, in the film's final flight scene, Vogel throws her away from a massive chasm, when it would have been far simpler to drop her in.

The scenes that took place in the dark are poorly shot, you can't quite tell what's going on, and it's more confusing than thrilling or scary.

Meanwhile, there's also the mysterious case of a 20m ladder that suddenly gets whipped out of a small backpack.

Make no mistake, some of the themes are intriguing. Vogel, a tyrant, trapped on an island by a mysterious employer, is just desperate to finish the job and return to his daughters and whilst he's a bit of a maniac, you can't help but feel sorry for him.

There's subtle dry humour and lots of nice little clues to what's really going on. The plot builds up well, with it not always being clear what is going on, thus adding to the mystery.

The ending leads nicely to a sequel, but again, Lara should be dead. It makes no sense for her to be left alive once the last plot twist is made clear.

The film only works plot wise because the bad guys are just too stupid, which just isn't a good way to write a film.

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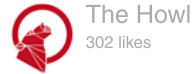
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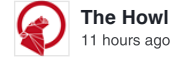
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