

“My name is Robert Neville. I am a survivor living in New York City. If there is anybody out there...anybody. Please. You are not alone.”

Robert Neville (Will Smith) is a brilliant scientist, but even he could not contain the terrible virus that was unstoppable, incurable, and man-made. Somehow immune, Neville is now the last human survivor in what is left of New York City and maybe the world. For three years, Neville has faithfully sent out daily radio messages, desperate to find any other survivors who might be out there. But he is not alone. Mutant victims of the plague—The Infected—lurk in the shadows...watching Neville’s every move...waiting for him to make a fatal mistake. Perhaps mankind’s last, best hope, Neville is driven by only one remaining mission: to find a way to reverse the effects of the virus using his own immune blood. But he knows he is outnumbered...and quickly running out of time.





I really liked *I AM Legend* because as a film it marks another landmark step in the real legend of Will Smith. The story itself or the theme of “the last man on earth surviving a worldwide apocalypse” was the basis of Richard Matheson’s novel I AM Legend--a sci-fi classic then and now. The “deadly future” themes have been done well in many *Twilight Zone* and *Outer Limit* episodes in the 60’s. As well as Charlton Heston’s dark futuristic trio of *Planet of The Apes*, *Solyent Green* and *Omega Man* in the 1970’s. Even the cult 1975 Atlas comic book Planet of Vampires can be seen in *I Am Legend* if you look hard enough. What any true hater of *I AM Legend* will say right off the bat is that the film is a knock off of *28 Days*, *28 Weeks Later*, *The Resident Evil* films, George Romero’s classic *Night of the Living Dead* film or its many sequels or inspired sequels. The true difference with *I AM Legend* and any other zombie, vampire or plague monster type films is two words: WILL SMITH. The premise of all popular zombie films has been several survivors fighting off hordes of the undead until we are left with typically one heroic guy and a smart but frightened woman. But having a great actor like Will Smith jump head on into the horror genre is what makes *I AM Legend* special. This is not a predictable pick off a human victim every ten minute type of generic horror flick-like *28 Days*, the *Resident Evil* films, Ice Cube’s *Ghosts of Mars*, George Romero’s zombie films and any Rob Zombie bloody, splatter fest flick. What we have with Will Smith is playing a guilt ridden and grief stricken Robert Neville-who has no real reason to live-and yet still tries to go on every day looking for a cure to a deadly viral plague that killed all of humanity.

When one looks at human history from the millions of deaths attributed to the “Black Plague”, small pox, measles, cancer and AIDS, then the premise of a new strain of virus wiping out mankind is more real than Richard Matheson’s deadly scenario in his novel of the 50’s. We actually know this could happen. The science behind how this mass mankind created holocaust is never really established in *I AM Legend*. I felt I wanted a *Jurassic Park* type of cartoon explaining how dinosaurs genes were spliced with frog genes to allow them to be recreated today. In *Jurassic Park* that made sense and was why everyone bought the story of a modern dinosaur park. But *I AM Legend* like any good horror film is not suppose to make things easy for you. The fact that you only get glimpses of the past of how the world was turned upside down contributes to the empathy you feel for Robert Neville. In a sense he struggles to come to grip with the crisis because he is immune to the virus’s effects, but paralyzed by his inability in three years to discover a cure after countless clinical tries. It is the fact that Will Smith has to hold the screen for almost an hour by himself with no other characters except the CGI enhanced zombie/vampire horde that makes *I AM Legend* stand out. The only other new horror film to generate large moments of uncontrived hopelessness and despair is *30 Days of Night*.

