

American Psycho Hellboy... Never Mind

We managed to fit in some movie watching this week while the kids are with Grandma, and I was attempting to put them all together in a clever blog post title, but it wasn't to be. Probably my lack of sleep with the new baby and my recovery process has inhibited my creativity. I hope to be back in full swing soon, but it will probably take a few months, especially because once I'm feeling better, I have lots of stuff around the house I need to catch up on and as much as I would like blog posting to come first, it doesn't. As people keep reminding me oh so helpfully, a c-section is major surgery ☹ Don't I know it.

So the 3 movies we saw this week are Hellboy 2, American Psycho, and Fortress.

I did not like [Hellboy 2](#). I actually would have left the theater, but I never got around to asking my husband if he wanted to and that was a good thing because he liked the movie. It gave me a good laugh when we were walking out of the theater and he told me he liked it because we always have the same taste in movies and I really didn't like this one. That also means I don't have much to say about it except that the Abe fish-like character reminds me of C3PO from Star Wars, and I can't believe the actor who plays Hellboy, [Ron Perlman](#), was also Vincent the Beast in the old [Beauty and the Beast tv show](#) from the 80's with [Linda Hamilton](#). I thought he was going to be some Andre the Giant huge guy wrestler type, but it turns out, he is just a regular actor. I suppose my impatience with this movie had to do with the fact that my infection flared up and I was raging with fever yet again in the movie theater. So even though I felt crappy and wanted to leave, I could not pass up a night out with hubby while the kids were away. Even if it was to see Hellboy 2... I'm just

glad one of us enjoyed the movie.

Next up is a movie from the early 90's called [Fortress](#). It's set in the future – and it's always fun to see what people thought the future would be like when the movie was made over a decade ago – and revolves around a corporate owned underground prison (think Walmart does Alcatraz). The main characters are sent there when they break the “one child per couple” rule. They had lost their first child, and now they've been caught trying to have another, so they are both sent to prison, even though she is pregnant. This is a fun action-packed movie. When I looked it up on [imdb.com](#) after we watched it, I learned that it is actually a kind of cult classic movie and there are actually multiple endings. Our version was the less happy of the endings, but I still liked the movie. It's kind of violent for early 90's, and if you look it up on [imdb.com](#), don't let the keywords fool you. Let's put it this way, if I had seen the keywords first, I wouldn't have watched this movie, but in retrospect, I don't think there was really much adult stuff in it – just violence and gore, but they didn't overdo it like they do in some movies nowadays, like the Saw movies for instance. [American Psycho](#) on the other hand...

I will start by saying that [Christian Bale](#) was excellent in this movie. I wasn't so impressed by him when he was Batman in [The Dark Knight](#), but he definitely shows versatility and depth in this movie. He plays a Wall Street executive who is just about as big a jerk as one can be. Also, he has blood lust and likes to kill people in his spare time. The movie is very strange for reasons I can't quite put my finger on. For one, I was confused about what the movie was trying to be. I guess it's just a story about this man, an American Psycho. But at times throughout the movie, the music was strange, and it just didn't play like a normal movie. And then there were the constant 80's references. I guess it was supposed to take place in the 1980's, given the characters' huge cordless

phones and constant talk of musical artists such as Phil Collins, Huey Lewis, and Whitney Houston. Why they would change the time period of the movie, I don't know, but they did a good job because if [Reese Witherspoon](#) (who is about my age and would have been a kid in the '80's) wasn't in it, I would have been convinced the movie was actually filmed in the '80's. And I have to say the end confused me a lot. I won't say more because I don't want to spoil anything, but if anyone who reads this has seen this movie, maybe you can answer a question I have. I don't think I'd recommend this movie since there are many disturbing scenes and it didn't seem worth it to me to sit thru them for what you get from the rest of the movie. I don't think I'm going to put it on my list of baddies however, but then again, Hellboy 2 isn't going on there either. Just 2 movies I didn't really like and wouldn't see again, but I don't feel like I wasted my time watching either of them, and that's always a good thing.

Movies

Since my blogging friends are big movie buffs, I thought I would mention a couple of movies that I have watched recently. While they likely saw them in the theater when released, I of course watched them on DVD which provide nice extras in the form of deleted scenes and such. Recently I checked out from the library called [The Transporter](#). This movie was about a professional driver named Frank Martin (played by Jason Statham, someone I had never heard about before this movie), and I don't mean racing. This driver works for whoever needs him, no questions asked. He is organized to a fault and has a strict code, or set of rules he follows. When I say organized to a fault I mean he has spare suits neatly folded and wrapped in the trunk of his car for

those occasions where someone tries to off him and messes up his clothes. Of course, he is well versed in the martial arts and can hold his own against over half a dozen opponents at once though with his normal GQ demeanor you would never guess until the first roundhouse.

