

Alpha Dog

Saw the movie [Alpha Dog](#) last night. It wasn't really my kind of movie, and the only reason I really enjoyed it is because it's based on a true story... and unlike many movies which claim to be based upon true stories, this one was actually pretty accurate.

It's about a spoiled rich kid named Johnny Truelove (based upon the real-life story of Jesse James Hollywood which is his real name, believe it or not) who is a drug dealer but because of his small size and tremendous influence, entices his friends to do his bidding for him. A former childhood friend of his owes him money for drugs, and they are now enemies because of this and some other incidents. So, Johnny happens across his nemesis' younger brother, and he kidnaps him for ransom of the drug money owed. Something goes awry, and the innocent teenager ends up dead, and after four years on the run and a few appearances on America's Most Wanted, Truelove/Hollywood is captured and now awaiting trial.

So-so action movie, lots of violence and graphic language, especially from the mouth of Justin Timberlake who is surprisingly not a bad actor. But I cringe for the little girls and their parents if there are any who watched this movie just because he was in it because some of the things that came out of his mouth... whew!

And both my husband and I found it hard to believe that there is this kind of culture going on, whether in California or elsewhere, where entire families are caught up in the drug culture, parents and kids alike. At one point in the movie, a teenage girl goes to her mom for help because she is upset about the kidnapped "stolen boy" as they call him, and the mother turns her away, saying that she is x-ing (on the drug ecstasy) right now and can't even understand what she's saying if she wanted to. Does this really happen? Probably... but

it's probably not as widespread or as well-masked as this film would have you believe.

Hubby and I agreed that the movie was entertaining, but it wouldn't be a re-watcher for us. And the only reason either one of us really enjoyed it is because it was so closely based on the true crime story what happened to the innocent 15-year-old victim Nick Markowitz.

Gone Baby Gone

Saw the movie *Gone Baby Gone* the other night... Had a free rental at the video store; every once in awhile they call and give us one... but I hate standing there forever trying to choose a good movie! So we had *Saw IV* in hand, and my husband's like, you know, we really haven't liked the last 2 *Saw*'s all that much, compared to the first one. So I said yeah, and I saw *Gone Baby Gone*, and since I'd heard it was supposed to be good, we went with it. Besides, it got Oscar nominated, and I always like to be in on Oscar buzz... Not my kind of movie. Not that it was bad, but just a lot of dialogue and violence... not my kind of movie. It was entertaining, and I appreciated the twists and turns without seeing them coming, though I can't say the same for Hubby. We like to give movies we watch our own *imdb* (internet movie database – cool site!) ratings, so I gave this one a 6.2. Hubby gave it a 4. 2. I appreciated the movie for what it was, and I can't say much more without spoilers, so I won't. The bottom line is, if you like violent crime dramas with intense dialogue, this movie is for you. I personally have trouble following movies where they talk about a bunch of characters and the audience is expected to keep them all straight, but that's just me. A few plot inconsistencies, but

my rating was kinda high because I did appreciate the complexity of the plot, even if it was a bit difficult for me to follow at times... so to quote one of my favorite movies, That's all I have to say about that.