

# 37 Best Twist Endings In Film

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20th Century Fox

You often go into thrillers or mystery movies not knowing what to expect, but every once in a while, a plot twist will shake up everything you thought you knew so much that it changes the entire movie, even in the last few seconds. Director **M. Night Shyamalan** is known for throwing plot twists in all of his movies, like *The Village* and *Glass*, the recent sequel to both his 2000 film *Unbreakable* and 2016's *Split*. But screenwriters and directors of all genres — although maybe not rom-coms as much as thrillers — have been fans of the twist ending for decades, aiming to shock fans and audience members at the last second. Sometimes it's fun to get that shock from a movie. Predictability can get boring. So if you're in the mood for a twist that will leave you shook, here are 37 of the best movie endings we didn't see coming. But be prepared, and read at your own risk of spoilers.



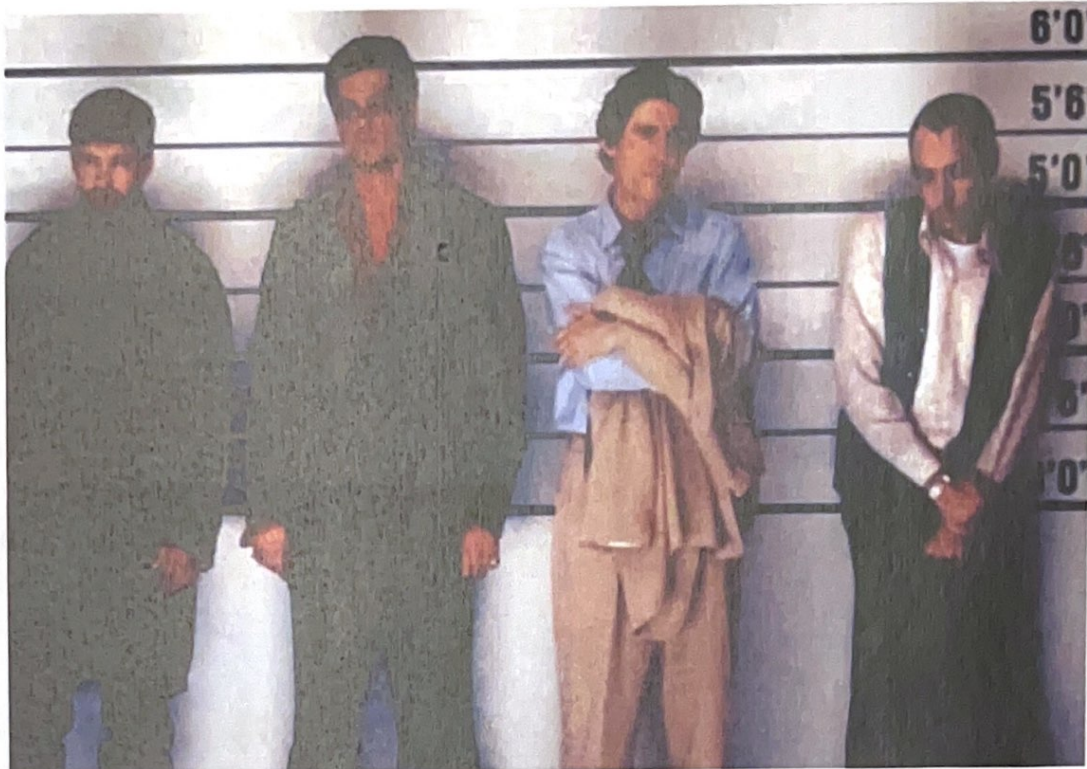
## Fight Club



20th Century Fox

I stand by the fact that ***Fight Club*** has the greatest twist ending of all time: the unnamed narrator and Project Mayhem cult leader Tyler Durden are the same person. There are a few little hints throughout the movie, like the fact that the narrator “knows this because Tyler knows this,” beating himself up in his boss’s office reminded him of his first fight with Tyler, and lines such as “Tyler’s words coming out of my mouth.” However, if you weren’t previously familiar with the film or the book by ***Chuck Palahniuk***, it’s easy to overlook all of that and be just as shocked as the narrator himself when he finally pieces it together.

## *The Usual Suspects*



Gramercy Pictures

Verbal Kint was one of only two survivors of a massacre, and the film takes place in the police office where he's being questioned in an attempt to catch the crime boss — who he says is called Keyser Soze. The majority of the movie is told from the perspective of Verbal's memories, or so we're led to believe. In both present day and all of his flashbacks, we see him walking with a limp. In the last few seconds of the film, he's walking away from the police station, and all of a sudden the limp starts to go away. Meanwhile, the cop who questioned him is looking at the bulletin board behind his desk and pieces together that everything Verbal said was made up on the spot using words and images he saw while sitting there. The entire story was a very well-told lie, and Verbal is Keyser Soze.



## *Gone Baby Gone*

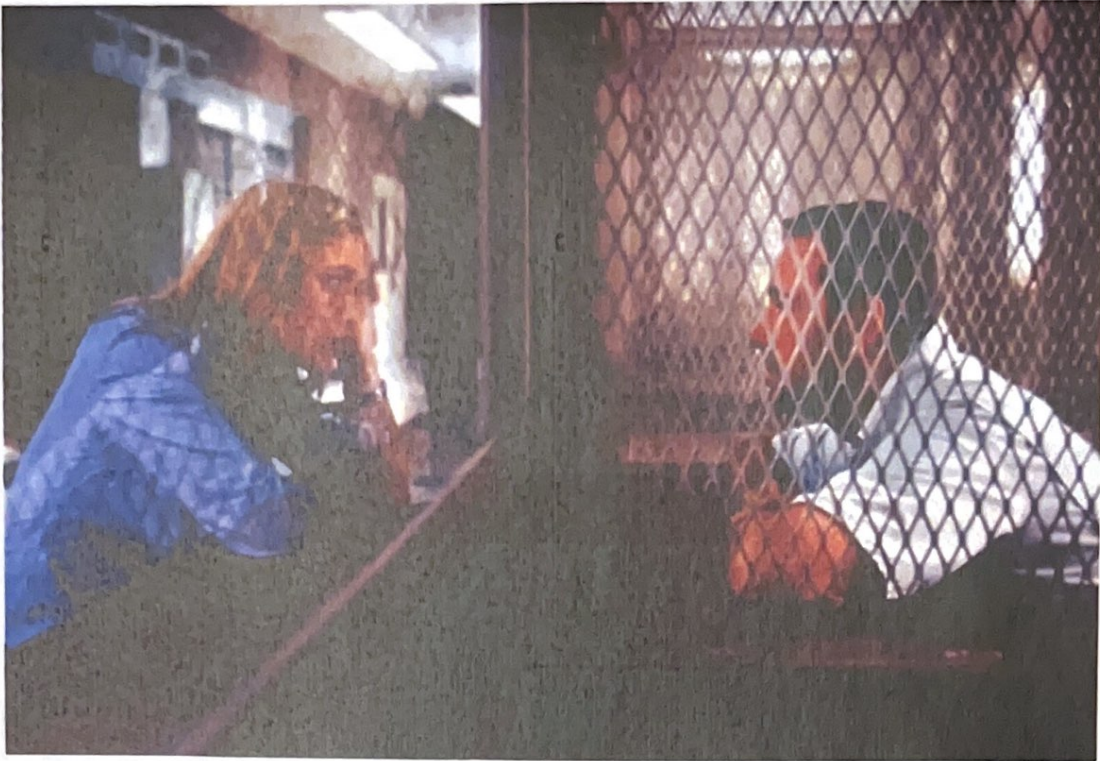


Miramax

***Gone Baby Gone*** was first a book in a crime detective series written by **Dennis Lehane**, famous for some of his other books like ***Shutter Island*** and ***Mystic River***. *Shutter Island*, starring **Leonardo DeCaprio**, gets an honorable mention on this list, but honestly, *Gone Baby Gone* deserves more recognition. When a little girl goes missing, her aunt turns to private detective Patrick Kenzie and his partner Angie Gennaro to help find her when she feels the police aren't doing enough. Police Captain Jack Doyle, played by **Morgan Freeman**, makes it known from the beginning that he doesn't want Kenzie involved in the case. Surprise! The entire kidnapping was a staged plot to get the girl away from her drug addicted mother, and Kenzie finds her happy and healthy living with Captain Doyle. If that twist wasn't enough, the last few seconds of the film shows Kenzie sitting with the girl at her mother's home after returning her, realizing he made a mistake when she corrects him on the name of her favorite doll that her mom had been calling by the wrong name the entire time she was missing.