It is in fact the reason why *I AM Legend* cannot be a truly landmark horror film is because of such a good job *30 Days of Night* did in reinventing the vampire genre. Even Will Smith’s important meeting at the end of the film of two lone survivors Alice Braga and Charlie Tahan. This kid has a horrible agent because he barley spoke. Anyway, as Will has a big emotional scene with Alice—who always looks nothing but super fine to me—and yells in her confused face “There is no God!” and “God did not do this! We did this”. The importance is completely stripped away because Danny Huston as Marlow, the leader of the vampires, in *30 Days* already told another woman so powerfully before he killed her “There is no god!”. If it was not for *30 Days of Night* I would have been totally blown away by *Legend*’s overwhelming feeling of doom. Great horror films like *Halloween*, *Jaws*, *The Thing*, *The Fog*, *Alien*, etc., create realistic fear of an unstoppable monster or unsolvable and dire situation. *I AM Legend* will only keep adding to the ever growing Will Smith Legend of making great films. I give it four out of five cheesecakes.

David L. "Money Train" Watts









[I Am Legend](#) (2007) - [Willow Smith](#), [Salli Richardson](#), [Will Smith](#)



[I Am Legend](#) (2007) - [Will Smith](#), [Willow Smith](#)



[I Am Legend](#) (2007) - [Charlie Tahan](#), [Alice Braga](#), [Will Smith](#)





[I Am Legend](#) (2007) - [Alice Braga](#)



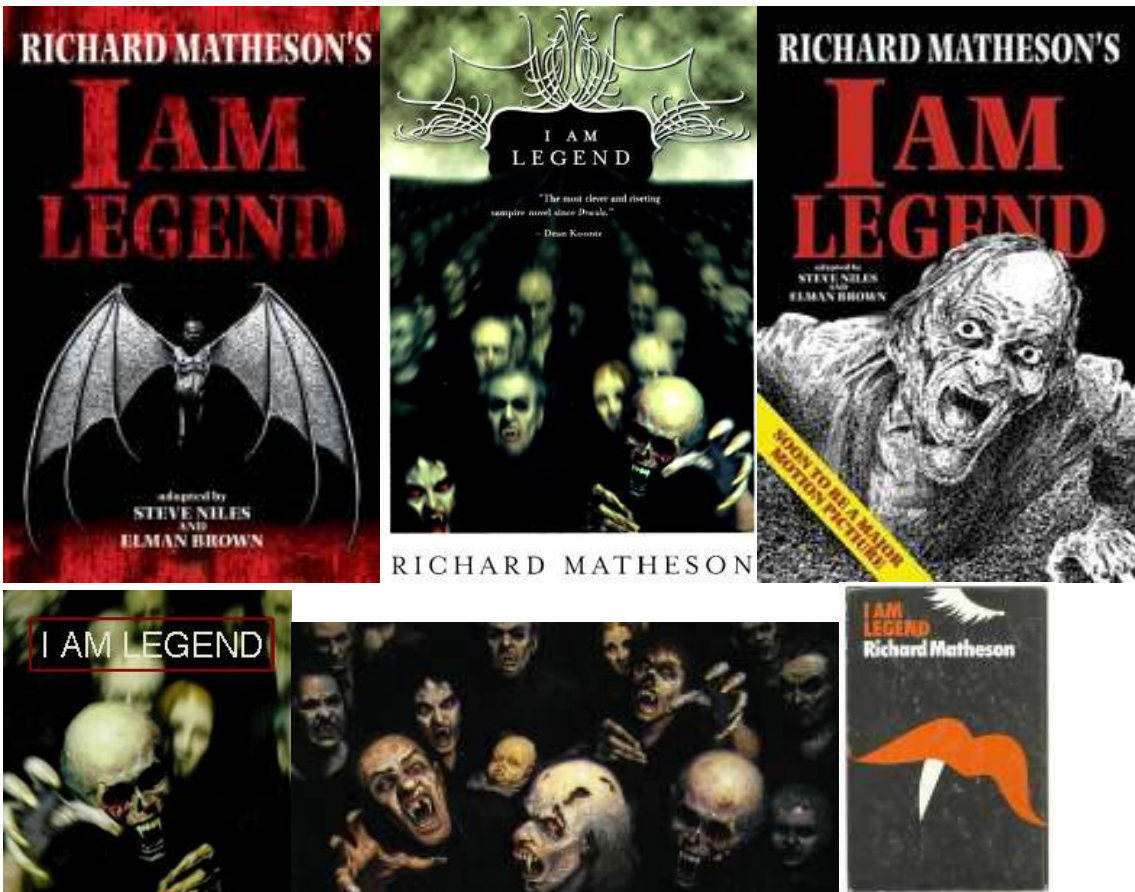
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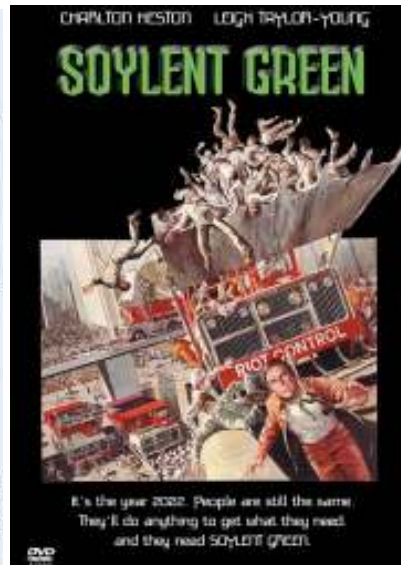


