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## Blu-ray Review: Poison Ivy 4 - The Secret Society

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Well, we've come a long way from the cult Sundance hit Poison Ivy starring Drew Barrymore. What, you didn't know that Poison Ivy actually premiered at Sundance in 1992 and was nominated for the dramatic Grand Jury Prize along side movies like Reservoir Dogs? Well, you learn something new every day, don't you?

The first Poison Ivy movie spurred a cult following, and with most movies that garner 'cult' status, film studios think that is their license to churn out hack sequel after hack sequel until the audience is bled dry both of money and any feeling of good will they had toward the original film.

So on down the sequel road we've gone, from Drew Barrymore, to Alyssa Milano in Poison Ivy II: Lily, Jamie Pressly in Poison Ivy: The New Seduction, and finally to today's featured presentation Poison Ivy 4: The Secret Society starring Miriam McDonald (Degrassi: The Next Generation) and various other girls who like to take their shirts off.

### The Show

The cover of Poison Ivy 4 features a sultry brunette sexily buttoning up her shirt and the same vixen soaking wet in a pool with her clothes on. Flames lap at the title giving the would-be watcher an ominous feeling of thrills and sex. At least this is what I thought while inspecting the case. So you can imagine my surprise when what I got was a comedy.

Poison Ivy 4 had me laughing my head off five minutes into the film as poor country girl Daisy is planning on leaving her hick boyfriend and his newly purchased piece of land for a chance at an education from a big prestigious school. To say the dialogue is clunky is to insult clunks everywhere. It's best described as the vocal equivalent of fingernails on a chalkboard -- one step away from reading off of cue cards.

But it's not fair of us to hold Poison Ivy 4 to such a high standard, right? We knew what we were getting into when we picked this title up. We wanted some nakedness and some sex. That's it! Expecting a coherent, engaging story from the fourth installment in this series is like expecting Oscar-winning acting in a late-night Cinemax movie.

So let's talk about those sex scenes since that's the only reason anybody would be remotely interested in this film. Again, referring to late-night Cinemax shows, that's the kind of sex you can expect, complete with campy saxophone 'porn groove' music playing in the background. There's no hint of eroticism involved here, just plain old rip-off-those-clothes-and-do-it-already sex.

The film is painful to watch, yes, if you were expecting some sort of sexy, erotic adventure involving college girls. But, on the other hand if you were expecting a cheesy romp with boobies to show to your frat buddies while drunk, then this is the movie for you.

### The Quality

The video quality doesn't fare much better than the movie itself. The contrast is all off. There aren't any different levels of blacks

and greys. It's all just one big, dark mess when it comes to the night scenes. Pixels gather around quick-moving objects. Expect a pixel-parade when the fast-humping simulated sex scenes come into play.

In the daytime the color is okay. The greens are nice when looking at the open field at the beginning or the forest surrounding a mansion in the middle of the film. The colors feel a bit oversaturated, but I went with it. I like my outdoor colors bright and vibrant. Also, when boobies appear on screen, which is quite often, they are crystal clear! That's got to count for something, right?

Poison Ivy 4 is presented in 1080p HD with an aspect ratio of 1.85:1.

I wish there was something good to say about the Dolby Digital 5.1 surround audio, but alas there is not. The dialogue comes off sounding like all the actors are talking inside a tin can. The laughable "porn groove" soundtrack drowns out the equally laughable sex-induced groans, which all just ends up sounding muddled.

#### Special Features

Surprise, surprise not a single solitary special feature is contained on this Blu-ray. I'm not that disappointed, but I'm sure many guys would've enjoyed something featuring the actors talking about how fun it is to take shirts off.

#### Ending Thoughts

Everything from the acting and the script to the quality of the video and audio make this Blu-ray feel like it was just thrown together at the last moment to make a quick buck. There's nothing here of substance, there aren't even any remotely fun or erotic sex scenes to watch. Poison Ivy 4 is as messy as they come, and should contain some sort of warning stating "it is advisable that the person watching this should at least be legally drunk." Poison Ivy 4 only deserves to see the light of day in frat houses across the nation only when there's nothing on Adult Swim.

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