## *The Life of David Gale*

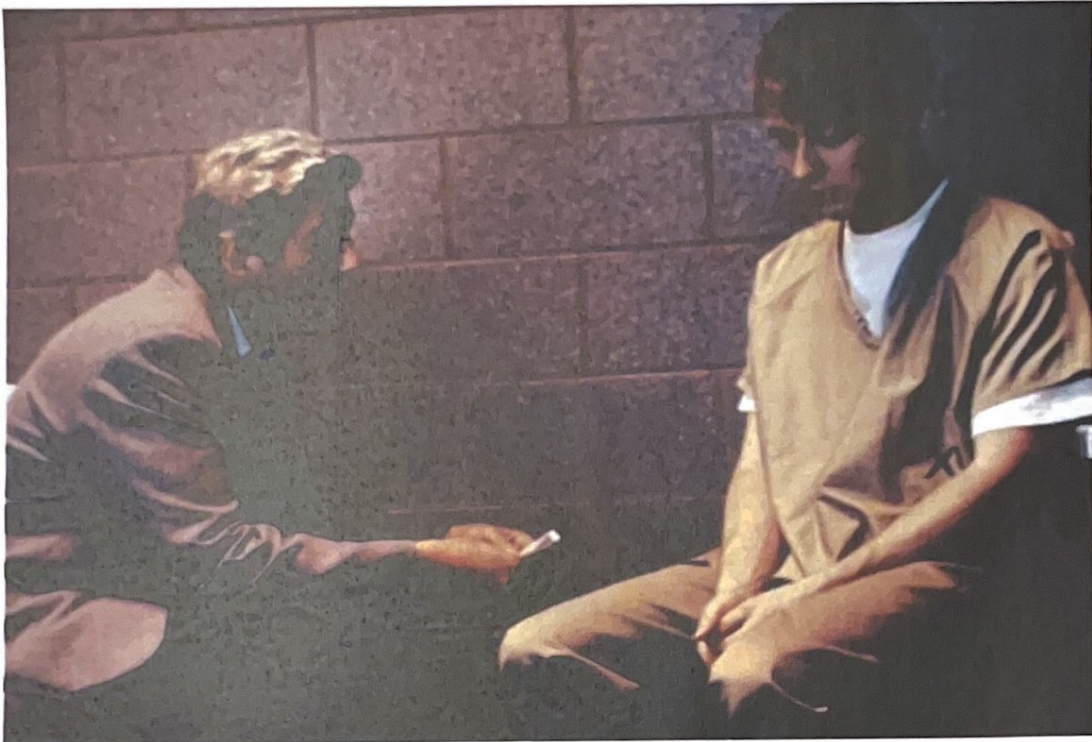


Universal Pictures

Similar to *The Usual Suspects*, a good chunk of *The Life of David Gale* is told through flashbacks from a narrator we're not sure if we can trust. David Gale is on death row for the murder of his friend and colleague Constance Harraway, and has requested to tell his story to a reporter, Bitsey Bloom, in the final three days before his execution. We learn through his stories that both he and Constance were activists campaigning against capital punishment, and Bitsey starts to believe that another activist must have killed Constance and framed David in order to prove that the system is broken and innocent people get put to death. Toward the end of the movie, Bitsey finds a VHS (because this is 2003) showing Constance killing herself. Unfortunately, she's too late to the execution, and David is put to death before she can save him. In the final moments of the film, Bitsey receives another VHS, this time showing that David was in the room as Constance committed suicide. He was in on the plan the whole time and knew he needed to be executed in order for Bitsey's discovery of his innocence to be enough to change the system.



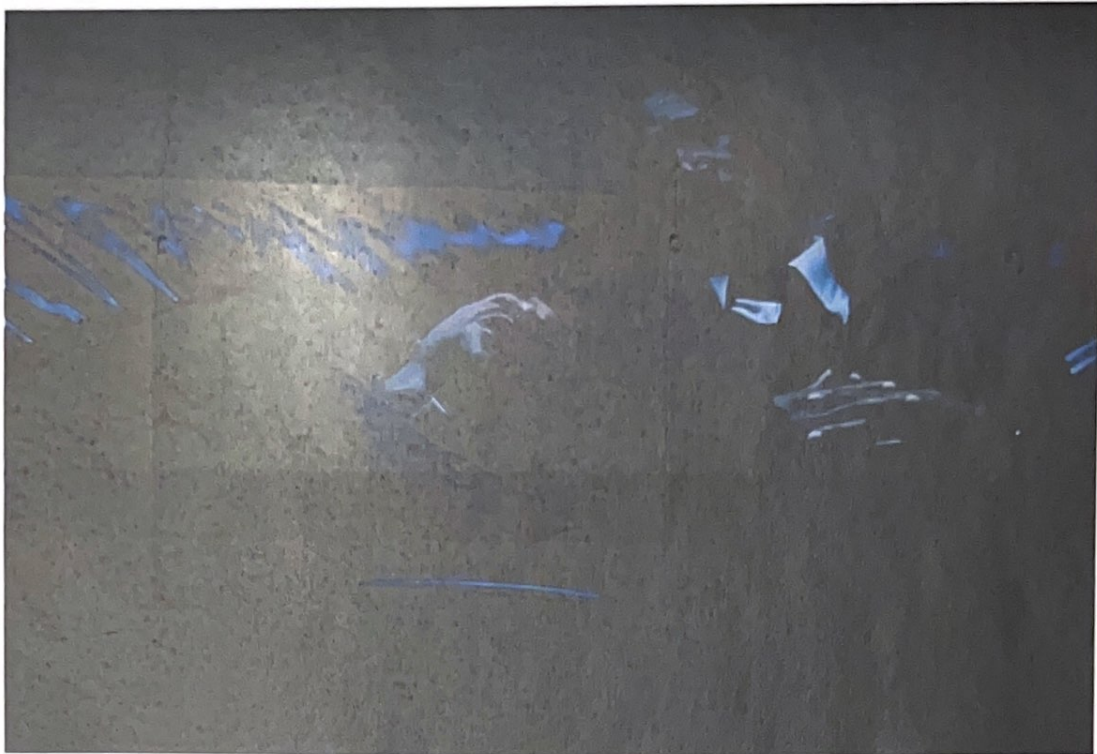
## Primal Fear



Paramount Pictures

Three years before **Ed Norton** played a character who didn't know he had split personalities in *Fight Club*, he played a character whose split personality was responsible for the murder of an Archbishop in *Primal Fear*. **Richard Gere** plays his attorney who believes he's innocent and tries his best to get him set free in court. When the violent personality shows itself during the trial, the jury finds him not guilty by reason of insanity. However, toward the end of the film, it's revealed that he faked the split personalities the whole time, and was always the violent, murderous, manipulator that "personality" appeared to be.