[I Am Legend](#) (2007) - [Will Smith](#), [Francis Lawrence](#)



Will Smith at December 5, 2007 Japan Premiere of I AM Legend





I Am Legend is a 1954 science fiction novel by Richard Matheson about the last man alive on the planet Earth. The book takes place between 1976 and 1979. The novel opens with the monotony and horror of the daily life of the protagonist, Robert Neville. Neville is apparently the only survivor of an apocalypse caused by a pandemic of bacteria, the symptoms of which are very similar to vampirism. Every day he makes repairs to his house, boarding up windows, stringing and hanging garlic, disposing of vampires' corpses on his lawn and going out to gather any additional supplies needed for hunting and killing more vampires.

Neville's psychological disposition is a significant element in the novel, and his struggles with despair imbue the character with intensity and gravitas. The author emphasizes that he is an ordinary, flawed man trying to deal with an extraordinary catastrophe. It also explores the loneliness of being by himself, excitement and hope of finding others, and disappointment over still finding himself alone. During the evenings, Neville drinks whiskey and listens to records. The records referenced by name are sometimes puns on what's happening and sometimes they simply reflect Neville's mood.

Much of the story is devoted to Neville's struggles to understand the plague that has infected everyone around him, and the novel details the progress of his discoveries. Instead of asking the reader to accept a supernatural explanation for vampire phenomena, the author strives to offer scientific basis for such symptoms as aversion to garlic, craving of fresh blood, and resistance to bullets but vulnerability to stakes and sunlight. The aversion to mirrors and crosses is classified as psychological. This represents one of the first attempts in popular culture to explain vampirism in the plot scientifically, something that has become commonplace in modern vampire movies. Neville hypothesizes that he is immune to the bacteria because he was bitten by a vampire bat when he was stationed in Panama. One day, a dog appears in the neighborhood. Neville spends weeks trying to win its trust and domesticate it. He eventually traps the terrified dog and wins it over, but it dies from the vampire infection a week later.

As the story progresses, it is revealed that some infected people have discovered a means to hold the disease at bay. However, the "still living" people appear no different from the true vampire during the day while both are immobilized in sleep. Thus, along with the vampires, Neville kills the still living people. He becomes a source of terror to the still living, since he can go around in daylight (which they can only do for a short length of time) and kill them while they sleep.

The still living send a girl named Ruth to spy on Neville, and they cleverly replicate Neville's relationship to the dog. Ruth pretends to be terrified of Neville at first sight, and rather than spend weeks trying to win her over, he attacks her and drags her back to his house. Though Neville is suspicious of her true nature and much of their interaction focuses on Neville's internal struggle between his deep seated paranoia and his hope, it is clear by his seizure of Ruth that the scales have tipped in favor of the irrational. Eventually Neville performs a blood test on her, revealing her true nature to him before she knocks him out. Ruth leaves a note telling him about the group of people like her, explaining that she was sent to spy and how monstrous he appears to them. Months later, the still living people attack, shooting Neville but taking him alive so that he can be executed in front of everyone in the new society.

