SOFTWARE & TECH

I Am Number Four Sequel 2012

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The Untold Story of I Am Number Four Sequel 2012: What Happened to the Next Chapter?

When **I Am Number Four** hit theaters in February 2011, it arrived with considerable fanfare. Adapted from the first book in the Lorien Legacies series by Pittacus Lore, the film introduced audiences to John Smith, an alien teenager hiding on Earth from a deadly enemy. With a budget of around $60 million and a charismatic young cast, it seemed poised to launch a new sci-fi franchise. But the story of what was supposed to follow—the **I Am Number Four sequel 2012**—is a tale of ambition, shifting studio priorities, and ultimately, a path not taken. This article explores the planned sequel, why it never materialized, and how the story continued in the books that fans still cherish today.

The Original Film: A Promising Start

Directed by D.J. Caruso and produced by Michael Bay's Platinum Dunes, **I Am Number Four**followed Number Four (Alex Pettyfer) as he tried to stay one step ahead of the Mogadorians, vicious aliens bent on exterminating the remaining Lorien survivors. The film ended on a cliffhanger: John had embraced his powers, discovered new allies, and learned that his friend Sam (Callan McAuliffe) might have a connection to the past. The final scene, with Number Six (Teresa Palmer) arriving on a motorcycle, clearly set up a larger story. Audiences and critics alike recognized that this was the first chapter of an intended series.

At the box office, the film earned over $150 million worldwide—respectable, though not a smash hit. For a property aimed at the same teen-and-young-adult demographic as *Twilight* and *The Hunger Games*, it performed reasonably well. DreamWorks Pictures, which co-produced the film, immediately began developing a sequel. By late 2011, reports emerged that a sequel was greenlit for a 2013 release—but originally, the plan was for an **I Am Number Four sequel 2012** release date.

The Planned Sequel for 2012: Early Momentum

According to industry insiders, DreamWorks initially targeted a 2012 release for the sequel. The reasoning was straightforward: capitalize on the film's young fan base before they moved on to other franchises. Screenwriters were hired to adapt the second book in the series, **The Power of Six**, which had been published in August 2011. Fans were eager to see the story of Number Four and Number Six teaming up, meeting other Garde members, and confronting the Mogadorians in a more direct way.

At the time, the Lorien Legacies book series was releasing novels at a rapid pace. The third book, **The Rise of Nine** , was scheduled for 2012—creating a perfect cross-promotional opportunity. A sequel movie arriving in 2012 could have dovetailed with the book's release, generating buzz across both mediums. Cast members, including Alex Pettyfer and Dianna Agron (Number Six), expressed interest in returning. Pettyfer, who had a three-picture deal, was enthusiastic about continuing John's journey.

But then the Hollywood machinery stalled. Several factors conspired to derail the **I Am Number Four sequel 2012** plans.

Why the Sequel Never Happened

The primary reason for the sequel's cancellation was the changing landscape at DreamWorks and its distribution

partner, Disney. DreamWorks had a limited output deal with Disney that ended in 2012, and the studio was restructuring its strategy. Disney was less interested in investing in a franchise that had not performed spectacularly—especially when they already had *Marvel* and *Pirates of the Caribbean* as major tentpoles. The modest box office returns of **I Am Number Four** made it a risky bet for a big-budget sequel.

Furthermore, the film had mixed critical reception. While some praised the visual effects and action sequences, others felt it was a generic teen sci-fi entry. Without a loud critical voice to champion the series, studio confidence waned. By early 2012, reports surfaced that the sequel was in development hell. Cast members started booking other projects. Alex Pettyfer, who had a reputation for being difficult on set, reportedly fell out of favor with producers. The momentum evaporated.

Another significant factor was the shifting focus of the book series. The third book, **The Rise of Nine**, published in August 2012, introduced new characters and a broader mythology. By the time the movie sequel might have been produced, the story had already moved beyond the events of **The Power of Six**. The window for a faithful adaptation was closing.

The Book Series Continued: The Rise of Nine (2012)

While the film waited in limbo, the Lorien Legacies book series marched on. 2012 saw the release of **The Rise of Nine**, which became a *New York Times* bestseller. In this novel, the action expanded: Number Four, Number Six, and Number Seven joined forces, while Number Five and Number Nine were introduced. The story grew more complex, with multiple perspectives and a deeper exploration of Lorien history. For book fans, 2012 was an exciting year—they did not need a movie to experience the sequels.

The book **The Rise of Nine** is often considered the turning point of the series. It brought the Garde together and set up the final confrontations. Its publication in 2012 is a key reason why the phrase "**I Am Number Four Sequel 2012**" still resonates: many fans who searched for information about the movie sequel instead discovered the book series, which offered a richer, more immersive narrative. The books allowed readers to explore the world of Lorien without the constraints of Hollywood budgets or schedules.

Legacy and Fan Interest

Almost a decade later, the **I Am Number Four** film has gained a cult following. Streaming platforms like Netflix and Amazon Prime have introduced it to new audiences, who often express disappointment that the story was never continued on screen. Fan forums and social media groups still discuss what an **I Am Number Four sequel 2012** might have looked like. Fan art, fan fiction, and even short film projects keep the spirit of the franchise alive.

In 2016, rumors briefly circulated that a television reboot was in development, but nothing materialized. The rights to the Lorien Legacies have changed hands multiple times. As of 2025, no official sequel project is moving forward. However, the book series concluded with **The Fate of Ten** (2015) and **United as One**(2016), giving closure to the story that the film could not.

What Could Have Been: Imagining the Sequel

Had the **I Am Number Four sequel 2012** been produced, what would it have covered? Likely, it would have adapted **The Power of Six**, which follows John and Sam traveling to Chicago to find Number Six, while also introducing a new character, Number Seven (Marina), in Spain. The film could have explored the concept of Cêpan (Lorien guardians) and the growing resistance against the Mogadorians. The climax would have involved a battle in the caves of Spain, revealing more about the Loric legacy.

Cast-wise, the sequel would have needed to integrate new actors for Numbers Five, Seven, and Nine. The story's

scope would have expanded beyond the small-town setting of Paradise, Ohio, to global locations—a natural fit for the cinematic scale. The visual effects budget would likely have increased to accommodate the new powers and alien creatures. Many fans still long to see the “Legacy” powers like telekinesis, invisibility, and animal telepathy brought to life on screen.

In an alternative timeline, the **I Am Number Four sequel 2012** could have launched a successful franchise, alongside other young-adult adaptations of the era. It would have competed with *The Hunger Games: Catching Fire* (2013) and *Divergent* (2014). But because of the complicated studio dynamics, that timeline never came to pass.

Conclusion

The story of the **I Am Number Four sequel 2012** is a fascinating “what if” in modern Hollywood history. It serves as a reminder that not every promising franchise gets the chance to grow, no matter how passionate its fan base or how rich its source material. While the movie sequel remains an unfulfilled dream, the Lorien Legacies book series offers a complete and satisfying arc—one that began with **I Am Number Four**and ended with a final stand for Earth. For fans who love the world, the books are the true sequel. And occasionally, they look back at 2012 and wonder what might have been.

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