## Se7en



New Line Cinema

In **Se7en**, **Brad Pitt** and Morgan Freeman play cops tracking down a serial killer who is murdering people by way of the seven deadly sins. A man is forced to eat until his stomach ruptures (gluttony), a lawyer has a pound of flesh taken from him before being killed (greed), and a sex worker was raped by a bladed strap-on (lust). The big twist at the end of the film is that Brad Pitt's character represents wrath, while **Kevin Spacey**, who plays the serial killer, represents envy. Shooting him actually completed his plan, and while he died, he still somehow won.



## Memento



Summit Entertainment

**Memento's** a fun movie about memory loss, and it's told in a very unique way. Scenes jump back and forth between black-and-white scenes in chronological order, and color scenes in reverse order, ultimately meeting in the middle. Leonard Shelby can't store recent memories, and he believes this is due to an attack by two men who were also responsible for the death of his wife. He is determined to find and punish the attacker, but it's eventually revealed that his own inability to store memories is what killed his wife. She didn't believe his condition was real and asked repeatedly for her insulin shot to see if he would remember that he already gave it to her, and he gave her too many until she fell into a coma. However, even when Leonard is reminded of this, he still wants to blame someone else, so he leaves messages for himself about who to kill next so he can deceive himself once he loses his memories again.

## *Twilight: Breaking Dawn, pt. 2*



Summit Entertainment

Okay, hear me out on this one. Anyone who saw *Twilight: Breaking Dawn, pt. 2* in theaters — or really at all — was there because they were fans of the books, or at the very least the previous movies. So a majority of the audience already thought they knew what was coming, up until that fight scene when Carlisle's head gets ripped off, followed by many more shocking deaths that weren't included in the book. Of course, we shortly found out that it was all a vision telepathic Alice was sending to head vampire Aro, and none of it actually happened. But seeing those heads rolling on the screen when we knew those characters couldn't possibly die left audiences everywhere very shook.



## *Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back*



20th Century Fox

This twist is one of the most often incorrectly quoted lines in movie history. It's not "Luke, I am your father," but "No, I am your father." Either way, audiences in 1980 were shocked to find out that Darth Vader was actually Luke Skywalker's father. Of course it's not so shocking anymore, but it's a classic twist.

## The Prestige



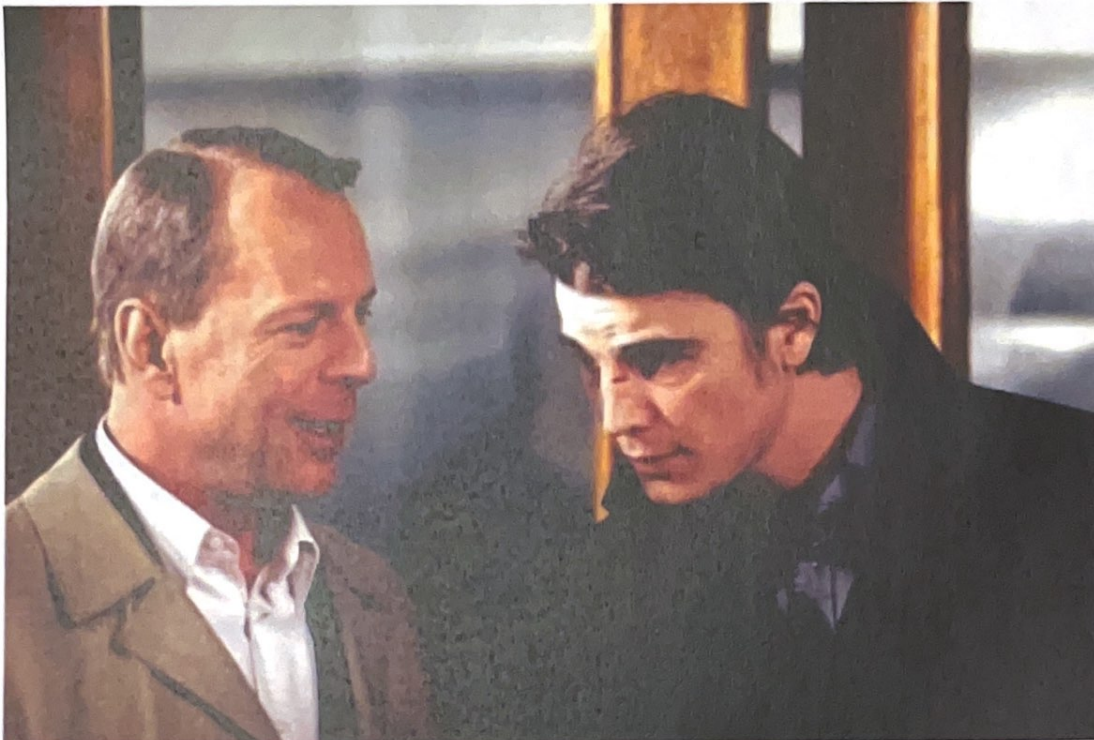
Warner Bros.

**Hugh Jackman** and **Christian Bale** play rival magicians trying to one-up the other with the best stage illusion. Bale's character, Alfred Borden, successfully attempts a teleportation trick. Jackman's character, Robert Angier, is determined to find out how he did it, and winds up convincing **Nikola Tesla** to create a machine for him that allows him to also "teleport." The machine was actually creating duplicates of Angier, and the original was killed every night. In the end we find out that Borden was actually a twin the whole time, two people living one life, and the unknown brother helped to pull off the trick.



## *Lucky Number Slevin*

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The Weinstein Company

Slevin Kelevra finds himself stuck in the middle of a feud between two crime bosses, The Boss and The Rabbi, when they've mistaken him for the friend whose apartment he let himself into. They don't seem to care that he's not who they think he is, so they force him to do their bidding regardless. The big twist at the end is that Slevin wasn't just unlucky in the wrong place at the wrong time, but it was all part of his plan to kill the mobsters responsible for the death of his parents.