At the start of this movie you find him making a transaction on the phone and then he is off on business, precisely on time. He stops in front of a bank, the alarms go off, and the clients run out the bank to his car. Only there's a slight problem- the clients have suddenly changed the negotiated terms and that just won't do. No leaving until things are settled, Frank's way of course. Never mind the sirens getting closer and closer as he refuses to leave until the terms are met. Once they are about to be busted, they settle things, Frank starts his car, and they are off on a chase that involves a lot of destruction and closeups of him changing gears. When the dust finally settles, the pursuit has been shaken and his obligation met and paid for (the precise amount- see the movie for what I mean) he heads home, calmly changes the license plates on his car with one of several backups and walks in, eventually joined by an inspector who noticed Frank's car happened to match the description of the getaway vehicle. If only the plates matched...

Anyway, soon he is off on his next assignment. On it, he happens to break one of his own rules and the movie takes off from there. Lots of action in this movie as you can imagine. I recommend it to action buffs.

I didn't realize there was a sequel to this movie until just last week when I saw [Transporter 2](#) at the library (can you tell where I get the majority of movies I watch? ☹) just waiting for me to snatch it up. I just watched it the other day and it was every bit as action-packed and entertaining as the first. This time, however, the transportation job he has is a bit more legit. Once he takes care of some would-be car-jackers at the beginning, he straightens up his clothing,

complains about being off schedule, and heads off. Of course he is precisely on time when he arrives, meaning he must have made up for the time on his way. Eventually, he learns the hard way eventually that his clients are the target of someone who is not too happy with the work one of them is doing in cleaning up crime. Long story short, Frank becomes the victim of something more than his own misdeeds and is falsely accused of being involved, a big chase scene occurs, and Frank is left to his own to take care of the real criminals and clear his name. The inspector (played by [François Berléand](#) who has a very long resumé at IMDB) is back, this time on vacation at Frank's place, getting caught up in the middle. In both movies he is an invaluable resource for Frank helping him get things taken care of.

In any event, again I highly recommend these movies for those interested in action flicks. Transporter 3 is due out in November of this year and I will probably be seeing it in the theater instead of waiting for the DVD. For those who know me, that's a recommendation in itself. ☐

Off to see a movie...

I'm heading out to see a movie this evening (got to get the early show price). I'm going to see something I haven't seen in years a 3D movie, complete with cardboard glasses. I hope we get to keep them, because I need some 3D glasses to see some stuff from NASA. I think they need the red/blue glasses, not the polarized lens glasses, so I'm hoping it is a red/blue thing...

Anyway this post is a preview of my review. I haven't been impressed with the previews to this movie. It looks like

another of those take a book and lets ruin it type. But I'll find out more when I get there. I think the 3D is going to make or break the movie. If it works well it may make it, if it doesn't it will be a flop.

Just my early take based on previous trailers...

Well, just got back from the movie, dinner, putt-putt and ice cream. I'll have to say I was pleasantly surprised with the movie. Apparently the producers realized that a this book needed a different treatment. Instead of completely forgetting the book, the new and intrepid explorers are actually re-investigating the book. With this take, I didn't care that it wasn't following the book at all. Just new characters following the same journey.

I can't comment on the 3D, since the theater I went to did not have the equipment to show it in 3D. It was a decent comedy/adventure. Brendan Fraser again does a very good job with this type of movie. The special effects outside of 3D weren't too bad either. They kept the "Center of the Earth" fairly dark, and this always seems to help blend in the special effects. The characters all seemed to interact very well together. I'm not sure I will need to find a 3D capable movie theater, but if the TV version is 3D, I may rent it.

So there you go. I recommend seeing it, but you may want to hit the early shows.

Movies

Well, yesterday I finally had a chance to see Indiana Jones 4. Since all who read this blog have already seen it I won't say too much about it and I may also feel free to mention

possible spoilers. Anyway, it's been a long time since I saw the first three but I had no trouble at all getting into this one. I had to remind myself that this whole series is meant to be a parody of old time action serials and all of their improbable problems and solutions. A couple of my favorite parts were first when Indy and company have just escaped the commie's camp thanks to a quick action by Mutt (the bait to get the younger crowd to see the movie if they didn't already want to see it) and Indy and Marion get trapped in the sand (not quicksand- what did they call it?) pit. Mutt gets sent to find a rope or something and the confused Ox goes to get help. Mutt comes back, throws what he found, Marion climbs out. He throws it again and we then see that whoops! It's not a rope... Once Indy finds his nerve and allows himself to be rescued, here comes Ox back with, um, help... Well just where did Indy think Ox would find the help anyway?

