

Now What Do I Do?

The title of this blog post makes me think of the movie Forrest Gump – remember the part where Forrest runs and runs; pretty soon he has a pack of people following him, running with him, and then suddenly he stops and says, “I think I’ll go home now.” The pack of followers is suddenly lost and without purpose. “NOW what do we do!”

That’s kind of how I feel now that I’ve finished the masterpiece novel I was reading, Under the Dome by Stephen King. This book was a page-turner from start to finish, all 1000+ pages of it, and it’s one of those books that’s so good it sends the reader into withdrawal once they’ve finished the story. Not helping is the fact that I’m sick, and the only good part of being sick (if there is a good part of being sick) is curling up with a good book. But now I’ve finished my good book. I’m reading two others, but they’re not the same type of book.

One additional note about Under the Dome: I learned before I had read too far into the novel that they were making it into a tv mini-series, and as the novel progressed, I kept wondering how that would work given the book’s adult themes and graphic violence. Now that I’ve finished the book, I felt comfortable doing a google search on it since I didn’t have to worry about the ending being spoiled (don’t worry, I’m not going to do that to you – not when I recommend it so highly for you to read for yourself; it’s really very good!). Here I learned that it is indeed being turned into a tv mini-series – for **cable** tv. That makes more sense, and I will have to find a way to get my hands on it when it comes out; maybe that will help cure my withdrawal!



Am I A Denzel Fan?

I've heard a lot of people say they are Denzel Washington fans, and I didn't really get it. But then I watched [Inside Man](#), and I enjoyed it. I then saw [Book of Eli](#) in the theaters, which I really liked a lot, and it's become one of my husband's favorite movies of all time.

Last night we watched the 1998 movie [Fallen](#), also starring Denzel, and it was one of the best crime-thrillers I've seen in a long time. As usual with these types of movies, I hesitate saying too much because I don't want to ruin anything for anyone. Let's just say that I highly recommend *Fallen*; especially if you like the genre; especially if you like Denzel. Always intriguing; at times it was genuinely creepy, though never gory, and most importantly, it did not leave the audience distracted with guessing possible twists – just a good crime drama which left one waiting to see what unfolds next. John Goodman, James Gandolfini, and Donald Sutherland all provide excellent performances rounding out the acting roster. At one point, there was an expression on Denzel Washington's face that was utterly perfect for the circumstance at hand, and that's when I realized that I was starting to become a fan of his acting. If you would have asked me before today who my favorite movie actor is, I would have said Tom Hanks. I loved *Forrest Gump*, *Splash*, *League of Their Own* and *Toy Story*, and I thoroughly enjoyed a host of

other Hanks films: The Terminal, Castaway, and Big just to name a few. Hanks' diversity, comedic abilities, and every-man qualities make him fun to watch. So after thinking about all these great movies again, I guess I would still maintain Tom Hanks as my favorite movie actor, but because I judge movies more from a whole-picture perspective, Denzel's films are starting to catch my eye – he knows how to pick 'em!

I've seen Bone Collector (push-knob car locks have never been the same), but it's been a long time, and I don't remember much about the movie except that I liked it (and those darn push-knob car locks). So now, being a Denzel Washington fan, I will have to watch Bone Collector again.

So the point of this post is? See Fallen – it's good. And we have SO broken the stinker movie trend around here. Hallelujah!! And thank you Denzel!

The Night Listener Returns

Regular readers of my blog know that I thought [The Night Listener](#) was a terrible movie. It stars Robin Williams as a radio show host who... you know what, I don't even remember. For a plot synopsis, click on the link above. I was actually surprised that an A-list actor like Robin Williams would do such an awful movie as The Night Listener, but he did. After sitting through a movie like The Night Listener, my husband and I are weary of Robin Williams. However, 3 of our friends and fellow tangents.org authors all agreed that August Rush is a good movie, so we checked it out. And you'll notice that the title of this post is called, "The Night Listener Returns", so uh-oh. But that was more of a joke, and now I've explained it, so let's get on with my review of August Rush.

Not nearly as bad as the Night Listener; I wouldn't even call [August Rush](#) a bad movie. At the very least, it was really refreshing to see a movie whose target audience was over the age of 18 that was absent any filth whatsoever. August Rush is a cute story, but I think the movie could have been done a heck of a lot better in some ways. The tale follows the life of a young orphan, an almost magical boy, named Evan Taylor as he "follows the music" to find his real parents. There were a few circumstances and events in the movie that weren't believable in any shape or form, and even if you suspended your disbelief, the cheesiness of other aspects of the movie was annoying. The storyline is intriguing, and the acting is not bad, but there are a few things that would have to change about August Rush in order for me to consider it a great film. To name just a couple of those things, I couldn't get over the fact that this entire love story is based upon a one-night stand. Tactfully done – as I said, there isn't any filth in this PG rated movie, but still, knowing it's true love after just a one-night stand? Come on! And, I guess you'll have to see the movie to appreciate this, but would an abandoned theater really still have its electricity working? Doubtful. Like I said, just a few examples of what I perceived to be holes in the plot, but there are other things about the movie that could have easily been changed, improving the film's quality. Doing so would add much enjoyment and just plain common sense to this movie. And Robin Williams was not the shining star in August Rush either; that was left for Freddie Highmore who played Evan – he was also wonderful playing twins in the great movie [The Spiderwick Chronicles](#) – another highly recommended flick. Williams seemed almost annoying in his role as a musical outlaw with his multiple piercings and goatee. I flip-flopped between deciding if his character "Wizard" was a good guy or a bad guy. Maybe that was the point, I'm not even sure.