## *Identity*

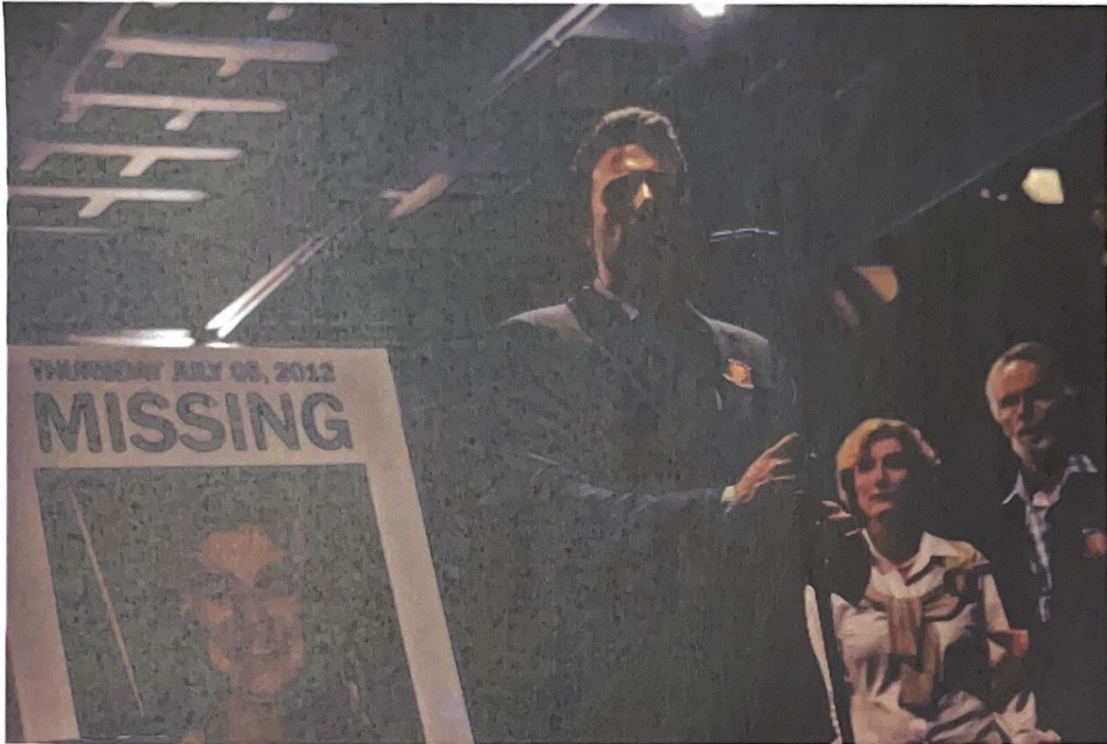


Columbia Pictures

***Identity*** starts like any other murder mystery whodunit. Strangers arrive at a motel in the middle of nowhere and slowly start being killed off. Two big plot twists happen in this one: First of all, all the characters at the motel are different personalities of a man named Malcolm, who is being tried for murder. His doctors believe his homicidal personality is gone and get him sent to a mental institution rather than prison, but in a final twist, it's revealed that the killer at the motel was actually a young boy, who kills the final alternate personality and takes total control of Malcolm.



## Gone Girl



20th Century Fox

The twist in ***Gone Girl*** wasn't exactly at the end, but it's a big enough plot twist that it's worth including anyway. Based on the book by **Gillian Flynn**, *Gone Girl* is about a man, Nick Dunne (played by **Ben Affleck**), whose wife has gone missing. Obviously, he's the main suspect. The big twist in the film was that Amy was alive, and ran away, framing Nick for her murder. But beyond that, the movie was so filled with twists and turns along the way, including Amy murdering an ex-boyfriend she was hiding out with and running home covered in his blood, claiming she had escaped her kidnapper. At the end of the film, Amy forces to Nick to stay with her rather than expose her. I guess the twist was really that the "missing woman" is crazy, devious, and violent.

## *Donnie Darko*



Flower Films

***Donnie Darko*** is a cult classic sci-fi psychological thriller from 2001 starring **Jake Gyllenhaal**. There's a giant scary looking rabbit named Frank who tells Donnie the world's ending in 28 days. An airplane crashes into his bedroom while he's not home, chaos ensues, and people die. Somehow in the end, Donnie time travels back to the day of the plane crash and this time he's in his room and dies, so therefore the entire movie leading up to that point never even happened.



## American Psycho



Lions Gate Films

The ending of *American Psycho* is pretty vague, and there are differing opinions out there about what actually transpired over the course of the film. But regardless of how confused we are by the end, finding out that Paul Allen, who we saw get axe-murdered on screen, has been in London and is still very much alive, is a massive twist. Did Patrick Bateman actually kill Paul Allen? Did he actually kill anyone? Were all the murders just psychotic fantasies taking place in his head? Maybe some were real and some weren't — we can't know for sure — but opening up that debate was pretty unexpected after all the brutal murders we were sure we witnessed.

## *Dream House*



Warner Bros.

***Dream House*** is a psychological thriller from 2011 starring **Daniel Craig** and **Rachel Weisz**. Will Atenton and his wife and two daughters move into a new house, where they keep seeing a man outside their windows watching them. They find out that a man named Peter Ward once lived in the house and killed his family there five years earlier before being sent to a mental hospital. He was recently released, so they worry that Ward is who is watching them. The first big twist is that Will is Peter Ward, and his wife and daughters are dead. Unable to cope with losing them, he has fabricated that they are still with him and their house is still in perfect condition. But the real twist in the movie is that Peter Ward did not kill his family. A neighbor hired a hitman to kill his wife, but the hitman went to the wrong house. So messed up.



## *The Uninvited*



Paramount Pictures

In *The Uninvited*, **Emily Browning** plays Anna, a girl being discharged from a mental hospital after a ten month stay following a suicide attempt due to the death of her mother. She returns home where she is reunited with her sister, Alex, her father, and her father's new girlfriend, Rachel, who he had an affair with before his wife died. Anna starts getting hallucinations that she and Alex believe are from their mother trying to tell them that Rachel killed her. They piece together that Rachel is really Mildred Kemp, a nanny who murdered three children in her care. Ultimately, Alex kills Rachel in supposed self-defense, but when Anna tries to explain it to her father, he tells her that Alex died in the fire that killed her mother. The bigger twist is that Anna was responsible for the fire, and had intended on killing Rachel the whole time. Mildred Kemp was a fellow patient at the mental hospital.

## *Now You See Me*

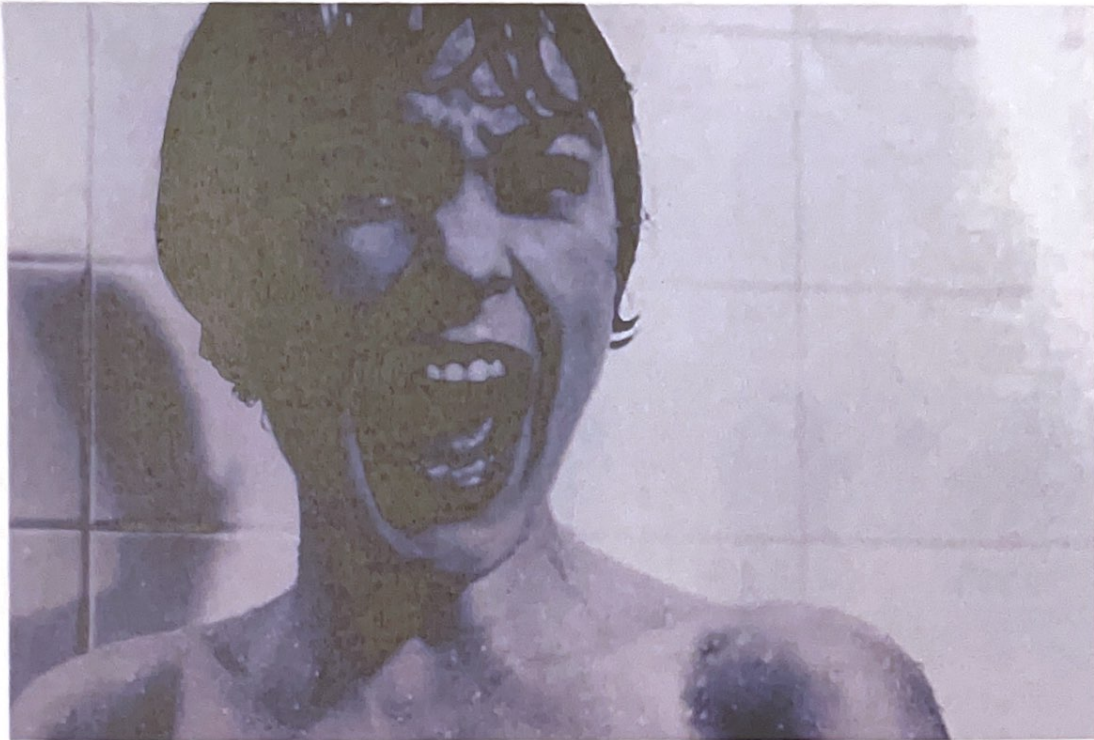


Summit Entertainment

***Now You See Me*** is one of those few exceptions in that the movie isn't really a thriller. It's a fun heist movie about a group of magicians, the Four Horsemen, who pull off major bank robberies during their shows with the help of an unknown fifth horseman. In the final moments of the film, it's revealed that the fifth member of the group who's been helping them pull off the heists was none other than the FBI agent supposedly tracking them the entire time.