Another favorite part was when they were on the amphibious vehicles and they run off the cliff into... a really long tree branch sticking out from the cliff. Down, down, down goes the branch from the weight until gravity takes over and the vehicle slides off and into the water. The branch of course does what a branch does when it's pulled and suddenly released, causing a really bad day for some of Col. Dr. Spalko's militia who have been climbing down said cliff.

This isn't to say these were the only good parts- I thoroughly enjoyed the entire movie. All the action parodies from the bullets that never hit Indy and co., the nuclear bomb test, the giant ants (which made me think of those evil little bugs from the Mummy), the Soviet's path making machine which strangely seemed to create long paths *ahead* of it which they all used after the machine was destroyed. etc.

Speaking of movies, there is this really cool science film I found from another site. The narrator could use some lessons on how not to speak in monotone, but the visuals are really cool. They actually make visible magnetic fields. My

description is pretty poor I know- just watch it, you'll see.

Magnetic Movie

This and that with other things in mind

A somewhat mindless post of things I'm thinking about.

Took my youngest to a movie and to play putt-putt. I always enjoyed the time I could spend with my daughters. I'm sure they're getting a skewed view on life without their mother in it, but that is what it is. They get this skewed view, because my view is somewhat skewed. Not doing as well as I would like on putt-putt. On the little course closest to us, I have made a hole-in-one on all 18 holes. I should be able to get 2 on each and everyone of them. I get a little down when I get 3's on some of the holes. Most of the time I don't keep the putter down.

Stopped at a Coldstone Creamery. Wonderful stuff. Ice Cream, Sorbet mixed with stuff right in front of your eyes. It is very good ice cream.

A fourth of July weekend is in front of me. It is nice to get an extra day off of work. I'm looking forward to spending time with family and friends this weekend. Happy Birthday wishes to my oldest sister on the 4th. Never did get to put the sparklers on her cake instead of candles.

Tigers are on the radio right now. I don't have cable, so I don't get to watch much ball on TV, but Gameday on the Computer, and a radio near me, works well. Tigers are winning

in the 7th.

I need to take the time this weekend to do the things I wasn't doing during the time my daughter was in "Little Women". I wouldn't trade that time for anything, but I need to do more around here.

I saw a movie trailer today. It looks like they are making a remake of a wonderful Science Fiction Classic. A new "The Day the Earth Stood Still" is coming to the big screen again. This was a classic, and from the trailer, I think they found a way to ruin it. I'm planning on going just so I can really rag on the film. You are warned. Normally I don't get preconceived ideas about movies, but this was a wonderful short story, a very good movie (classic in my mind), and it will now become a standard Hollywood space invasion movie... Grrr.

I'm waiting for the new Batman movie. One of the favorite comic characters, because he is a normal person. He was also a troubled hero. It makes the comic book a little more real when the hero has normal problems.

Should be a good 4th tomorrow. Getting together with friends for food and socializing, maybe some fireworks.

I need to try to schedule some additional time off work. It may be tough since we are in the middle of a major software change. Maybe I can get 1 day off a week for the rest of the summer.

That should be about it, for now

Tigers still ahead in the 8th.

Hancock a different kind of superhero

This show has already be hit hard by the critics. Again it was one I thought looked interesting in the reviews. It was almost exactly what I was expecting. There was a surprise or two in the movie, that I will not give away here.

Anyway the basic story is a superhero with a drinking problem. Like superman he can fly, is very strong, and bullets don't seem to hurt him. He tends to do more destruction than most superheroes and is not in good favor of the city officials. In fact there is a warrant for his arrest.

He does save a struggling ad man who decides to revamp his image. I liked the struggle Hancock had with his personal problems. Even though he was physically superior to normal humans, his emotional levels are not up to normal human par. A good portion of the movie is dealing with this emotional problems, and this did make it slow at times , but I did like that part After Hancock works through his problems, the movie takes off again. And into the couple of surprises I mentioned.

Anyway I think for adults this is just a fun movie. It really won't get you thinking, it is way to spend an afternoon or evening. There is some adult humor, and some violence. The main character is a drunk at the beginning of the movie, so that may be a factor in your viewing pleasure.

So all in all it is a good movie, not up to par with the best superhero movies, but definitely well above the worst. If you don't go into it looking for too much, you may have as much fun as I did.

The surprise plot twists are also interesting.

