

Reflecting on *A House of Dynamite*

Academy Award-winning director Kathryn Bigelow's riveting new thriller, *A House of Dynamite*, provides a window into what might happen if a nuclear weapon were launched at the United States. It highlights the risks inherent to all of us in a world with more than 12,000 nuclear weapons and how quickly everything could change.

The film comes at a time when nuclear risks are escalating. Conflicts are raging in regions with nuclear weapons, and for the first time in 40 years, the number of nuclear weapons in the world is expected to go up. We rely on a system that demands perfection from humans and machines every day, and one of the last remaining legal limits on nuclear weapons is set to expire in February.

This discussion guide is intended to spark dialogue among friends, colleagues, family, and fellow movie enthusiasts about the dangers posed by nuclear weapons and the moral and ethical questions raised by the film.

Discussion Questions

1. What surprised you most about the film? What scared you?
2. What was one scene, detail, or moment that will stick with you?
3. Which character did you identify with the most? Which character arc was most compelling?
4. After a nuclear attack, the choice is between "surrender or suicide." Did you see it this way?
5. If you were the president, what would you have done?
6. Should the U.S. president have the sole authority to launch a nuclear weapon? How do you feel it helps or hurts our security?
7. Has this film changed your views on nuclear weapons?
8. What did you learn from this film that other people should know?