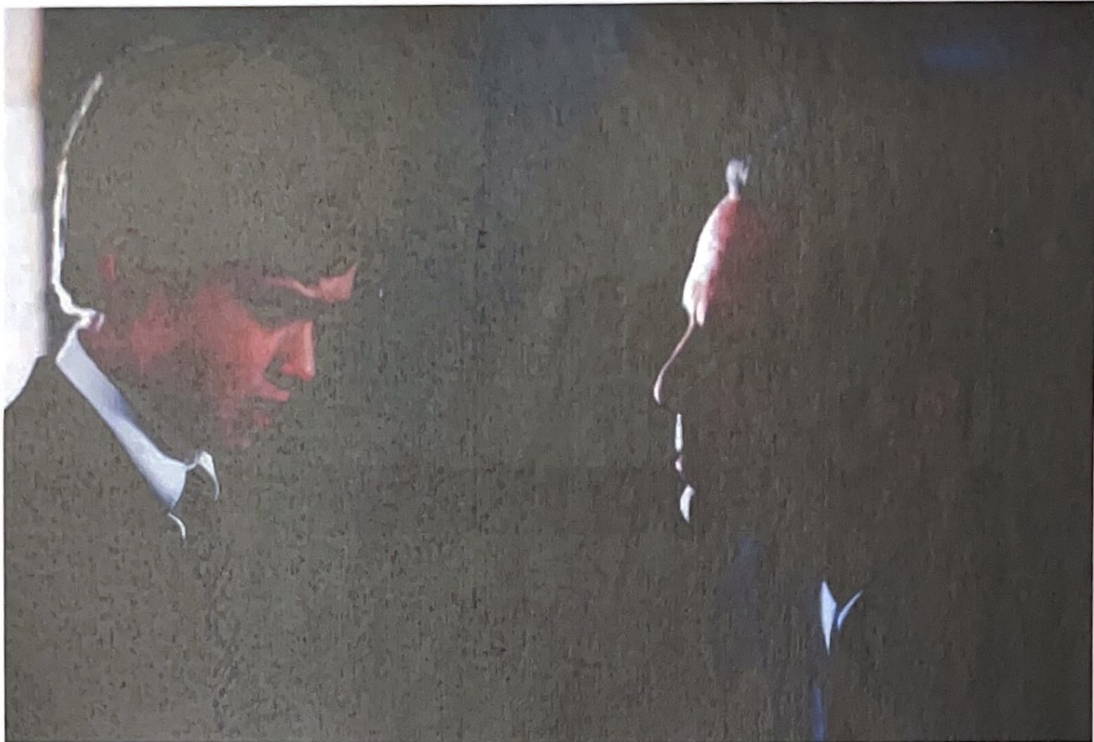
## Psycho



Paramount Pictures

**Alfred Hitchcock's** 1960 horror film *Psycho* was the original classic twist ending. Norman Bates's controlling mother seems to be murdering women staying in their hotel who interact with Norman. Of course, Mrs. Bates has been dead for ten years already, murdered by her own son. He's now creating his own alternate personality of his mother, wearing her clothes and wigs, while he kills other women.

## *The Sixth Sense*



Hollywood Pictures

***The Sixth Sense*** was the Shyamalan movie that started it all when it comes to his famous twist endings: **Bruce Willis** was dead the entire time. We all know the famous line, "I see dead people," yet for some reason, it was such a shock to realize that his character was in fact a dead person, only to be seen by the kid, played by **Haley Joel Osment**.

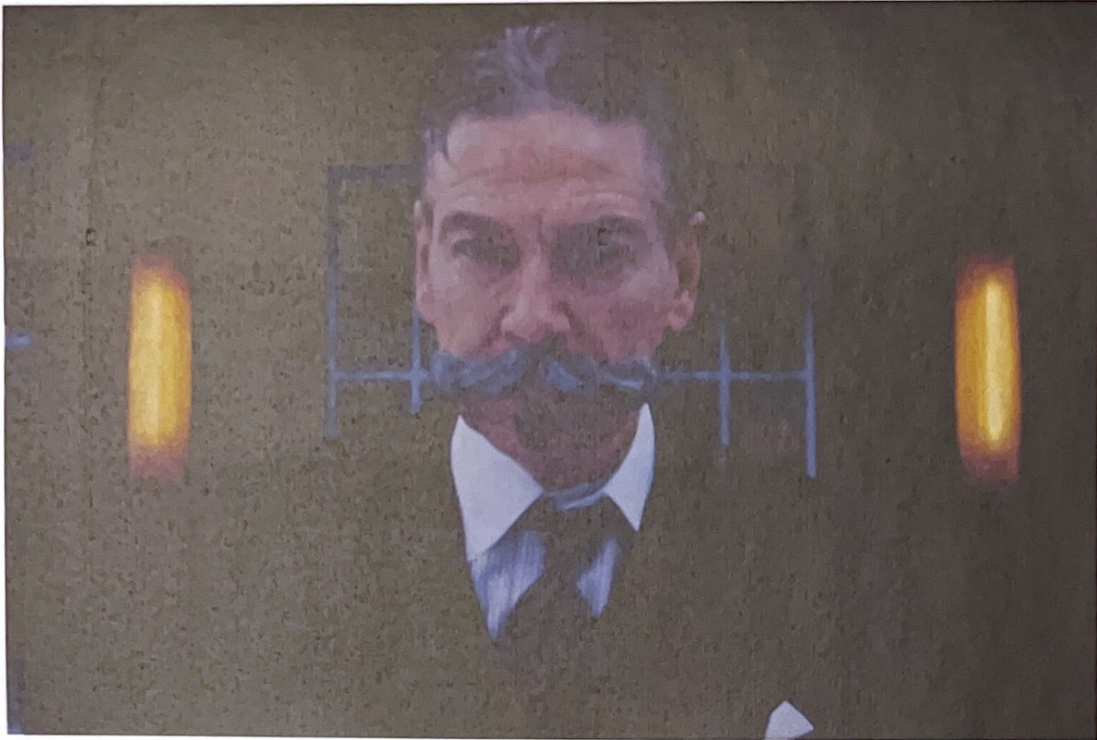




Monkeypaw Productions

**Jordan Peele** is the king of plot twists and his latest movie **US** was not disappointing. The movie follows the plot of a family who encounters their evil doppelgangers (or tethered, as they call them) who are set out to kill them. The evil counterparts live in the sewers beneath America, and while we're lead to believe that **Lupita Nyong'o's** tethered just hates her guts for no reason, it's revealed at the end that Lupita is the real tethered who swapped places with her human counterpart at the beginning of the movie when they were kids.

## *Murder on the Orient express*



Genre Films

***Murder on the Orient Express*** isn't just your everyday murder mystery. When someone is murdered on the luxury Orient Express train, each of the passengers is questioned in an attempt to discover who is the killer. Viewers spent much of the movie following the case in an attempt to figure out who the murderer is, only for it to be revealed at the end that each passenger, who all appeared to not know each other, were connected to the victim in some way and that they all killed him together.



## Planet of the Apes

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APJAC Productions

The very first ***Planet of the Apes*** movie had a plot twist that still has people reeling today. The 1968 Sci-Fi classic follows the story of three astronauts who crash into a unknown planet after travelling at light speed for 2000+ years. They soon learn that the planet is run by primates who consider humans second-class citizens. Each of the astronauts die one-by-one, until the last survivor stumbles onto a beach in the final scene to find a half-sunken Statue of Liberty on the shore. He was on earth the entire time!

