

By **Llando MacBellieve** and **Noah Hinkitsreal**, *Our Film Correspondents*



This is one of the scariest horror films we've seen in a long while. It deals with the themes of power and conformity and how these can both corrupt and destroy.

The lead character, Ruthanne Lammison, starts off as a strong and successful woman, one who forged her own identity and a career in politics and leadership.

But she finds herself lured into a place which at first seems perfect, almost a utopia.

Union is a place where nothing bad ever happens. Its citizens are all happy and content, wealth oozes from it with no sign of poverty. It is well protected by the finest and most proactive police and security forces in the world, and any threat would, in any case, be easily seen off by the nuclear submarines parked in the local lake.

Right from the start, there is a slightly dark and sinister undertone to this utopia but the attention is diverted away from it initially by the sense of success and power it gives off, and it is this

which bedazzles Ruthanne and lures her in.

As the movie goes on though, realisation dawns that things are even more sinister than they appear. All the women, once so formidable and successful, begin to become subservient to their men, who in turn spend all their time in the union clubs talking in hushed terms.

They begin to talk the same way, to say the same things, to the point where they begin to sound almost like androids, programmed, no longer with minds of their own. There is one horrifying scene where you realise they are even now dressed the same! "All decent Union women are subservient to Union" becomes almost a mantra to anyone who questions the changes they see happening around them, especially those non-conformists who challenge or attempt to escape.

Meanwhile though, it's not only the women who are affected. The union men too – again beginning as strong characters with differing political views – also appear to merge and blend into each other.



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