Before he can be executed, Ruth provides him with an envelope of pills. Neville takes the pills so he will feel no pain when the vampires execute him. He finally realizes why the new vampire society regards him as a monster. Just as vampires were regarded as legendary monsters that preyed on the vulnerable humans in their beds, Neville has become the last of a dead breed: a mythical figure that kills both vampires and the infected living while they are sleeping. He becomes a legend as the vampires once were, hence the title.

The Astronauts on the Planet of the Vampires

Membership: Captain Chris Galland; Craig; Brenda; Ellisa Galland; two others whose names I don't know

Purpose: To survive and defeat the vampiric Domies

Affiliations: Bruiser Culhane (Warlord of the Bay Ridge assassins); Bad Lenny Siegle (leader of the Myrtle Street Boys)

Enemies: Proctor; The Domies

Base of Operations: New York, c.2010

First Appearance: Planet of the Vampires (Atlas, February 1975)

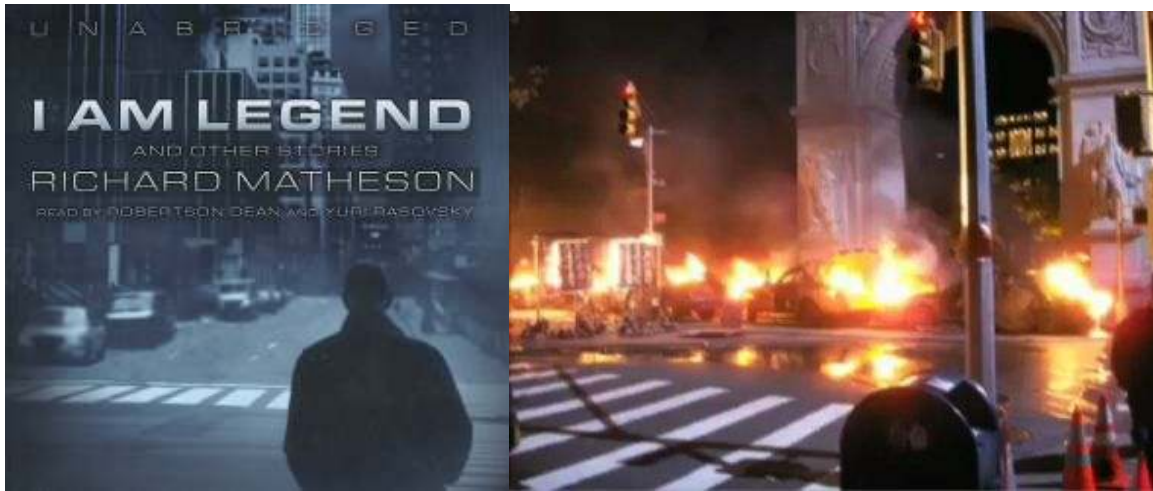


History: On April 21st, 2010 six astronauts (3 couples I believe) are returning home to Earth from a five year mission to Mars. The last message they had received from their homeworld was that war had been declared, and since then they have found it impossible to contact Mission Control. Running low on resources, they were forced to return to Earth, in spite of fears that nuclear war might be raging. Without ground assistance they are forced to land in the sea by Coney Island just outside New York. Emerging from their ship, the Aries VII probe, they find the city in ruins. Almost as soon as they emerge, they are attacked by savages. Five of the astronauts are rescued by people in a small aircraft, but one is killed. The rescuers take the surviving astronauts to their home, a large dome located where the Empire State Building originally stood. These "Domies" are led by Proctor, who extends the astronauts the hospitality of their home. But while investigating screams they can hear, the spacemen discover an assembly line drawing blood from captured savages. Horrified, they free the captives, and led by one of them, Bruiser Culhane, they escape the Dome. It transpires that while the savages have developed immunities to the terrible new diseases afflicting the world, the Domies have not, and so, like vampires, they drink the blood of the savages to survive.