## *Friday the 13th*

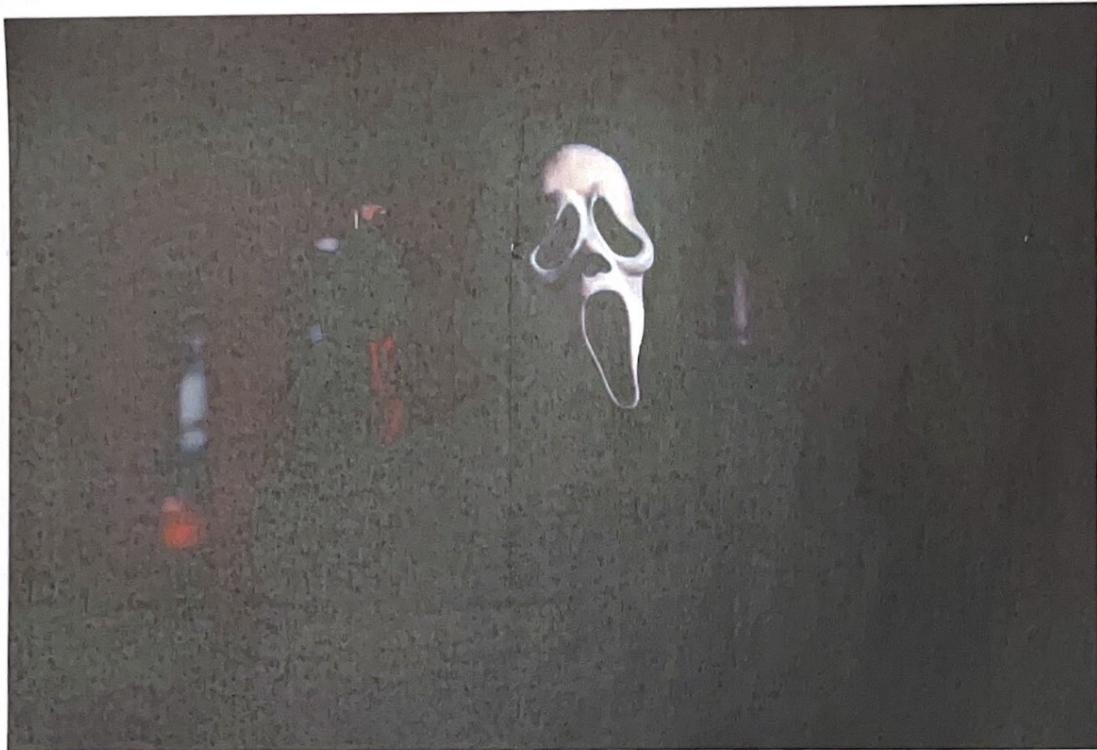


Warner Brothers

An absolute classic horror movie, ***Friday the 13th*** tells the story of Camp Crystal Lake, a summer camp where a young Jason Voorhees drowned while his two camp counselors were off having sex. A new group of counselors arrives at the camp 20 years after the drowning to re-open it, only to be killed off one-by-one by an insane killer. Jason's body was never found, leading people to believe it was him killing the teens. However, a twist at the end reveals that it was Jason's grieving mother committing the murders. The double twist during the final scene shows Jason who is actually alive and ready to continue his mother's crimes.



## Scream



Dimension Films

In the 1996 cult classic *Scream*, Sydney Prescott is still mourning the loss of her mother, who was murdered last year. While at a party to celebrate the end of the school year, the murderer returns and kills Sydney's boyfriend Billy while they have sex — disturbing. Sydney spends the rest of the movie trying to figure out who it was that killed her mother and now her boyfriend, for it to be revealed that not only are there two killers, but one of them is Billy, who apparently died at the start.

## *Seven Pounds*



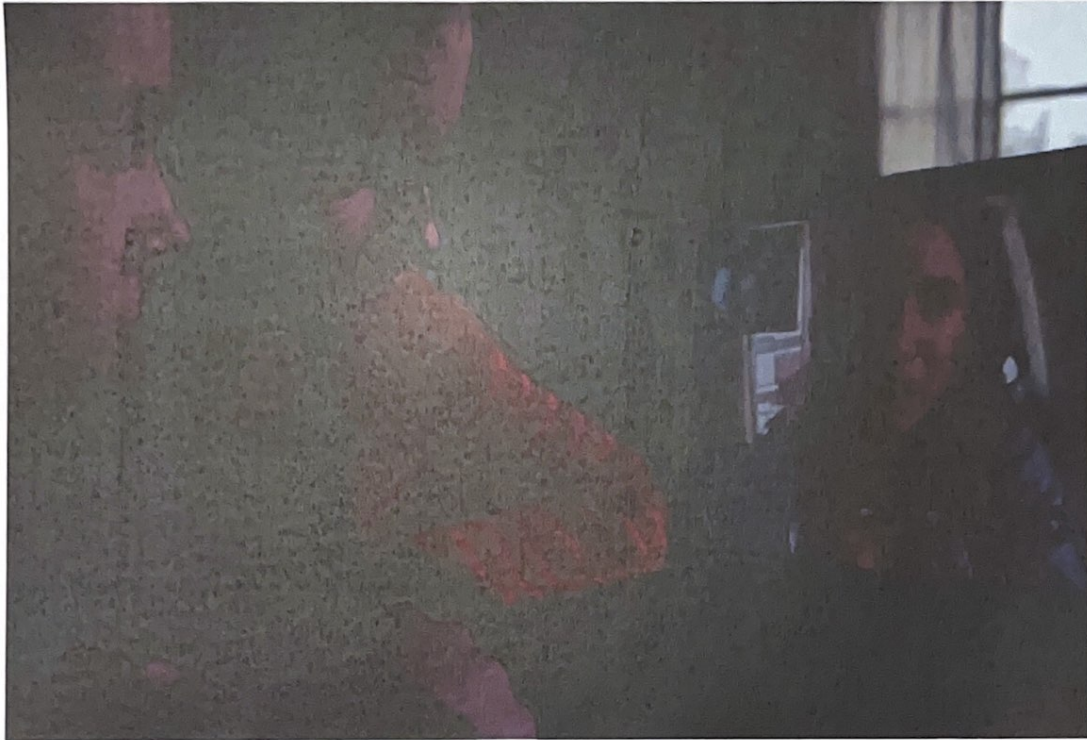
Relativity Media

**Will Smith's *Seven Pounds*** has one of the most gut-wrenching twists of all time. The plot follows a man named Ben who is hellbent on changing the lives of seven people. Throughout the movie, Ben goes about his good deeds, before he meets Emily, a woman with a rare heart condition. At the end of the movie, after Ben commits suicide in an ice bath, we learn that he had previously killed seven people in a texting and driving incident, causing him to embark on a mission to donate his organs to seven people he finds deserving ... one of them being Emily.



