

## Room – Review

Lenny Abrahamson's *Room* is a film about many things. It deals with abduction, rape and **imprisonment** and considers the **damage** that such evil can wreak. Make no mistake, this story - of a **kidnapped** girl and the son she bears - can be difficult to watch at times. But as Alison Brie elucidates in an interview, it is also "a story of love and **freedom** and **perseverance** and what it feels like to grow up and become your own person."

Based on the 2010 novel of the same name by Emma Donoghue (a **finalist** in that year's prestigious Man Booker Prize), she and Abrahamson collaborated closely on the screenplay, which finds Joy (Brie) and her young child Jack (Jacob Tremblay) captives of the rarely-seen 'Old Nick' in a **tiny, squalid** outhouse. An old television set and a skylight are their only connection to the outside world, leading Joy to convince Jack that what they call 'Room' *is* the world; together they play and exist and Joy tells Jack stories while doing her best to **endure** in what is a truly **appalling** situation.



**Desperation** leads her to come up with a plan to escape, and a **ruse** involving faking Jack's death is ultimately **successful** in ensuring their rescue. However, their first experiences with the world outside 'Room' prove difficult, Joy **struggling** to readjust to something resembling a normal life and Jack puzzled and **intimidated** by his vast and unfamiliar new surroundings.

Larson was picked for the role as a result of her performance in *Short Term 12*, and she is superb here. Her **assiduous** preparation and **touching** interplay with Tremblay led to a **deserved** Oscar win, while Tremblay's is one of the most **astounding** turns by a child actor in memory. The story of their trauma becomes, against all odds, one of hope, in a **remarkable**, beautiful piece of filmmaking.