

Christmas With The Kranks

Ok, going in, I knew it would be a terrible movie. When [Christmas With The Kranks](#) came out in the movie theater, it was met with terrible reviews from critics, and its imdb.com rating is a measley 4.7 with over 7,000 votes. So why did I want to watch it? Two reasons – I wanted to watch a Christmas movie on Christmas Eve, and I had read *Surviving Christmas* – one of the rare John Grisham books that isn't legal fiction, "Surviving Christmas" months ago – I always like to see books come to life on the screen. Well, ok, not always... because Christmas With The Kranks was simply awful – even worse than I thought.

The story is about a couple of empty-nesters who decide to skip Christmas since their daughter will be out of town. They plan to take a tropical cruise and go about getting fake tans and whatnot to prepare for their unconventional holiday celebration. Not such a big deal, you'd think. Except that the Krank's live on a street that is famous for their Christmas decorations. Every house is expected to put a Frosty the Snowman decoration on their roof every year, and so when the Kranks are preparing to leave town without doing so, the neighborhood is abuzz. That's it.

The novel was alright; it was a fun little story, and although it wasn't one of the best books, I did get all the way through it. But I can't say the same about the movie. We turned it off in the middle and I can't say I missed the rest. My main problem with it was the casting of Tim Allen as Luther Krank. While reading the book, I kept picturing Luther as a crabby senior citizen, but Tim Allen made Luther more angry than crabby. In the novel, John Grisham does a nice job setting scene of a small, close-knit community, but all that is lost in the movie, especially with Tim Allen involved. I was shocked to read on imdb.com that John Grisham has casting approval rights for movies based on his novels. Maybe that

was established *because* of Christmas With The Kranks. Well anyway, that's enough time wasted on this movie. From what I hear, it's not the best example of a John Grisham book, but worth a try, I suppose, if you have lots of spare time and like to read. On the other hand, I wouldn't recommend the movie to anyone.

An Odd House Call

Everyone knows that most famous people do not become so overnight. In fact, the majority of today's stars led everyday lives and some of them probably wished that they had. Here is but a sampling of the "odd jobs" and other highlights of some famous people.

[Dan Aykroyd](#) and Steve Carell both worked for the postal service.

[Jennifer Aniston](#) was a telemarketer.

[Warren Beatty](#) was a rat catcher.

[Lucille Ball](#) was fired from an ice cream parlor for not putting bananas in a banana split.

[Boy George](#) (of the 80s group Culture Club who created the Broadway flop musical *Taboo*) was fired from a supermarket for wearing the store's bags.

Finally in the 1970s, [Tim Allen](#) (in the would rather forget category) spent two years in prison for dealing cocaine.

My personal favorite odd job of the stars would be for Academy Award winner [Whoopi Goldberg](#). Apparently, the Whoopster was a mortuary cosmetologist before she became a stand-up

comedienne. The thought of going into a funeral parlor to beautify a dead body seems strange at best. However, my mother who is a beautician herself has visited our local mortuary on several occasions for just that reason. She also has a standing appointment for several of her more mature patrons... talk about making house calls. Apparently, they want no one else touching their hair as they make their way into the great beauty parlor in the sky.

To learn more about other stars before they made it big visit this site:

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