

2013

**The KnightWatcher's Film
Reviews**



The KnightWatcher's FILM REVIEWS 2013 edition



Hi! I'm Bob Brown (AKA The KnightWatcher). A big welcome to all you fellow film lovers to the 2013 edition of my film reviews.

All of these reviews have previously been published on LoveFilm under my Lovefilm name of the KnightWatcher and on my Facebook page -Bob Brown's Film Lovers Group.

These film reviews are also published on my website , <http://www.movieandfilmreviews.co.uk> which you are encouraged to visit.

My interest in films has confirmed that when it comes to films 'One man's meat is another's poison'. There are no films where everyone agrees that it is brilliant or awful. Everyone has different tastes. And so it is with my ratings. You may find that usually you agree with my rating, or you may find that often you disagree. And therein is the fun and interest. I love to hear other's views and where you disagree that is just as interesting and welcome. It is fun to discuss and debate these things. You will see a table below which defines what my film ratings mean. I will warn you that I mark tough. Often on Lovefilm if someone likes a film they will automatically just give it a 10 but I do not do this. Instead I make careful use of the full range of scores and generally I would consider any film with a score of 4 or above watchable and enjoyable to some extent. So where I have given a film a score between 4 and 7 for example then I liked it and thought it watchable but it is just not a particularly great film; it might just be reasonable, average, good or very good respectably.

If you limit yourself to just great films or those with Oscar nominations or to those which are well known and widely popular then you can miss a lot of perfectly good watchable enjoyable movies. I believe you need to be open minded and sometimes you will discover a hidden gem, or one that just appeals to you personally and be surprised. It is always satisfying to discover an unknown and underrated film.

My favourite genres are, erotic thrillers (especially from the 1990s) and Rom Coms and WWII dramas and so you will find a disproportionate number of these. I like nearly all the genres except I am not really into fantasy action films so e.g. you will not find any reviews of Harry Potter, or Lord Of The Rings or Star Wars here. It is fun sometimes to watch a film when you have absolutely no idea what it is about or the genre in advance.

It is surprising how many films have the same name. The same names are used frequently even within a couple of years. Therefore to identify a film you have to also look at the year. Where I am aware there is more than one film with the same name I have added the year to distinguish the one that I have seen.

The film reviews are arranged in alphabetical order, but this is followed by another list of what I consider the best films and which I have awarded scores of 8, 9 or 10.

As I said above I also publish my film reviews on my Facebook page- Bob Brown's film Lovers Group. I would very much appreciate it if you would visit that page and LIKE it and even better start to add some of your own reviews occasionally to help me make it more active and fun.

Good watching-The KnightWatcher

Definitions of Ratings

Rating	Quality of Film
1	A very poor , awful and painful film with no merit that is probably unwatchable through to the end.
2	A poor just about watchable film that is disappointing and let down by some fundamental weaknesses in plot, and / or credibility, . You may not have made it through to the end.
3	A dull mediocre watchable film with some moments of interest or quality , good in parts, but overall only just so so. You may not have made it through to the end.
4	Watchable, reasonable, adequate, but slightly disappointing film probably let down by low budget feel, predictability, and not particularly memorable or enjoyable.
5	OK watchable average film , enjoyable but let down by some aspects of casting, script, or plot.
6	A good watchable film that is definitely OK but could have been better in places.
7	A very good watchable and enjoyable film .
8	A great film. May be very funny or very moving, or both , or a thriller which holds your interest and with a great plot.
9	A superb and excellent film of great merit and depth, with an excellent cast and script. A film that you would be keen and eager to watch again the following day.
10	A rare exceptional , brilliant and outstanding film of depth, meaning, superb casting, outstanding acting, and credible script. A film that touches your soul, and probably makes you laugh and cry. A film that stays with you in your immediate memory.