Indiana Jones and me.

In June of 1981, just after I graduated from College, Raiders of the Lost Ark was released in theaters. At that time video rental and purchasing was in its infancy. Machines were expensive, and there were the "format wars". So the movies in the theaters ran much longer than they do now, and they were often in cheap theaters for years after the initial release. I saw Raiders with friends during the summer of 1981 multiple times, and I eventually saw it with my future wife in 1983. It was a fun movie.

In 1984, The Temple of Doom was released. I was able to see that movie in theaters as a newlywed. While we liked the movie, the dark atmosphere of the second Indiana Jones left us wanting the first movie again. Finally the price of VCRs became more reasonable, and Raiders of the Lost Ark was the one we added to our collection. After it was released to Video, we also added the Last Crusade. It wasn't until 2004 that I added the Temple of Doom to my collection.

This spring the fourth installment of the Indiana Jones movies was released. It marked the first Indiana Jones movie I did not see with my wife. Being a widower made that impossible. Still, I went with the two daughters still living at home. I went in a partial Indiana Jones costume. At the movie I wore my hat, my brown pants and beige shirt. It was too warm for my leather jacket. And only a few noticed. But with the audience, I'm sure most weren't seeing movies at the time the last movie hit theaters.

Some time early in my marriage, my wife and I were shopping and we stopped in a small store in the local mall. There was a felt Fedora. My wife thought it looked good on me, so she

bought it for me. She called it my Indiana Jones hat. It was just the thing to take on our vacations. I had that hat for years, until I left it in a coffee shop, one time too many. I hope whoever picked it up enjoyed it. After that I found a much cheaper version of the hat, since I was sure I would misplace it again. And I used that hat for a few years. 2 Christmases ago, my four daughters pitched in to buy me an official Indiana Jones fedora. I was very touched that they would do that. So if you check my 'About' page, you will see a picture of me in that hat.

At times I wish I could have been the adventurer that Indiana Jones was. Searching for lost artifacts, ancient civilizations sounds like great fun. The more conservative, stay-at-home, take care of the family person almost always won the battle of personalities. When we took trips to more wilderness areas, the adventurer showed his face (and hat). We hiked many a mile through the gorges of SE Ohio, the Black hills and Bad Lands in South Dakota, and even the wilds of amusement parks and zoos. I'll never be that adventuring soul, except in the inner reaches of the mind.

That's about it for Indiana Jones and me, until the last movie is release on video. It will be added to my collection. Maybe by that time, I'll be able to get the whip, and a more authentic leather jacket.

Books as Movies

I've been writing a lot about all of the comic book movies I've seen, but not to often about books that became movies. This may be a on going series in books that eventually became movies. I was talking with [one of the other bloggers around](#)

[here](#), and something brought this up. (Old age is creeping up on me, so I can't remember what it was.)

Anyway, I started complaining about good books and stories that became rotten movies. I understand the reasoning behind the changes script writers make when converting a book/story to a movie. Some things flow better in words, than they do on screen. Somethings needed for a good movie are missing from the book. Two different media, so it makes sense that some changes would be made.

The first on my list is a story by one of my favorite authors, Isaac Asimov. The story was "Nightfall". A classic science fiction tale about a planet that never had night. With many suns in its skies, true darkness came on very rare occasions. The story was how the people reacted to the up coming event, and the effect it had on them. It was a very gripping story, that I thought would make a good movie. I didn't get to see it when it was in the theaters, and only saw it many years later on video. Let's put it this way I wasted money renting it from a library.

They forgot to change the names to protect the innocent. I can understand why it took years before another Asimov story became a movie.

Now it has been years since I've seen that movie, and I'm not sure if anything could cause me to see it again, but here are a few things I remember.

1) Terrible acting. David Birney was the lead character, and he as stiff and boring. The rest of the cast made no impression on me at all. I remember the lead because he was sooo.. bad.

2) Constant looking at the Suns/Sky with freaky music and video effects. Once would have done enough, but over and over again???

3)They advertised this as "Isaac Asimov's Nightfall" I think

he gave permission, and they used the character names and book title. Everything else had nothing to do with the original story.

4) The sets and locations for the movie just bit dust.

5) It was 83 minutes too long.

6) I kept thinking it would get better, it never did...

If you want some real fun, read the reviews on [IMDB](#). I've spent too much time on this already.

Remake of a movie

Every once in a while a remake is made of a movie. Most of the time it is because the first movie was very good, and they think the remake will be as good. Such movies that come to my mind are "The Thomas Crown Affair" ([1999](#) and [1968](#)) and "Oceans Eleven" ([2001](#) and [1960](#)). Today I saw a remake of an different sort. One that was made because the first movie wasn't everything it could be. Today I saw "The Incredible Hulk" ([2008](#)).

