

The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo Rotten Tomatoes

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REVISITING A MODERN CLASSIC: THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO MOVIE 2009 ROTTEN TOMATOES LEGACY

When Stieg Larsson’s *Millennium* trilogy first captivated readers worldwide, it seemed only a matter of time before the dark, gripping universe made its way to the screen. The first adaptation, a Swedish-language film directed by Niels Arden Oplev, arrived in 2009 and immediately became a cultural phenomenon. For anyone curious about the critical consensus, **The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo Movie 2009 Rotten Tomatoes** score offers a revealing snapshot of how this intense thriller was received by both critics and audiences. Over a decade later, the film remains a benchmark in Nordic noir cinema, and its Rotten Tomatoes page continues to be a primary reference for new viewers exploring Larsson’s world.

This article delves deep into the critical reception, audience reaction, and lasting influence of the 2009 Swedish adaptation. We will explore what made the film so powerful, examine its Rotten Tomatoes metrics, and consider how it compares to later adaptations. Whether you are a longtime fan or a newcomer deciding which version to watch, understanding the Rotten Tomatoes verdict on this influential movie is essential.

THE FILM THAT INTRODUCED LISBETH SALANDER TO THE WORLD

Released in Sweden in February 2009 and internationally later that year, *The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo* is the first film adaptation of Stieg Larsson’s bestselling novel. Directed by Niels Arden Oplev, the film stars Noomi Rapace in a career-defining performance as the punk, asocial hacker Lisbeth Salander, alongside Michael Nyqvist as investigative journalist Mikael Blomkvist. Together, they investigate the decades-old disappearance of a young woman from the wealthy Vanger family, uncovering a trail of violence, corruption, and family secrets.

The film’s tone is unflinchingly dark, matching the novel’s grim subject matter. It does not shy away from explicit sexual violence or the psychological trauma of its characters. This uncompromising approach earned the film both praise and criticism, but it undeniably set the standard for how Salander’s story should be told. The raw, visceral quality of Rapace’s performance became the benchmark for all subsequent portrayals of the character.

The Plot in Brief (Spoiler-Light)

Mikael Blomkvist, a journalist recently convicted of libel, is hired by wealthy industrialist Henrik Vanger to investigate the disappearance of his great-niece, Harriet, who vanished forty years earlier from the family’s island estate. Blomkvist soon realizes the Vanger family is riddled with secrets and malice. Meanwhile, Lisbeth Salander, a brilliant but troubled computer hacker, becomes entangled in the investigation. The two team up, and as they dig deeper, they uncover a series of horrific murders linked to a serial killer hiding within the family. The plot is a dense, layered mystery that rewards attentive viewing.

THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO MOVIE 2009 ROTTEN TOMATOES SCORE: A DETAILED BREAKDOWN

When evaluating the critical reception of the 2009 film, **The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo Movie 2009 Rotten Tomatoes** provides a clear and data-rich picture. As of the most recent updates, the film holds a **Certified Fresh** rating on the Tomatometer. The exact percentage fluctuates slightly over time (typically around 86-87% based on over 200 reviews), but the consensus is overwhelmingly positive. The critics’ consensus on the site reads: “Noomi Rapace’s fierce performance as Lisbeth Salander elevates this dark, disturbing thriller to a truly riveting cinematic experience.”

What the Critics Said: The Tomatometer Verdict

Critics universally praised Noomi Rapace’s transformation into Salander. Her portrayal was described as “electrifying,” “unforgettable,” and “the heart of the film.” Many noted that the film matched the novel’s intensity without becoming gratuitous, though some found the violence difficult to watch. Roger Ebert gave the film three and a half stars, writing that “it’s a seriously effective thriller that doesn’t let up.” Peter Travers of *Rolling Stone* called it “a fierce, exciting and emotionally pulverizing movie.”

A minority of critics pointed out the film’s slow pacing in the first act and the density of the plot, which some felt was overwhelming for a single movie. Nevertheless, the overwhelming consensus was that this was a masterful adaptation that honored Larsson’s vision. The Tomatometer percentage reflects this critical appreciation, with four out of five reviews generally being positive.

The Audience Score: What Viewers Thought

On Rotten Tomatoes, the audience score for **The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo Movie 2009** is equally impressive, often hovering in the high 80s to low 90s. This indicates that general viewers were just as captivated as the critics. Audience comments frequently highlight the emotional impact of Salander’s story, the gripping mystery, and the stark, atmospheric cinematography. Many viewers also note that the film stays remarkably faithful to the book, which pleased fans of the trilogy. The high audience score confirms that this adaptation succeeded not only as an art film but as a crowd-pleaser—albeit a dark one.

COMPARING THE 2009 SWEDISH FILM TO THE 2011 AMERICAN REMAKE

Any discussion of **The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo Movie 2009 Rotten Tomatoes** is incomplete without comparing it to David Fincher’s 2011 English-language remake. Fincher’s version, starring Rooney Mara and Daniel Craig, also received strong reviews (Certified Fresh at around 86% as well), but the audience scores differed. Rotten Tomatoes data shows that the Swedish original often has a slightly higher audience approval rating. Why? Many viewers felt that Rapace’s Salander was more raw and authentic, while Mara’s interpretation was more polished and restrained. The gritty, low-budget feel of the Swedish film also aligned better with the novel’s Scandinavian setting.

