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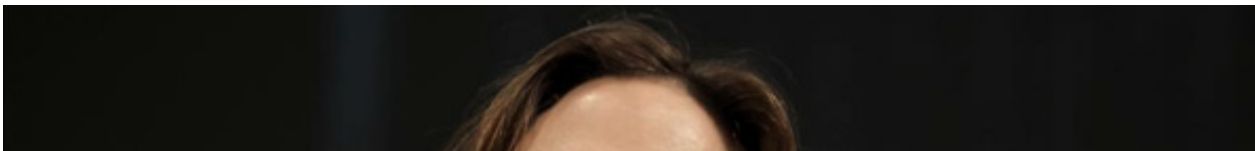
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By: Sean O'Connell



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By Sean O'Connell

[hollywoodnews.com](#): Angelina Jolie's directorial debut, "In the Land of Blood and Honey," has faced obstacles at nearly every turn during production. Those challenges appear to be continuing as the film nears release.

Croatian journalist James Braddock has filed a lawsuit claiming that Jolie's plot – which details a forbidden romance between a Serbian soldier and a Bosnian prisoner – infringes on the copyright of his 2007 book "The Soul Shattering." He initially was seeking a temporary restraining order, though [THR](#) now says Braddock has withdrawn his motion and it will not interfere with the film's planned Dec. 23 limited release.

"U.S. District Judge Robert Dow, Jr. in Illinois said in a hearing last week that there were valid concerns about the timing of the lawsuit and suggested that the late filing would be a consideration when examining equities, harm and the public interest," [THR](#) reports. "The judge also noted that the plaintiff hadn't yet shown that 'immediate and irreparable harm would result' from the film's release and hadn't yet demonstrated that the opposing parties had been noticed."

Yes, it is a major coincidence that Braddock, having known about the film, waits until weeks before about to be released to file suit. And don't you think Jolie would conduct due diligence on a story to avoid legal recourse prior to her release?

The actress has been on the publicity trail for "Honey," which has screened for limited press but hopes to drum up awards support.

Here's the trailer. "Blood and Honey" will be in theaters soon:

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SEAN O'CONNELL

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Sean O'Connell is a nationally recognized film critic. His reviews have been published in print ('The Washington Post,' 'USA Today') and online (AMC FilmCritic.com, MSN's Citysearch) since 1996. He's a weekly contributor to several national radio programs. He is a longstanding member of the Broadcast Film Critics Association (BFCA), the Online Film Critics Society (OFCS), and the Southeastern Film Critics View all articles by Sean O'Connell Association (SEFCA).

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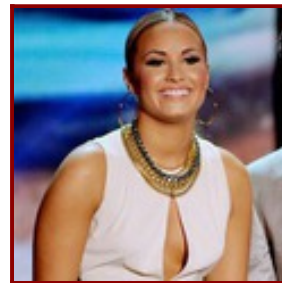
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