

Document Citation

Title	Torment
Author(s)	
Source	<i>Philadelphia Evening Bulletin</i>
Date	1947
Type	review
Language	English
Pagination	
No. of Pages	1
Subjects	
Film Subjects	Hets (Torment), Sjöberg, Alf, 1944

Torment

At The Studio

Directed by Alf Sjöberg

Caligula Stig Jarrel
Jan-Erik Alf Kjellin
Bertha Mai Zetterling
Headmaster Olof Winnerstrand
Pippi Gosta Cederlund
Sandman Stig Olin

"TORMENT" will delight the connoisseur of foreign films, but for the average fan of the Hollywood product it may seem morbid and slow-moving. ~~Amateur~~

The very feature which makes it superior—its careful, exact characterization—has militated against it, giving it a pace almost painfully leisurely. And, magnificent though the photography is, the lighting—low key, to say the least—adds another difficulty.

Nevertheless, Sweden's "Torment" is infinitely rewarding. It is a subtle, and tremendously realistic account of a young school boy, cowed and frightened by a sadistic Latin teacher; a boy not too well understood by his parents, who experiences terrible tragedy even in his first adolescent love affair.

The film displays superb acting. Alf Kjellin gives an eloquent portrayal of the handsome boy who brings great sweetness and even beauty to his first love affair.

The girl is sensitively underplayed by pretty Mai Zetterling of the British-made "Frieda," and Stig Jarrel brings tremendous authority to his characterization of the teacher who delights so monstrously in torturing others to hide his own fears and frustrations.

Jarrel casts his shadow over the boy not only in school, but in his personal life as well, for the teacher, too, is involved in an affair with the girl called Bertha.

If it were not done with such taste and understanding, "Torment" would seem merely another morbid melodrama, but this Swedish production is an adult drama deserving the attention of any serious movie-goer.

#13613, 1P

Phila. Eve.

Bulletin —

~~1945~~

1947

1944 Film