

“Kingsman: The Golden Circle”

By Helen Lutz

The Jason Bourne movies rate among the more serious of the conspiracy, undercover world of espionage. The next stage includes the James Bond movies which offer the impossible and improbable as fun facts in the spy world. When Kingsman entered the world of spy movies, being a spy became ludicrous, entertaining and even a little silly.



Director Matthew Vaughn reignites the world of Kingsman in his new spy action film “Kingsman: The Golden Circle.” Eggsy (Taron Egerton) now dressed to impress in Kingsman regalia gets ready for dinner with his girlfriend’s parents. Of course his girlfriend is none other than Princess Tilde (Hanna Alstrom) and her parents – royal ... no pressure. A run in with Charlie, a failed Kingsman turned bad (Edward Holcraft), looks to delay the much anticipated dinner, best not be late. Just why is Charlie after Eggsy and what’s he up to?

Surrounded by her love of the 50’s with her burger joint, hair salon, etc., Miss Poppy (Julianne Moore) the world’s most successful drug lord finds herself hidden deep in the jungle. Despite all her toys and memorabilia, it’s just not her favorite place. She’s a psychopathic business woman who should be allowed to conduct her business openly providing the world with an overabundance of drugs which could be taxed and so on and so on...

Unfortunately for Kingsman, Charlie and Poppy get their hands on thumb drive containing all the personal information and addresses for Kingsman agents. In just one short night the Kingsman evaporate in a deluge of well-aimed and timed bombs; all except Eggsy who was at the royal dinner (his dog didn’t make it). Viewing all the destruction Eggsy turns to Merlin (Mark Strong) the only person left at Kingsman. Merlin was too low on the totem pole to hit the thumb drive info. Together they search for clues to identify the dastardly fiend responsible for all the death and destruction ... clues which take them to a bourbon distillery in Kentucky.

At Statesman Bourbon, Eggsy and Merlin discover an entirely new spy ring; the American counterpart to Kingsman wearing cowboy hats and boots. They join forces to uncover the plot to destroy Kingsman while also saving the world. The question is just what’s wrong with the world? It appears that a deadly disease has been unleashed on an unexpected populace and Poppy just happens to sit in her 50’s diner holding the only antidote.

“Kingsman: The Golden Circle” offers tons of plots and subplots, enough that it might be good to take notes, but it also delivers some good (if not always clean) fun and its violence tends to go a bit over the top at times. Poppy does like to grind her own hamburger meat.

While watching the ads on television prior to seeing the movie, I thought it looked pretty hokey. I really don’t appreciate the slapstick, Keystone Cops type of humor. “The Golden Circle” managed to stay one step ahead of the slapstick while concentrating on just plain silliness. If you enjoyed the first “Kingsman” movie, then the sequel offers more of the same with a bit of ‘What?’ thrown in for good measure. Seeing Colin Firth (yes, Colin Firth) and his butterflies is almost worth the price of admission. On a scale of one to four Hart Beats ... I give “Kingsman: The Golden Circle” TWO 1/2. I do find it interesting that since the election of Mr. Trump we now see Hollywood casting the President as a bad guy as opposed to the hero more often.