SOFTWARE & TECH

Will They Make A Sequel To I Am Number Four

PUBLISHED
November 25, 2026

REFERENCE
#1795582634015318

Introduction

When *I Am Number Four* hit theaters in 2011, it arrived with a burst of young-adult sci-fi energy. Based on the best-selling novel by Pittacus Lore (the pen name for authors James Frey and Jobie Hughes), the film introduced audiences to a world of alien teens hiding on Earth, hunted by a ruthless enemy. The movie ended on a cliffhanger, setting up a larger story that has never been told on screen. More than a decade later, fans still ask: **Will they make a sequel to I Am Number Four?**This question lingers in forums, social media threads, and among those who grew up with the Lorien Legacies series. In this article, we will explore the film's history, its reception, the obstacles that have prevented a sequel, and the faint signs of hope that remain. Whether you are a devoted fan or a curious newcomer, join us as we dive into the mystery of this unfinished cinematic adventure.

The Legacy of I Am Number Four

From Page to Screen

The *Lorien Legacies* book series began in 2010 with *I Am Number Four*, followed by *The Power of Six*, *The Rise of Nine*, and several more installments. The premise was compelling: nine alien children from the planet Lorien were sent to Earth after their world was destroyed by the evil Mogadorians. They are protected by a charm that allows them to be killed only in a specific order—Number One, Number Two, and so on. The story follows John Smith, also known as Number Four, as he discovers his powers and fights to survive. The film adaptation, directed by D.J. Caruso and starring Alex Pettyfer, Dianna Agron, and Timothy Olyphant, attempted to capture the action and emotion of the book.

Movie Plot and Reception

The movie condensed the first novel's plot, focusing on John's move to a small Ohio town, his romance with Sarah (Dianna Agron), and his friendship with the geeky Sam. It also introduced Henri (Timothy Olyphant), his guardian. The climax featured a showdown with the Mogadorians, the death of Number Three, and John's victory—but also the arrival of Number Six (Teresa Palmer), promising more battles ahead. Critics gave mixed reviews; the film holds a 31% score on Rotten Tomatoes, though audiences were more enthusiastic, giving it a 63% rating. It earned about $150 million worldwide on a $60 million budget, which was considered modestly successful but not a blockbuster. For a franchise-launching film, that box office figure was on the lower end of what studios expect for a series.

Why Fans Are Still Asking: Will They Make a Sequel to I Am Number Four?

The Unfinished Story

Will they make a sequel for I Am Number Four

Will they make a sequel for *I Am Number Four* is the film's abrupt ending. After defeating the first Mogadorian attack, John and Number Six fly away to find the other remaining Garde (the Lorien teens with powers). The screen cuts to black just as they spot an explosion in the distance—a clear tease for *The Power of Six*. Viewers who read the books knew the saga was far from over. Even those who didn't felt the promise of a larger narrative. Unlike many standalone films, *I Am Number Four* was designed as the first chapter of a series. Without a sequel, the story feels incomplete, leaving character arcs and plot threads dangling.

Box Office Performance

Box office numbers are often the deciding factor for sequels. *I Am Number Four* opened at number one in the United States with $19.4 million, but it had strong competition from *Unknown* and *Gnomeo & Juliet*. Its domestic total of $55 million was decent but not spectacular, while international markets added $95 million. For a film that needed to launch a franchise, $150 million was considered borderline. Studios typically want a bigger multiplier—something closer to $200 million or more on a similar budget—to greenlight a sequel, especially for a young-adult property that targets a specific demographic. Additionally, the film's production budget did not include significant marketing costs, which eat into profits. DreamWorks Pictures (the original distributor) and Disney (which handled international release) had to weigh the risks. Ultimately, they decided not to move forward, at least not in the immediate years following the film's release.

The Roadblocks to a Sequel

Rights and Studio Changes

One major hurdle for any potential *I Am Number Four* sequel is the tangled web of rights holders. The movie was produced by DreamWorks Pictures, which at the time had a distribution deal with Disney (Touchstone Pictures). After the film's release, DreamWorks moved to Universal Pictures, and Disney no longer held the rights. Meanwhile, the film's underlying property—the book series—is owned by HarperCollins and the author collective. Any sequel would require negotiating with multiple parties: the producers, the studio that holds the current rights (likely DreamWorks or its successor), and the literary rights holders. In the years since, there have been reports of interest from Netflix or other streaming services, but nothing concrete has materialized. The shifting landscape of Hollywood—where franchises like *The Hunger Games* and *Twilight* thrived while *I Am Number Four* struggled—may have made executives cautious.

