

Film Title and Release Date: *The Core* (2003)

Length of Film in Minutes: 135 minutes

Film Genre: Science Fiction & Fantasy

Reviewer's Name and Grade: Benjamin W., 10th Grade

Date Reviewed: August 3, 2021

After several incidents involving Earth's magnetic field, geophysicist Dr. Keyes conducts a study and finds that the Earth's molten core has stopped rotating. Keyes meets with the famous Dr. Zimsky to verify and present his work to the U.S. government. The government decides to fund a secret project to build a ship that can drill and release nuclear weapons inside the Earth's core. To do this, they go to Dr. Brazzelton, who has developed a material that can convert extreme heat into energy. The government uses this material, as well as a laser drill, to construct their ship, which they name Virgil. They assign NASA pilots Commander Iverson and Major Childs to pilot it and Dr. Leveque to handle the explosives. Finally, they bring in computer hacker Theodore Finch to keep news of the disaster from the media.

Virgil gets launched in the Mariana Trench and runs without problems until it drills and crashes into an empty geode structure. The ship gets stuck, so a couple of the crew get out to free it. While they work, magma starts to flow in, some of which hits and kills Iverson. The rest of the crew make it out of the geode, but eventually run into a field of huge diamonds. One diamond damages the last compartment, which forces Leveque to sacrifice himself in order to save the equipment in it. The remaining crew reaches the core, but find that it is less dense than estimated, resulting in them not having enough explosives. Zimsky fights to turn back, saying that he created a weapon known as DESTINI that could restart the core from the surface. Keyes and Brazzelton don't agree with this, and force Zimsky to continue on. When all seems lost, Zimsky realizes that they could use wave interference to restart the core. He determines that they need to detonate the five nuclear bombs separately, each at a different location. Brazzelton and Zimsky sacrifice themselves to make this possible. Just before Zimsky dies, he realizes that more explosives are needed to power the last bomb. Keyes uses Virgil's nuclear power source to add more power, leaving the ship powerless. Now, Keyes and Childs wait, hoping for an escape.

Now, I will answer some questions about the film:

How did you find the film on Kanopy (by title search, subject search, casual browsing, etc.)? - I found this film through casual browsing. It was in the Newly Added Movies section.

Did the plot keep you interested? - This plot definitely kept me interested. There was a lot of action and suspense throughout the entire film. There were also a couple of plot twists that kept me guessing what would happen next.

Was the pace of the film too fast, too slow, or just right? - I think the pace of this film was just right. The film started with a shock and never slowed down, which made the film more exciting.

What grade level(s) is this film appropriate for? - I think this film is appropriate for kids in grades 5-12. There isn't anything inappropriate except for the occasional curse word or death.

I would rate this film *5 stars*. The plot was really good and kept me interested the whole time. I thought the actors and actresses did an awesome job with their roles. The only bad thing about this film is that everything looks so fake, but it was made in 2003, so I'll ignore that.