

CARRIE

4th November 1976

United Artists Corporation Limited

Category: 'X'

No cuts

Country of origin: USA

Footage: 8801 feet

Running time: 1 hour 38 minutes

Director: Brian de Palma With Sissy Spacek (Carrie White), Piper Laurie (Mrs White)  
from the novel by Stephen King

Carrie White, daughter of a repressed and Bible-thumping woman, is horrified when she first starts menstruating in the school shower. The other girls who mock and jeer at her for her ignorance are punished and one girl, Chris, is deprived of her ticket for the Senior Prom. About this time, Carrie discovers she possesses the power of telekinesis the ability to cause changes in objects by force of mind. Sue, another girl, perhaps in contrition, asks her boyfriend, Tommy, to take Carrie to the prom and Carrie herself is encouraged to accept by the concerned Miss Collins. Meanwhile, Chris has sexually blackmailed Bobby into helping her plan a nasty piece of revenge. On the night of the prom, Carrie uses her powers of telekinesis to prostrate her mother, so that she can leave the house. Tommy and Carrie have a happy evening brought to a climax when they are elected King and Queen. Unknown to them the ballot was rigged, and as they stand before the crowd, Chris's revenge, a bucket of pig's blood, pours over them. Carrie causes complete mayhem in the hall and rushes home where her mother now in an ecstasy of religious, repressed and sexual fervour, stabs her. Carrie wills the kitchen knives to kill her mother and they die together in the fire which engulfs the house, In CARRIE, the director Brian de Palma reworks much the same pattern of film-making as he did in OBSESSION - a turbulent beginning, a quiet discursive middle and a final slide into melodrama. Although the set-piece of death and disaster at the prom is well-handled as Carrie wreaks her telekinetic revenge, the heavy-handed symbolism of the free-flying knives pinning Mrs White to the wall in the pose of the family altar Christ, and the blood hand emerging from the grave are really pretty silly. But in

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the early part of the film, de Palma observes with real sensitivity the fears, humiliation, and cruelties of adolescent life and extracts a performance of real luminosity from <sup>Sissy</sup> ~~Gissie~~ Spacek.

The viciousness of the scene where class-mates pelt Carrie with assorted tampons and sanitary towels shouting: "plug it up", the crudity of the language, and an off-screen fellatio made CARRIE a little too strong for 'AA'. It would be a perfect film for a 16-year-old category.