## The Visit

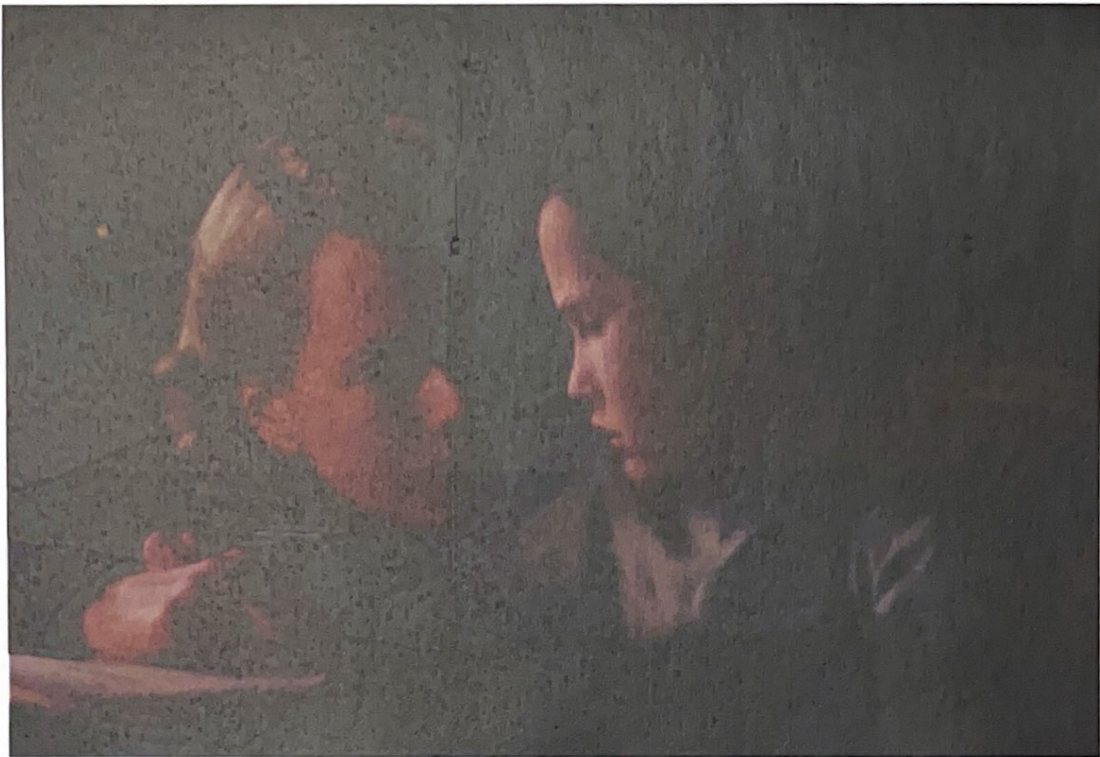
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Blumhouse Productions

In ***The Visit***, a single-mother has a very strained relationship with her parents. In an attempt to rebuild their relationship, she sends her two kids out to her parents' Pennsylvania farm to spend a week with them, despite the fact that they have never met. The kids begin to notice some disturbing things about their grandparents, and when on a video chat to their mother the creepiest twist ever happens — their mom doesn't recognize the people in the video, and it turns out that the grandparents are actually two mental facility patients who escaped and killed her real parents.

## *The Others*



Cruise/Wagner Productions

*The Others* is one of the weirdest movies **Nicole Kidman** has ever done and the twist makes it even more creepy. Grace, who's played by Nicole, is a manic mother who is hellbent on keeping her kids safe. However, both of her children suffer from a disease where they can have no contact with the sunlight (weird) and Grace is a victim of intense migraines. Grace and her kids start to believe they're seeing ghosts around their old English home, but here's the twist — the family themselves are ghosts who died when Grace killed them and herself in a mental breakdown.



## *Cabin In The Woods*

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Mutant Enemy Productions

***Cabin in the Woods*** appears to be your stereotypically haunted house movie at first glance — but its twist makes it way less predictable. The trailer for the movie gives nothing away other than the story of a group of teens who visit a cabin in the middle of nowhere to be met by some scary stuff. That looked like all we could expect from the flick, but early on it was revealed that the cabin and everyone in it isn't being haunted by a ghost, but are actually being controlled by a lab who is watching their every move.

## *The Girl on the train*



DreamWorks Pictures

There are lots of parts in *The Girl On The Train* that left us shook, but the biggest was Rachel's relationship with her husband. For the majority of the movie, it's made clear that Rachel is an alcoholic who took to drinking when she had fertility issues. In the beginning, we're made to believe that Rachel's actions would be aggressive and irate when drunk, causing her husband to leave her. When Rachel runs into an old friend at the end of the movie, it's revealed that Rachel was actually pretty fine when she was drunk, and her husband made it all up to make her feel terrible — meaning he was the bad guy.



## Hide and Seek

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20th Century Fox

The 2005 movie *Hide and Seek* shows **Robert De Niro** in a way we've never seen him before through the horror genre. After his wife dies by suicide, David moves himself and his young daughter Emily to upstate New York. David becomes concerned when Emily begins to speak to an imaginary friend named Charlie, who she blames for a host of disturbing acts including murdering their cat and David's new love interest. By the end of the movie, it's revealed that David has dissociative identity disorder meaning he is Charlie and that he murdered his wife.

## *The Village*

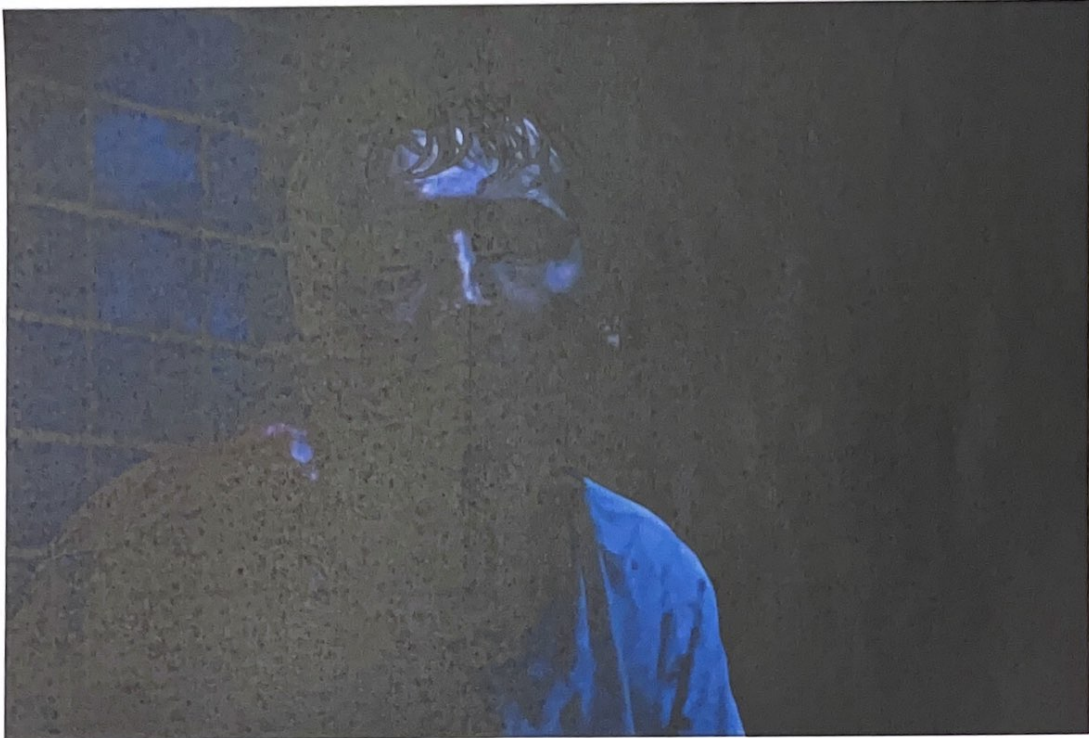


Touchstone Pictures

***The Village*** left everyone shook by its twist when it came out in 2005. The plot follows a small, isolated 19th-century village where people live in fear of creatures who live in the surrounding woods, and therefore never leave the village. When a young woman decides to leave in search of medical supplies from neighboring places, she learns that the creatures are just members of her village attempting to scare people from leaving. We then learn that the village actually exists in modern-day, not the 19th century, and that it was created by older members of the village who wanted to live an isolated life.



