

Member feedback: We Need To Talk About Kevin.

Twenty three people returned voting slips and we have had one additional comment through the CFC web site. The breakdown and comments are listed below.

'Excellent': 14 votes

- A horrible story but superbly filmed.
- Not an easy book to turn into a film.
- Red is the colour of....
- Powerful, thought provoking, pity it scared a large number of viewers - perhaps more than is necessary as far as autism goes – or is it more than that?
- Really appreciated the digital print.
- Due to the traumatic subject it seems very strange to say this film was perfect. Excellent casting and acting. Superbly edited and directed. Beautiful symmetry, great use of colour and inventive images, whilst delivering a balance of sympathy and terror to the viewer.
- A sensitive portrait of parents and Kevin. A well constructed film, Tilda Swinton gave a brilliant performance of a mother's dilemma and worries.
- Quite appalling – amazing acting.
- Utterly engaging and compelling. It will be with me for a long time.
- Exceptionally well directed film.
- More of life's rich tapestry, but please not another like this for a while.
- Sad commentary on modern times.

'Very Good': 5 votes

- Harrowing without the intense.
- A well crafted film that very successfully explored difficult material.
- Very though provoking and harrowing as I knew it would be.

'Good': 1 vote

- Not as good as the book.

'Satisfactory': 1 vote

- Hoped for a bit more – characters seemed clichéd and there was a detachment in the characters. Thought provoking, but disappointed that the storyline focussed on a child being evil from birth.

'Poor': 1 vote

[*One with no category it just said*]:

- WHY?

Responses via the CFC web site:

- Very good film, difficult subject matter very skilfully handled. Thought the film was very successful in conveying the anguish and emotions of the mother. It did not address the question of why a child becomes so evil, except to hint at their lack of initial bonding and her inability to love this screaming monster. As that was not the thrust of the director and writer. I was dreading seeing the film having heard and greatly enjoyed the audio version years ago on Radio Four and reading the book because I thought the carnage would be sensationally presented in all its gore, but instead it was created in your mind with the skilful direction and the red colouring everywhere. It's not a pleasant subject but I think the film was very good. I note the people next to me, much older than I, found the flashbacks and changing time very difficult to follow. I do think you need to have read the book to really understand what is happening. The way it's written in the form of letters to her absent husband culminating in the final discovery that both he and their affectionate daughter are dead was very effective. I'm glad they didn't show her pinned to the target by arrows as in the book. The blood red colour everywhere enhanced the horror of the events and I think the actress was brilliant.