For more movie fun and discussion go to :
<http://www.movieandfilmreviews.co.uk>
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Knowing my interest in films people often ask me what do I think are the best ten films ever. This is an extremely difficult question and obviously very controversial. It would be easier perhaps to list twenty! But if forced here is my list of a dozen films to take to a desert island. Sorry I could not get below 12!

Air Force One
Apocalypse Now
Apollo 13
Armageddon
Blade Runner
Casino Royale
Fever Pitch
Parenthood
Saving Private Ryan
Sophies Choice
Terms of Endearment
The Graduate

FILM REVIEWS

Film	Comments and Rating	
Adjustment Bureau (The)	2011 The Matrix meets The Trueman Show. Matt Damon running to be senator of New York but is torn by his love for a girl (Emily Blunt) he is not permitted to have. Their romance is sweet and credible. The ending is hard to predict.	6
Agora	2009 Rachel Weisz is as usual excellent in this Roman / Greek 3 rd century saga about the rise of Religious fundamentalism and the clash with early astro theoretical physics. Brutal in parts. A bit laboured though and not particularly enjoyable.	5
All Good Things	2010 Ryan Gosling. Sad romantic drama mystery. Idyllic marriage turns bad when husband , who was messed up by his childhood, starts working for his father in New York as a cruel landlord. He forces his wife to have an abortion. After his wife , played by Kristen Dunst, goes missing and is no longer in the cast the film is much weaker and the final third is disappointing, a little bizarre and unconvincing. Based on a true story.	6
All Over Me (1997)	1997 drama. Coming of age teenage drama about two girls in a first lesbian relationship but discovering other partners. Sensitively handled with no gratuitous explicit sex. Has all the bleakness of a typical Mike Leigh film set in the USA. Has a lowbudget feel but overall it is a good film , and much better than the typical offering in this genre. It has a credible feel and I do not agree with other reviews that it is predictable. Has an awesome but esoteric score.	6
Almost Famous	2000 Drama. An entertaining and sweet easy watch yarn about a 15 year old boy who somehow infiltrates the 1970s rock scene in the USA and writes reviews for music publications and eventually Rolling Stone. He travels with the band from gig to gig becoming fully accepted and forms a loving relationship with a groupie. It is a somewhat implausible plot but if you can get past that then it is a very watchable good film. The scantily clad young girl used to promote the film belies a film which contains no nudity or sexual content and could have been a U rather than the 15 that it has.	6
American Gangster	2007 Tough violent , hard hitting true story of black drug Mr. Big in New York who brought drugs into the USA from Vietnam concealed in military coffins. Also led to conviction of three quarters of the DEA !	7
American President (The)	1995 Political Drama . Classic political romance. Excellent in parts, and great cast, plot and script	9
American Psycho	2000 Thriller. A good thriller about a rich Wall Street young bull who turns out to be a highly obsessive compulsive psychotic serial killer. This unlikely combination is actually carried off quite competently and convincingly. Has a twist at the end. Not for the squeamish.	7
An Education	2009 drama. School girl has an affair with much older married inveterate playboy. Carey Mulligan is great in this and it is an interesting view of the early 1960s. A great film actually.	8
Analyse That	2002 Comedy. Sequel that should not have been made	4
Analyse This	1999 Comedy. Robert Deniro is superb as a mafia mobster who is having a breakdown and losing his grip. Billy Crystal excellent as his unfortunate psychiatrist. Very funny.	7
Another Country	1984 Good depiction of outrageously privileged pre war elite life at Eton and how it produced a number of homosexual rebel communists who became spies for Russia.	6
Another Woman	1988 Typical Woody Allen. This is a highly acclaimed film but it is not for me. A woman writing a novel in a small flat overhears the consultation sessions of a psychiatrist in the same block through an air vent. The patient is played by Mia Farrow. The emotional pain and angst of the patient make the author reevaluate her own life and she makes some radical changes including leaving her husband. But the acting is poor and the story slow and laborious and the whole film seems to be intellectually pretentious trying to be more than it is.	5
Another Year	2010 . Another Mike Leigh film! It's ok but it is very low key even for a Mike Leigh film . It is very well observed as ever but quite tragic really and severely lacking in any action whatsoever! It is like all his previous films but less dramatic and much more ponderous . Overall-depressing.	5
Anything For Her	2008. French action thriller with sub titles. Wife is wrongly imprisoned for 20 years for a murder she did not commit. Loving husband cannot live without her and takes extreme measures to try to secure her escape. Very good.	7
Apocalypse Now	1979 War drama. Still the benchmark by which other war films should be judged. Outstanding photography, production, score, real horror, and really shows the madness of war, and the drug crazed US army in Vietnam.	10
Apollo 13	1995 Space drama. Tom Hanks stars in this perfect film playing James Lovell. Based on the true events of the ill fated mission to the moon. An unbelievably superb reconstruction and dramatisation of the events leading up to and during this mission. Everybody remembers those immortal words of ' Houston we have a problem'. Superbly acted and highly tense and emotional movie. Impossible to get through without a tear or two running down your cheek from time to time and I have watched this film countless times and it is still as good today as when it was made. Just outstanding from start to finish.	10
Apollo 18	2011. Apollo 13 meets Alien. Rubbish. An appollo-gy for a film.	3
Arbitrage	2012 Strong cast-Susan Sarandon and Richard Gere. Gere plays a hedge fund master of the universe who has cooked his books. Tense drama about will he be discovered. His problems get worse as his life goes into melt down when his mistress is killed in a car he is	6

