October is here again, and that means Halloween is just around the corner. Time for ghouls and goblins, vampires and werewolves...ghosts, and haunted houses.

Dream House may or may not be haunted, but as Will Atenton (Daniel Craig) soon discovers, it certainly has more than its fair share of secrets. As he and his wife Libby (Rachel Weisz) and their young children try to get settled into their new home and Will wrestles with a book he has decided to write, strange things begin to happen. There are signs that something terrible once happened in the house, and a mysterious stalker seems to be prowling around the property at night, peering in windows and spooking the children. Will’s neighbor Ann (Naomi Watts) seems to have a part of the missing puzzle, but her enigmatic husband won’t let her share it. Inevitably, as Will digs deeper into the history of his new home and tries to track down his family’s stalker, the stranger things become.

Dream House is a great drama about truth, lies, and the sometimes bizarre paths that lead back and forth between the two. The plot harbors secrets and more secrets, and gradually the line between reality and delusion becomes virtually indistinguishable. The story benefits greatly from a script that isn’t afraid to be unconventional, and if the whole isn’t really original it is at least a fresh take on some familiar haunted house staples. Jim Sheridan directs with a good eye for detail and consistently sets just the right mood. Sheridan apparently knows better than to show too much at once, and allows the story to slowly reveal itself through hints and suggestions.

Daniel Craig leads a terrific cast. Craig is probably best known for playing James Bond, but has in fact consistently proven he is a fine all-round actor with a wide range. Craig is totally convincing as the increasingly bewildered family man who finds his sense of reality unraveling before his eyes but his powerless to do anything about it. His quiet intensity helps Sheridan’s direction in keeping the film grounded despite its complex, often allegorical twists, while Rachel Weisz is a perfect complement to him as his also-troubled wife. Naomi Watts could have used a little more screen time to flesh out her character, but when she is onscreen she handles herself more than adequately and adds one more touch of mystery to the proceedings.

Dream House isn’t really scary. It’s more of a mystery with some suspenseful moments than a horror story, but that’s not all bad. Fairly restrained for this type of film, Dream House invites you into its labyrinthine embrace and dares you to seek out the truth along with our protagonist, Will Atenton. And like Will, what we find may surprise us.