Fincher’s film had a bigger budget, a famous director, and a glossy production design, but some critics argued it lost the raw edge of the original. The 2009 film remains the definitive version for many purists. Interestingly, when looking at both films’ Rotten Tomatoes pages side by side, the Swedish version often receives higher marks for “sticking the landing” in its portrayal of violence and trauma.

The Nordic Noir Aesthetic and Its Impact on Reception

Part of the reason for the strong critical reception of the 2009 film lies in its aesthetic. Nordic noir, as a genre, is characterized by bleak landscapes, subdued color palettes, and a focus on social decay. The 2009 *Dragon Tattoo* embodies these traits perfectly. The cold, gray Swedish winter becomes a character in itself, mirroring the emotional coldness of the Vanger family. Critics appreciated this atmospheric authenticity, which contrasted with the brighter, more conventional thriller look of many American films. On Rotten Tomatoes, reviews frequently reference the “chilling authenticity” of the setting.

DETAILED ANALYSIS OF KEY CRITICAL REVIEWS

To fully understand **The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo Movie 2009 Rotten Tomatoes** score, it helps to examine a selection of the individual reviews that contributed to the Tomatometer.

- **The New York Times (A.O. Scott):** “Ms. Rapace does not so much play a character as inhabit an alternate state of being. She is both frightening and deeply sympathetic, and she makes the movie, despite its often lurid and punishing content, impossible to turn away from.”
- **Variety (Derek Elley):** “A taut, well-crafted thriller that juggles its multiple plot strands with skill. The real draw, though, is Rapace’s uncompromising performance.”
- **Entertainment Weekly (Lisa Schwarzbaum):** “The film is so serious, so intense, so committed to its own bleakness that viewers will either surrender to its lures or scram. I surrendered.”
- **ESPN’s The Movie Blog (a dissenting review):** “The film is too long, too gruesome, and too convoluted for its own good. The director mistakes grimness for depth.”

This spread of opinions is typical for a film that does not aim for universal appeal. The positive reviews overwhelmingly emphasize the power of the performances and the fidelity to the source material. Negative reviews often cite pacing and the unrelenting grimness as drawbacks.

WHY THIS ADAPTATION ENDURES: THE POWER OF NOOMI RAPACE

It would be impossible to discuss the success of the 2009 film without focusing on Noomi Rapace. She did not merely act as Lisbeth Salander; she became her. Rapace underwent a dramatic physical transformation—piercings, severe haircut, platform boots—and trained for months in martial arts and boxing. More importantly, she captured Salander’s emotional armor: a mixture of profound hurt, fierce intelligence, and unwavering resolve. Her performance set a new standard for female characters in thriller cinema.

Critics on Rotten Tomatoes consistently pointed to Rapace as the film’s secret weapon. Many argued that without her, the film might have been a slow, morbid drama. Her presence elevates every scene, and the Tomatometer consensus reflects this central truth. In the years since, Rapace has become a global star, but this role remains her most iconic.

BOX OFFICE SUCCESS AND AWARDS

Beyond Rotten Tomatoes, the film’s commercial and awards performance further validates its quality. The 2009 *Girl With the Dragon Tattoo* earned over \$104 million worldwide on a modest budget of \$13 million, making it a massive international hit. It won the BAFTA Award for Best Film Not in the English Language, and Rapace won numerous acting prizes. The film also received a Guldbagge Award (Swedish equivalent of the Oscars) for Best Actress. These accolades mirror the positive Rotten Tomatoes score, providing a holistic picture of the film’s excellence.

THE ROTTEN TOMATOES AUDIENCE VS. CRITIC DIVIDE (OR LACK THEREOF)

For many polarizing films, there is a significant gap between critic scores and audience scores on Rotten Tomatoes. For **The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo Movie 2009**, that gap is narrow. Both groups generally agree on the film's strengths. The high audience score suggests that the film's mature themes and graphic content did not alienate viewers as much as some might expect. Instead, audiences appreciated the film's honesty and respect for the source material. The only major point of divergence is among viewers who were disturbed by the sexual violence; some rated it lower because of that content. However, the majority accepted it as integral to the story.

THE LEGACY OF THE 2009 ADAPTATION IN THE ERA OF STREAMING

Today, **The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo Movie 2009 Rotten Tomatoes** page remains a popular starting point for many streaming subscribers. The film is available on various platforms, and its Tomatometer score helps newcomers decide whether to invest in a foreign-language film with heavy subject matter. Its continued high rating also influences how later adaptations (including the 2018 TV series *The Girl in the Spider's Web* and the 2021 *Millennium* series) are judged. None of the later takes have matched the critical or audience success of the original Swedish film.

The film's enduring popularity has also sparked interest in the original novels among new generations. Many fans discover the 2009 movie on a streaming site, check its Rotten Tomatoes rating, watch it, and then proceed to read the entire trilogy. In this way, the