With Bruiser's aid, the group begin to unite the savages into an army to battle the Domies, but the vampires capture both Ellisa and Brenda. Galland vows to rescue both of them. The two male astronauts fly an old fighter plane loaded with explosives, into the dome, bailing out at the last second. In the resulting chaos, they then enter the Dome to search for the missing women. They discover Brenda in a lab, already drained to death. Craig, devastated at the death of his wife, remains behind to grieve, while Chris continues his search. He comes across the Proctor, and shoots him through the head, killing him. Immediately after this, he is reunited with Elissa, who has been found unharmed by Craig. Stealing one of the Domies floating skycraft, Chris and Elissa escape, but Craig elects to stay behind with his dead spouse. Flying off, the last couple decide to go as far away as possible in the hope of finding somewhere peaceful, eventually running out of fuel near Los Angeles. However they are attacked by a giant mutant spider as they make their way through the jungle they landed in, and Elissa is killed before Chris can dispose of the beast, leaving Chris the sole survivor.



Warner Bros. Pictures presents, in association with Village Roadshow Pictures, a Weed Road/Overbrook Entertainment Production, "I Am Legend," starring two-time Oscar nominee Will Smith ("The Pursuit of Happyness," "Ali"), Alice Braga and Dash Mihok. The film is directed by Francis Lawrence. The screenplay is by Mark Protosevich and Akiva Goldsman, based on the novel by Richard Matheson. Akiva Goldsman, James Lassiter, David Heyman and Neal Moritz are the producers, with Michael Tadross, Erwin Stoff, Dana Goldberg and Bruce Berman serving as executive producers, and Tracy Torme co-producing. The behind-the-scenes creative team includes director of photography Andrew Lesnie, production designer Naomi Shohan, editor Wayne Wahrman, costume designer Michael Kaplan, and composer James Newton Howard. Opening nationwide on December 14, 2007, "I Am Legend" will be distributed by Warner Bros. Pictures, a Warner Bros. Entertainment Company, and in select territories by Village Roadshow Pictures.



12/14/07









WILL SMITH

CONCEPT ART

I AM LEGEND



WILL SMITH

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I AM LEGEND







WILL SMITH

CONCEPT ART

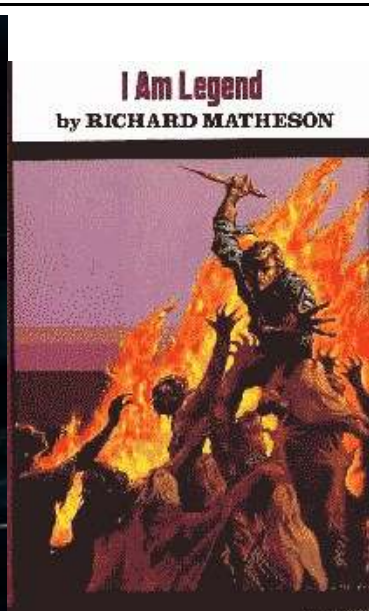
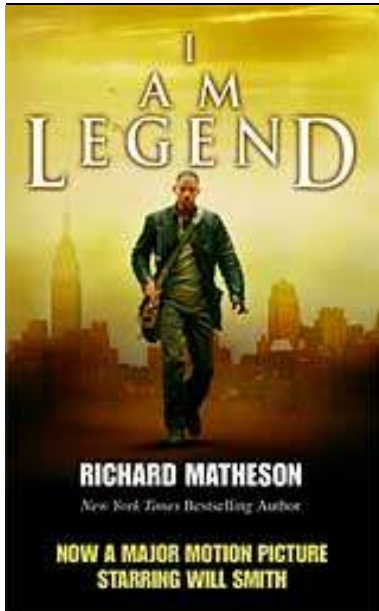
I AM LEGEND

