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Men in Black is a 1997 science fiction/action/comedy film directed by Barry Sonnenfeld. The film stars Tommy Lee Jones as Agent K, Will Smith as Agent J, and Vincent D'Onofrio as Edgar/"Bug". It was based on the Marvel Comic Series, The Men in Black by Lowell Cunningham.



It was released on July 2, 1997 and gained $587 million worldwide, with a budget of $90 million. It was the third highest grossing film of 1997 behind Titanic and The Lost World: Jurassic Park.

The film was spun off into an animated series, Men in Black: The Series, two sequels, Men in Black II, released in 2002, and Men in Black III , released in 2012 and a spin-off Men in Black: International.

The film opens in the middle of the Arizona desert, with a guy named "Nick the Dick" illegally bringing foreigners into the United States. He is stopped at a Border Patrol checkpoint, where he tries to claim that he was fishing, but the officers insist on looking at his catch.



They find the immigrants and instruct them to form a line. When Nick is about to be arrested, a black car driven by Agent K (Tommy Lee Jones) with Agent D (Richard Hamilton) as a passenger pulls up, and they get out of the car claiming to be from the INS, division six.

They search the foreigners and they find one that does not understand a word of Spanish.They send the rest of them back into Nick's truck and they take the one who doesn't understand Spanish further out to the desert,where Agent K cuts into the foreigner with a knife, revealing.

that it is a space alien; Mikey. They arrest Mikey, not knowing when he was let out of jail, when one of the agents, Janus, notices this.

Mikey notices Janus, pushes Dee down, and starts running toward him. Kay tells Dee to shoot, but Dee is unable to, so Kay shoots, disintegrating it just in the nick of time.



The seen cuts to a farm, where a grumpy farmer named Edgar (Vincent D'Onofrio) yells at his wife about his dinner being poorly made instead of having a steak, saying that she is useless, and the only thing that pulls its weight is his truck.



On cue, a spaceship promptly crashes into the truck, destroying it and creating a crater. Edgar goes outside to investigate as his wife, Beatrice asks Edgar what on Earth is it before Edgar rudely tells Beatrice to get back inside, and he is killed by the alien.



The alien steals his skin and uses it as a disguise, and then goes back into the house. He asks for sugar water, and then freaks Beatrice out so he can get away. He goes outside and picks his spaceship up, since he must take it with him to return home.

Meanwhile, Edgar follows Rosenburg to meet with another alien of the same race, who informs him that a bug landed on the planet and that he must get away.

Edgar kills both aliens, and takes a possesion of theirs, believing it to be the Galaxy, which is a source of power the size of a marble.

They shoot down the flying saucer Edgar takes off in, and he gets out. The bug takes Edgar's skin off, revealing his true form. He eats their guns.

K attempts the bug to eat him to get the guns back, and tells J to not let him get on the second ship and create a distraction for the bug.

J begins fighting with the bug by stepping on cockroaches, and K shoots his way out of the bug's digestive system after he has found his gun, splitting the alien in half. They get the Galaxy back and deliver it to the Arquillians.

While J and K are recovering from their battle, the top half of him is still alive, but Weaver shoots the alien by using J's gun which was dragged out of it's stomach and tells J and K how interesting their jobs are.

As MIB cleans up the situation, K tells J to neuralyze him, since he wasn't training a partner, but rather a replacement. J accepts and K is neuralyzed, and Weaver joins the MIB as Agent L.



This film is notable for the differences from the original Comic Book Series. First, in the comics, the MiB monitored all paranormal activity (from ghosts to demons to monsters to aliens).

However, in the movie, and everything beyond it, the MiB focus only on aliens. Second, in the comics, the MiB were more mysterious, and ruthless. Their goals were to manipulate and shape the world to their image.

In the movie, the MiB are much less cold-hearted; With their goals being to maintain order, rather than directing it. Third, Agent J's race was changed to African-American (he was Caucasian with blonde hair in the comics).



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