Film	Comments and Rating	
	<i>driving. Gere is excellent in the role, and the film is competent enough to be worth a watch but somehow does not excel. The plot lines are somehow too familiar, as is Richard Gere playing such roles. It has a feeling of déjà vu throughout.</i>	
<i>Argo</i>	<i>2013 Political Thriller. Argo is a very good political thriller based on true events (1979 Iran hostage crisis) that will keep you on the edge of your seat. Would have scored 8 but does not develop the characters enough. Definitely highly watchable though and can see why it got so many nominations.</i>	7
<i>Arthur Christmas</i>	<i>2011 comedy. Children's movie about high tech Father Christmas and how he covers the entire globe in one night using latest technology. Imaginative, and original. Amusing and harmless fun.</i>	6
<i>Atomised</i>	<i>2006 Erotic tragic psycho drama German with sub titles. Bizarre story of 2 brothers exploring eroticism. One of the brothers is an introverted asexual and frustrates the love of his life, and the other is a totally selfish individual incapable of love but is a slave to his sexual fantasies. This gives the producer an excuse to indulge in his own sexual fantasies at frequent intervals! This is a very heavy highly alternative film that would not appeal to most people. The two brothers are both completely messed up by dysfunctional parents who abandoned them. Tragedy and disaster are never far away for both of them except that the introvert does invent genetic coding on the side! The female partner of the other selfish brother, with whom he participates in sex orgies, becomes crippled, goes mad, and commits suicide!</i>	6
<i>Avatar</i>	<i>2009 Very good but you have to get into it. Maybe watch twice to fully appreciate it. Loaded with spiritual and environmental messages.</i>	7
<i>Awake</i>	<i>2007 Thriller about man who needs a heart transplant but is tricked by girlfriend and the heart surgeon in negligence action scam. Man is awake while the operation is performed. Plot stretches credibility but has good twist at the end.</i>	5
<i>Away from her</i>	<i>2007 Ridiculous film about woman with creeping senility and story of husband leaving her in a home prematurely when she could have stayed home for years longer.</i>	1
<i>Babel</i>	<i>2006 Pretentious but watchable interwoven morality tale of 3 stories linked by boy shooting at tourist bus with his father's rifle in Morocco. Also about a young virgin in Tokyo and a nanny taking children to a wedding in Mexico. Good cast. Kate Blanchet.</i>	5
<i>Babette's Feast</i>	<i>1987 Classic. It's about two spinster daughters who live in a remote Danish coastal town and forsake romance and life for religion. Their cook is called Babette. Yes it is as boring as it sounds. This film is so highly acclaimed and popular that I am sure it must be brilliant! But all I can say is that it is not for everybody. I absolutely hated it. I tried twice to watch it. First time it sent me straight to sleep. The second time I lasted 20 minutes and could bear no more. It is in Danish with sub titles and so boring and dull and dated. It was completely lost on me. Sorry! Many regard this as a perfect 10 masterpiece. I have no idea why.</i>	2