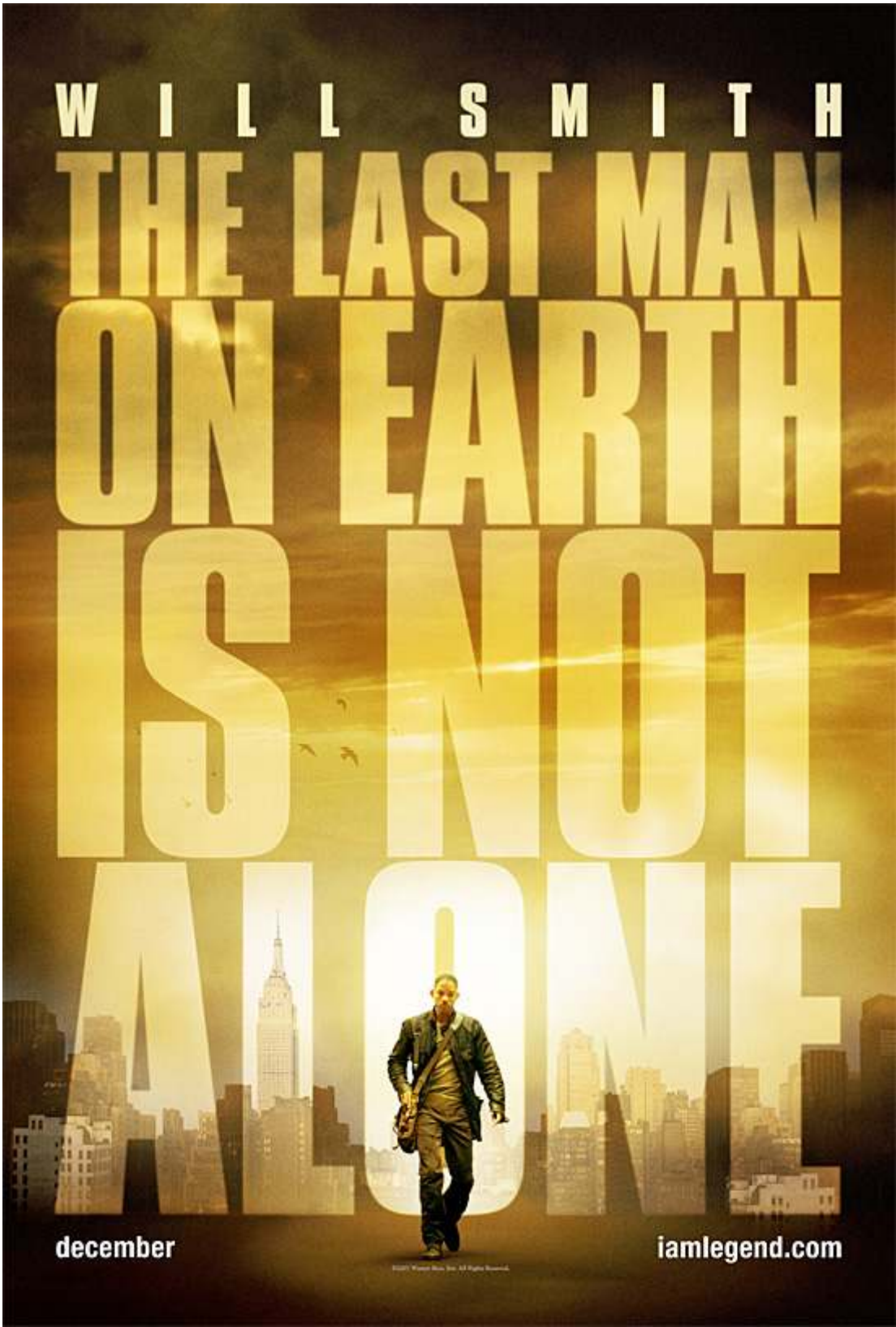


WILL SMITH

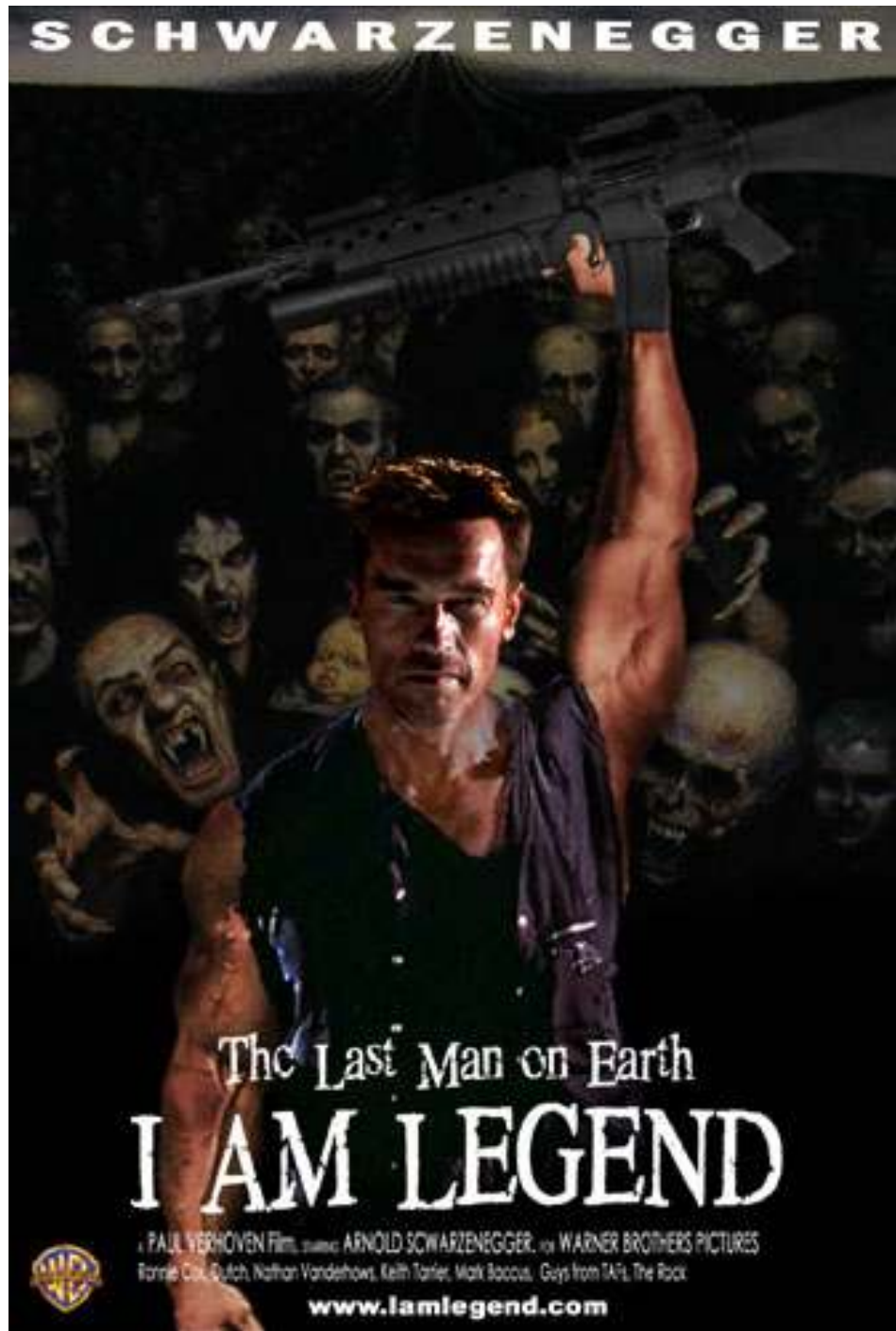
I AM LEGEND







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Before Will Smith There Was Arnold As The Lead Of *I AM Legend*.

Who Knows What This Film Could Have Been?????