Director and Cast Availability

Another practical obstacle is the availability of the original cast and director. Alex Pettyfer, who played John Smith, has since moved on to other roles (such as *Magic Mike* and *Endless Love*) but hasn't publicly expressed a strong desire to return. Dianna Agron found success in television and indie films. Timothy Olyphant has become a sought-after character actor (*Justified*, *Deadwood*). Teresa Palmer is now a well-known actress (*Hacksaw Ridge*, *Lights Out*). Meanwhile, director D.J. Caruso has worked on other projects like *Eagle Eye* and *xXx: Return of Xander Cage*. Reassembling the entire team after more than a decade would be logistically challenging and expensive. Moreover, the actors have aged—John Smith was supposed to be a teenager, and Pettyfer is now in his early 30s. A sequel would either need to jump ahead in time or recast younger actors, both of which could alienate fans.

Recent Developments and Hints

Author's Comments

From time to time, one of the authors (James Frey or Jobie Hughes) or the "Pittacus Lore" brand has addressed the possibility of a sequel. In interviews around the mid-2010s, Frey mentioned that he would love to see the series continue on screen, but the decision was up to the studio. He also noted that the book series had expanded into a full universe with prequels and spin-offs, offering plenty of material. In 2021, a rumor surfaced that Netflix was in early talks to develop a television series based on the Lorien Legacies, but no official

announcement was ever made. The rise of streaming services has revived many dormant franchises, so it's not impossible that a reboot or continuation could happen. However, as of 2024, there is no confirmed project in active development.

Potential for Reboot or Series

Given the difficulty of making a direct sequel, the most likely path forward is a reboot. A television series on a platform like Netflix, Amazon Prime, or HBO Max could adapt the entire book series more faithfully, without the constraints of a two-hour movie. The popularity of shows like *The 100* and *Stranger Things* demonstrates that teen sci-fi has an audience. A TV series would allow the story to unfold slowly, explore the Lorien mythology, and give each of the nine Garde their due. In fact, many fans believe that a series would be the best way to answer the question **will they make a sequel to I Am Number Four**—by starting fresh, not continuing the film. The existing movie could then be considered an alternate adaptation, much like the different versions of *The Dark Tower* or *Artemis Fowl*.

What Would a Sequel Entail?

Storylines from the Books

If a sequel were to follow the original film's continuity, it would likely adapt *The Power of Six*. That novel introduces Number Seven (Marina), who is living in a convent in Spain, and further develops the characters of Six, Sam, and John. The plot involves the Garde uniting to find Number Nine, who is held captive by the Mogadorians. The stakes escalate as more of Lorien's history is revealed. The film would also need to explain why John and Six are suddenly older, perhaps with a time jump. Alternatively, a direct sequel could pick up right after the movie's cliffhanger, with the same actors but using digital de-aging or a recast for younger roles. Given the complexity, a TV series adaptation is far more practical.

Casting Challenges

One of the biggest hurdles for a sequel is the casting of the remaining Garde. In the books, we meet Numbers Five, Seven, Eight, Nine, and Ten (the tenth Garde is a twist). Each has a distinct personality and power. The original film cast only Numbers Four, Six, and Three (the latter briefly). A sequel would need to introduce multiple new characters, requiring a diverse ensemble of young actors. That can be expensive, but it also offers creative opportunities. If the studio decided to reboot entirely, they could cast a fresh group of teens, avoiding the age issue entirely. The question **will they make a sequel to I Am Number Four**might then transform into "will they reboot I Am Number Four," which feels more plausible in today's Hollywood landscape.

Conclusion: Is There Hope?

More than a decade after its release, *I Am Number Four* remains a beloved but unfinished film. The answer to the question **will they make a sequel to I Am Number Four**is, for now, a cautious "probably not—at least not as a direct movie sequel." The combination of mediocre box office, rights issues, aging cast, and shifting market trends has made a traditional film sequel unlikely. However, the story's loyal fan base, the rich source material, and the ongoing appetite for Young Adult sci-fi suggest that a reboot or television series could still happen. Until an official announcement is made, fans will continue to hope. In the meantime, the book series offers a complete and satisfying journey through the Lorien Legacies, and that may be the best sequel we get.

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