

Love Me Tender

2025 | 134mins

Director: Anna Cazenabe Cambet

Starring: Vicky Krieps, Viggo Ferreira-Redier, Antoine Reinartz



Adapted from Constance Debré's novel by the same title, this film is an ode to motherhood and an exploration of identity and desire. *Love Me Tender* delves into the world of lawyer-turned-writer Clémence (Vicky Krieps), as she fights for full custody of her son, after she reveals to her ex-husband that she has had relationships with women.

Love Me Tender premiered at the 78th Cannes Film Festival in May 2025 in Un Certain Regard, where it was also nominated for the Queer Palm. Un Certain Regard presents films with unusual styles and non-traditional stories seeking international recognition. Notable past selections include *Dogtooth* (2009), *Blue Valentine* (2010) and *Flow* (2024).

Writer Constance Debré was born into a wealthy family, but rebelled against expectations, quitting her job as a criminal defense barrister to pursue a career as a full-time writer. Her debut novel *Play Boy*, which won the Prix La Coupole in 2018, explores her first experiences after coming out as a lesbian. However, in her novel *Love Me Tender*, she depicts her promiscuous behaviour in one corner of her life, whilst she is expected to resume the role of a respectable lawyer throughout her family court battle.

Throughout director Anna Cazenabe Cambet's career, she has explored female sexuality, with her first feature film *Gold for Dogs* (2020) following a young woman's coming-of-age story. Cazenabe Cambet describes the desire to tell these stories as instinctual, and references a feeling amongst modern female directors who are reframing patriarchal narratives to promote women's perspectives and say "no, we are not waiting for an old man to enlighten us to our sexuality, we are not waiting to be revealed to ourselves" (KinoScope, 2020). Lead actor Vicky Krieps is no stranger to portraying complex and unconventional women, but considers this to be her most emotionally taxing yet.

A story about injustice at its heart, *Love Me Tender* invites audiences to question why a woman expressing typically masculine traits, while also having a mistress, creates such an imposition on society today.

'A divorced mother's mid-life self-discovery endangers her relationship with her beloved son in Anna Cazanave Cambet's compassionate, painful and truthful debut.'

-Variety

What did you think of the film? Please mark or tear the number.

4
3
2
1

Excellent

Fair

Poor

Please add any further comments here

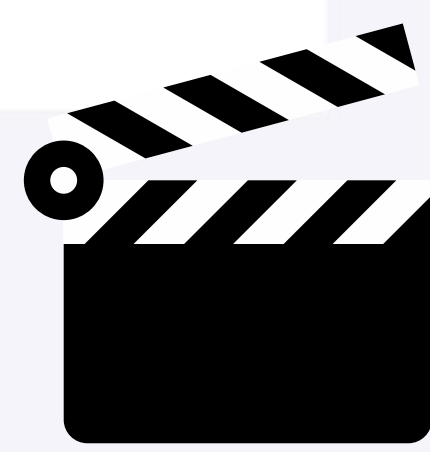
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Did You Know?

- Constance Debré wrote *Love Me Tender* as the second instalment of a trilogy, with *Play Boy* preceding it, and *Nom* following it.
- Constance Debré’s grandfather was Michel Debré, who was Prime Minister under Charles de Gaulle between 1959-1962.
- Vicky Krieps works in English, French and German

Continue Your Journey...

If you enjoyed this film, you might like:



Two Mothers for Zachary (1996)

Follows a mother as she battles for custody for her son, after her son’s grandmother takes custody of him, disapproving of her lesbian lifestyle.



Blue is the Warmest Colour (2013)

Follows a teenage high school student as she begins to explore her sexuality, and the tensions that accompany this discovery.

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