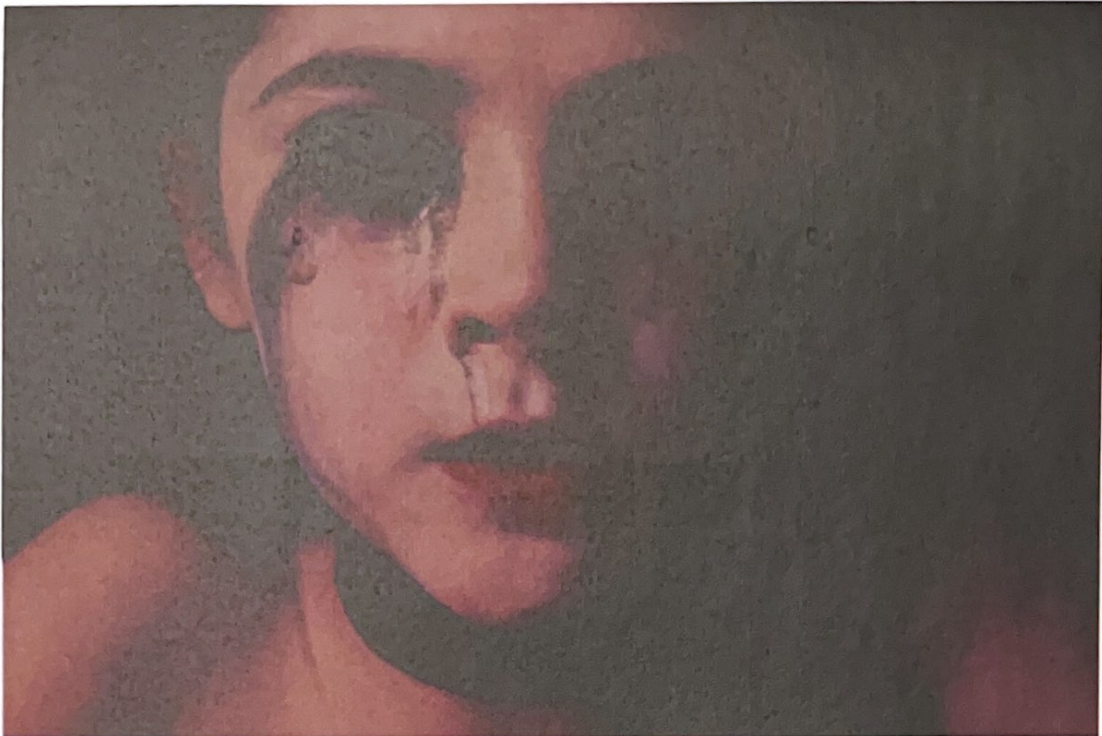
## Saw



Twisted Pictures

All of the **Saw** movies contain some kind of twist, but we think the first is definitely the most unexpected. Two men wake up to find themselves chained up on opposite sides of a bleak bathroom with a dead body on the floor between them. When they find tapes in their pockets containing messages from their captor, they realize that they are playing a game with Jigsaw. Both men spend the movie attempting to free themselves from their chains in a series of challenges, and at the end of the movie, it's revealed that the dead body was never dead at all, but Jigsaw himself.

## Orphan



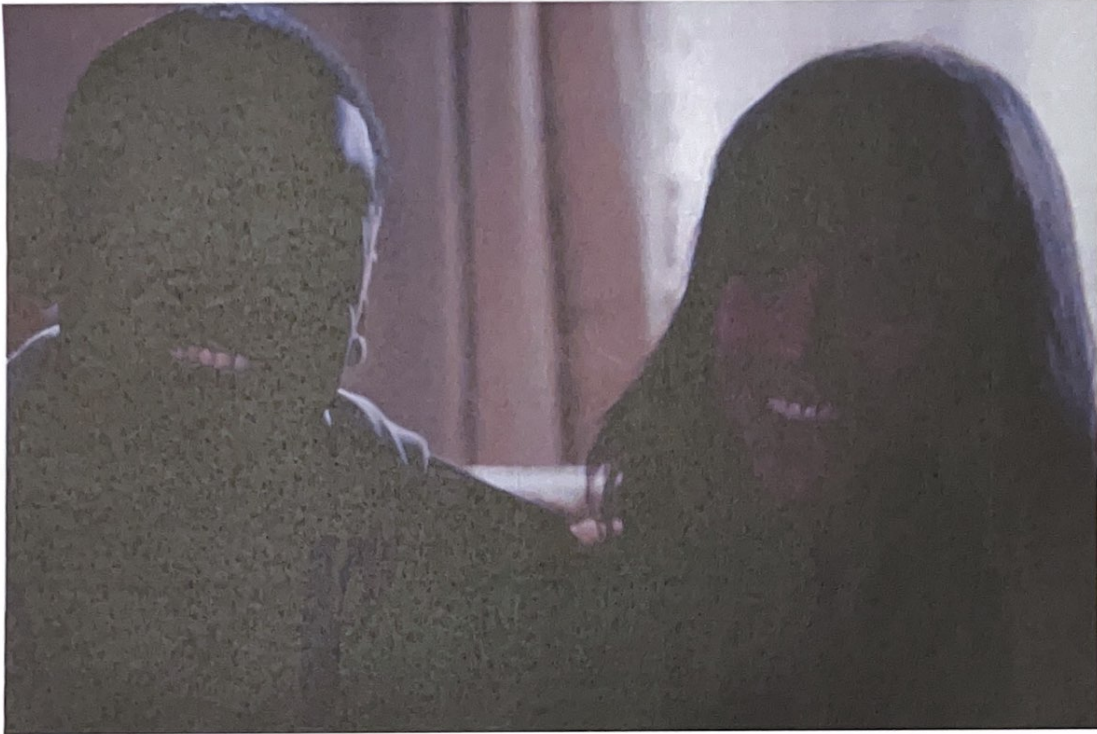
Dark Castle Entertainments

It's been established by now that horror movies have the best twists ever and **Orphan** is no different. The movie tells the story of a broken couple who adopt a 9-year-old girl from Russia after their third child is stillborn. The child, whose name is Esther, appears to help repair the couple's family at the beginning, before she becomes hostile and begins to turn on her adoptive mother. In one of the most unpredictable twists ever, it's revealed that the child is actually a 33-year-old woman who is posing as an orphan to seduce men.



## Get Out

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Monkeypaw Productions

Another Jordan Peele masterpiece — **Get Out** was the first movie made by the director and definitely set the bar for his movies to come. The plot follows African-American photographer Chris who reluctantly agrees to visit his white girlfriend Rose's parents in upstate New York. Chris is instantly made uncomfortable by Rose's parents' comments about people who are black, and as the movie progresses, things get even weirder. It's eventually revealed that Rose and her family have tricked Chris into coming to their house to partake in their experiments during which they transfer the brains of white Americans into the heads of black Americans.

## Coco



Pixar

Turns out animations know how to execute a good twist, too! In **Coco**, Miguel is convinced that his great-great-grandfather is famous performer Ernesto de la Cruz after he realizes his guitar is the same as one in an old family photo. Along with the help of his new friend Hector, Miguel goes on a hunt to find Ernesto, only for it to be revealed that the musician isn't really his family, but his great-great-grandfather is actually Hector, whom Ernesto had murdered years earlier and stolen his guitar. Not bad for a kid's movie!



## Ex Machina



Film4 Productions

During *Ex Machina*, we're lead to believe that Ava was created by a crazy scientist who has bad intentions with her. In a weird robot-human relationship, it starts to look like Ava and Caleb are developing feelings for each other, and when Ava tells him of her creators' plans, Caleb plots to help her escape from the location. The movie proved that robots are way smarter than humans, as Ava turned on Caleb once she earned her freedom. She ends up killing her creator and trapping Caleb in the house before escaping on the helicopter that was sent for him.