<i>Bank Job (The)</i>	<i>2008 Excellent true story based in 1970, political sex scandal, and bank robbery, police corruption, superb cast, script and acting. Great plot. This film has it all.</i>	8
<i>Basic Instinct</i>	<i>1992 erotic thriller. I have watched this many times over the years and gave it another run out in 2012. In my opinion it sets the Gold standard for erotic thrillers and even after 20 years is not the slightest bit dated. The acting, script, and music are superb and yes I know the plot is implausible but I don't care and somehow they get away with it because of the mesmerizing relationship and sexual tension between Douglas, the detective and Sharon Stone, the suspect. It is a long film but you don't want it to end, and after all that, at the end you will still not be sure who the killer was!</i>	9
<i>Basic Instinct 2</i>	<i>2006 Erotic thriller. Basic Instinct was a very good erotic thriller and a tough act to follow but this sequel unusually is worthy. It really is nearly as good as the original. Stone is even better in this and the lead who replaces Douglas playing opposite Stone does a good job I think and is credible as the psychiatrist who meets his match with the Stone character. It is a good erotic thriller that holds its own in its own right. They switch the sequel from Los Angeles to London to freshen it up which seems to work</i>	8
<i>Battle in Heaven</i>	<i>2005 Bizarre and weird story about a couple living in two parallel universes. Extremely pretentious and stylized. Spanish (or Mexican) sub titles. Copious quantities of extremely graphic sex. Weak script and totally disjointed ridiculous plot.</i>	3
<i>Be Cool</i>	<i>2005 John Travolta comedy romance in the music industry</i>	5
<i>Beaches</i>	<i>1988 Weepee that follows friendship between two women through their lives, one a self obsessed Broadway star, the other a lawyer / mother who dies young.</i>	4
<i>Beat</i>	<i>2000 erotic drama. Definitely better than the average rating suggests. An intimate examination of homosexual and heterosexual relationships within a close group of 4 male and 1 female writers in 1944 New York. Irritation and boredom prevail within the group. The viewer gets drawn into the frustration of the unfulfilled relationships and shares the hopelessness as nobody seems to get what they want. Courteney Love is superb in this film and gives the film its quality and high rating as the hub of the group and the focus of the intrigue and desire.</i>	7
<i>Beautiful Creatures</i>	<i>2001 Dark comedy British thriller, wacky tale. Rachel Weisz. Amusing and harmless. A sort of Thelma and Louise</i>	5
<i>Beautiful Thing</i>	<i>1996 Drama. Film 4 British gritty kitchen sink drama in the Mike Leigh mould. Filmed</i>	7