I'm going to try very hard not to give any big spoilers, I won't tell you the end or anything about the big battle we all know the HULK movie should have. I just want to talk about what was done right this time. The original HULK movie was one I barely mention that I saw. From somebody who really likes comic book movies (see other posts – shameless plug for my own writing), The first Hulk really does not exist for me other than a bad dream.

So what did the 2008 version of the HULK have? Let's start with the most important need of any movie. It had a very good story line and plot. The action of the plot drove the characters. The characters seemed to react and not act. All

the characters, from the leads to the cameos and the supporting to the CGI actors were believable. Could I tell it was a CGI character, sure, but that did not detract from the movie (Its about a comic book, should that really make a difference?) But the CGI characters were believable. They had expression and enough realism to be considered as other parts of the story. This had a lot to do with the quality of the story in addition to the quality of the actors.

Now on to the characters. I've seen most of the main characters in at least one other movie. Some of these movies were very memorable. I didn't see those characters in this movie. Again this is one of my best compliments to actors and writers. I don't want to see an Elf princess as a respected scientist, love interest in a movie that has no elves. I don't want to see an illusionist as a studious scientist either. I didn't see that. They became their characters, and the story drove them, or they drove the story. This would have been a good movie even if the comic never existed.

My rating -- This will be one I see again in the expensive (stadium seating) theater. That, of course, means the DVD will join my collection.

Slight spoilers... Things I liked because I liked the campy TV show... And I like comics

Bruce Banner's eyes when he changes to the Hulk look very similar to the old TV show.

The lab equipment that is used to create the Hulk also looks a lot like the old TV show.

At the beginning of the movie, Bruce Banner is watching TV, a clip from the old Bill Bixby TV show "The Courtship of Eddie's Father" is on.

Bruce Banner using the line or trying "You won't like me when

I'm angry"

Lou Ferrigno's cameo and his being the Voice of the Hulk.

Stan Lee's Cameo.

Tony Stark showing up during the movie.

The super soldier serum from WWII is mentioned.

There were others, but I can't remember them now.

Thinking about thinking

I've been reflecting this evening about the things I think about. While watching Jeopardy, I noticed (again) there are some subjects I'm very good at, others (opera, actors/actresses, TV shows) I'm not as good at. If you do specific actors, If I like them I will know most of there works, if I don't well none of it sinks in even if they are in one or more of my favorite shows.

Anyway, I was trying to determine what type of information that takes root in this brain of mine. Computer stuff, most of the time. Math— well it used to, some is still there. Science— A lot, mainly the physical sciences (Earth Sciences, Astronomy, Physics, some Chemistry). Things dealing with logic (math/word puzzles). Politics, current and some historical. Some history, geography. Comic book heroes, well some of them anyway. Science Fiction and Fantasy books I've read (short list, I don't read everything). Some movie trivia (mainly Disney, Lord Of the Rings, Star Wars, Star Trek, Comic Book Movies, Harrison Ford movies, Mysteries, some comedies). Word play (taking and twisting words/meanings for fun). Some things of religious nature, especially the odd and frequently outside

of common knowledge stuff.

Things that don't take root. Anything about TV sitcoms (exceptions Mash, Barney Miller). TV shows in general (I don't pay attention to much on TV anymore). Theater/Movies/Plays/Opera (except as noted above, or I've been in a specific show). Musical Groups/artists and Song titles. Artists and their work with a very few exceptions (I know the common stuff, who painted the Mona Lisa or the Sistine Chapel). Spelling/grammar (who knows, who cares sort of thing).

Other than that things come and go in my knowledge base quite frequently. If I've been playing Trivia games, I tend to keep trivia in my head. If I'm working on an intense project at work, that information needed there is front and center. Discussing Politics frequently, well that information becomes available.

Somethings stay in my head all the time. I can tell you when each daughter was born (it may take a second or two). I can tell you the day and time I proposed to my wife. I never forgot an anniversary. I remember the birthday of my first crush. I know what my last words to my wife were, I know hers to me, and her last words (that weren't to me).

It seems like sometimes there shouldn't be much room for anything else in my head. I do tend to keep some information that is no longer needed (Do I really need to remember the favorite color of a girl I dated in 1981?). Some I wish I would have remembered better (sending things in the mail at the right time). If I could only figure out how to store and keep the information I want/need and get rid or archive the information I don't need/want. If I could figure that out I could write a book and retire...