The actor who played Buford Benjamin Blue (Bubba) in Forrest Gump played a preacher in August Rush, so I was wondering if

the line, “Run August run!” was a reference to the extremely famous line, “Run Forrest run!” from the Oscar-winning film based upon the Winston Groom novel, one of my favorite movies (one that **I** highly recommend). Or maybe it was the filmmakers’ way of laughing at us for even thinking of an awesome movie like [Forrest Gump](#) during August Rush. Ok, it wasn’t that bad... I did appreciate the sentiment. But my lack of suspension of disbelief just got in the way of me getting swept into the magic of the movie, I guess.

Sorry for those who disagree with me, but I’m still glad you recommended the movie; it was definitely worth a screening – thanks!

Gump in Iraq

In my previous post, I touched on “Where are they now?” when it comes to celebrities. I read an interesting article the other day about the “kid” who played young Forrest in [Forrest Gump](#), one of my favorite movies. [Michael Conner Humphreys](#) is now a 23-year-old young man who is currently serving in the army like Forrest Gump did in the movie, ironically enough. Another twist of irony – in the movie, a young undiscovered Elvis Presley teaches young Forrest how to dance, and Michael Conner Humphreys served in the same place that Elvis did in Germany when he was in the army! Humphreys joined the U.S. Army in 2005 and is currently an infantryman assigned to a tank battalion and is known by the nickname Gump. After a year deployed to Iraq in its dangerous Anbar Province, Humphreys was transferred to Fort Riley, Kansas. He will leave the Army when his enlistment ends on June 4, 2008, and has already landed a part in an upcoming World War II film, *Pathfinder*. It’s nice to see a former child actor making a

good name for himself.

The Island of Dr. Moreau

No, I'm not talking about the movie [The Island of Dr. Moreau](#)... Many people thought it was awful, but I actually liked that movie, last time I saw it anyway over a decade ago. Scared the heck out of me though; I saw it in college and had to walk home from my friends' dorm all by myself late at night afterwards... I was so freaked out that I ran all the way home, prompting some other college-aged jerks to jeer at me, "Run Forrest, Run!" See what they did there? That's a reference to the great movie, [Forrest Gump](#). Clever kids, weren't they? I will have to try that Dr. Moreau movie again; even though I bet nowadays the special effects would appear outdated and it would just be dumb, but I'm not about to try it any time soon with all the nightmares I've been having...

Anyway, I was just looking for a way to tie in my latest activities, that's why I called the post The Island of Dr. Moreau. I went to the Dr. today, and watched the movie called [The Island](#) last night. The Dr. visit was routine... but I do have to mention how I just sat there waiting for the Dr. to come in with nothing to do but stare at the walls because after reading the CNN article called "Don't Let a Hospital Kill You", I was too afraid to touch any magazines in the Dr.'s office. See one of my previous posts of that title if you would like to experience the same paranoia. Dr. told me we're going to induce me a week before my due date because I have large babies... thank goodness for that, except that I'm ready NOW – do we really have to wait until July?!?

Now for the movie... The Island is a sci-fi movie about a

factory that manufactures humans. It is set in the future – but not too far in the future, 2015 or something like that – there are monorails, flying motorcycles, and human clones aplenty. It's funny how in one scene, they thought they were being clever by showing gas prices to be over \$4 / gallon, but I guess our 2008 society is a bit ahead of them, not in a good way either ☐

So anyway, in *The Island*, the general public is under the impression that their “insurance policies” – as the clones are known – are simply organisms being grown for spare parts and will remain in a vegetative state. The “insurance policies” however, are living, breathing, thinking, feeling humans who are housed in a self-contained facility within the factory. They live from day to day with the hope of winning “the lottery”, which will send them to “the island” – supposedly a place of bliss where they will live happily ever after. [Ewan McGregor](#)'s character accidentally finds out however, that winning the lottery is fatal, and “the island” is really what happens when a customer needs their insurance policy – ie, the clone is killed for its spare parts. I'm not normally a fan of sci-fi, but this movie has a very interesting premise that doesn't go too over the top, and I enjoyed it. Without giving too much away, I would trade a scene in the middle (too cheesy!) for 2 at the end – scenes I thought should be added with things I'd like to see in the movie... if you see or have seen the movie, I'll tell you what I mean. But I did like it, and like I said, I am not normally a fan of sci-fi, so I would recommend this one to sci-fi fans or action movie enthusiasts.

There's An Awful Lot You Can Tell About a Person By Their Shoes...

Where they're going. Where they've been. I've worn lots of shoes. I bet if I think about it real hard I could remember my first pair of shoes... – FORREST GUMP

The preceding quote comes to mind because Disney, our youngest-for-now, got her first pair of shoes yesterday! She loves them! She always asks to wear them, even if it's just for around the house. But she always ends up just wearing one somehow and losing the other, so I wonder what Forrest Gump would think of that? At first when she got them on, she just stood there, as if locked in cement. Her big sister Taylor helped her learn to walk in them – it was adorable. She was so patient with her without doing too much for her and giving in by picking her up. Finally, Disney learned to walk in her new shoes and loves them. Pretty soon she'll be running around in her new shoes with me waddling behind her trying to keep up!

Seeing her “stuck” there when she thought she couldn't walk reminded me of my other daughter Samantha, who is now almost 4. When Sammie was learning to walk, it was summertime, and she was wearing sandals, so she'd be walking, walking, then as soon as she hit the grass – STOP! And she'd be stuck there too, just like Disney was in her new shoes. It's strange how learning to walk is such a huge new experience, yet I've never met anyone who remembers going through it... I think it's much more fun being on the parent side, this time around, but then again, I can't really name an experience that isn't!