Film	Comments and Rating	
	entirely in Thamesmead near the Thames on a high rise social housing estate, but where they actually managed to make some waterside areas look attractive. A close up examination of dysfunctional families, that is credible and highly realistic. The main theme is two adolescent boys from neighboring families and from the same school who face their realities that they are gay and form a relationship, and eventually come out. A very good, poignant, and underrated film that is surprising that it is not better known.	
Bedroom (The)	1992 Japanese soft porn with sub-titles. Bizarre story of a young wife who visits a fetish house where she takes drugs which send her to sleep, during which she receives the attention of clients who use and abuse her. There are other sub plots but most of the time the white sub titles are against a background of white bed sheets! Weird and very explicit. Rubbish.	2
Before The devil Knows You're Dead	2007 Thriller. Dark and brooding hard hitting thriller about two loser brothers who hatch up a robbery which goes badly wrong. From then onwards things go from bad to worse and engulf the entire family. It is gritty and grim and the storyline unpleasant to watch. Uncompromising and ruthless. Best to watch it on your own as not one for an enjoyable movie night in with your partner. I nearly gave it an 8 but it is spoilt a little by the unnecessary jumbling up of the order of play such that it is a cobbled together series of flashbacks. Well acted and scripted though and overall a very good watchable film.	7
Behind Enemy Lines	2001 Bosnian war action drama. I rate this as an excellent action war film. It is based on real events, and its high rating reflects the successful development of the characters and the background politics that the film achieves. It is for a change a 3D plot with depth as compared to so many superficial high octane action war films. Gene Hackman and Owen Wilson are both superb. The plot concerns the hunt for a surviving navigator from an F18 fighter jet shot down over Bosnia. An excellent war film, but one I think likely to appeal more to guys than girls.	9
Being Julia	2004 Period drama. I recommend this film. Set in London theatre land in the 1930s it is about the lives and love lives of the cast behind the scenes and in particular the relationship between the leading lady and an upwardly mobile American boy half her age. The cast is superb and in particular Annette Bening is outstanding. The film itself is often produced like a stage play. There are several parallel strands to the story but this adds interest and it is easy to follow. It is an enjoyable watch	7
Bel Ami	2011 Period drama. Kristin Scott Thomas. Period drama set in high society Paris in the 1890s. How can other reviewers say that this has no story? It is a much better film than many other reviews give it credit for. It is a modern attempt at the Dangerous Liaisons theme. Young man breaks out of poverty and breaks into high society and political circles through his good looks and powers of seduction. At first he is found out to be out of his depth, empty and vacuous but increasingly he becomes ruthless and brutal and acquires great wealth through his women and in the end puts an advantageous and cynical marriage above the mistress who he really loves and loves him. This film has lots of story so do not let others put you off if this theme sounds like your cup of tea. The film is lavish and stylish in its recreation of the period. I liked it.	7
Best Exotic Marigold Hotel	2012 World class cast. An absolute delight. Great performance by Bill Nighy. Great portrayal of India. Terrific script. Funny, poignant, with messages. Where there is life there is hope. Life is a privilege –not a right!	8
Better than Chocolate	1999 RomCom. Pleasant enough innocuous light lesbian romantic comedy. Well acted and touching. Young teenage lovers struggle to conceal their sexuality when the newly divorced mother of one of them comes to stay. Other interweaved relationships involving various other characters combine to produce a watchable enjoyable average film with a happy ending.	5
Between Your Legs	1999 Soft porn drama. Don't worry this is not the sexothon that it sounds like. Spanish film with sub titles. It is about two people who are attending a clinic for sex addicts but beyond that I cannot tell you much. I found it impossible to follow what was going on as it weaves a lot of fictional sub plots throughout so it is one of those films where you never know what is really happening and what is being imagined. I only lasted 30 minutes and found it boring and a waste of time. Don't bother with this one.	3
Big Easy (The)	1987 Erotic thriller. Dennis Quaid is excellent in this as a very sure of himself womanising funny sexy maverick homicide inspector character. A good erotic thriller. The Quaid character himself becomes the subject of an investigation into police corruption by an attractive woman from the DA's office, with whom he has a steamy affair. Done in typical 1980s style and set in New Orleans. Watchable and enjoyable.	7
Big Kahuna (The)	1999 drama with a strong cast (Kevin Spacey / Danny Devito). Adaptation of a play and it shows. Whole film is set in one hotel room. Long build up of character development and dialogue, which becomes quite boring. Two disillusioned cynical salesmen clash with young naïve God squadder raw recruit preparing for an out of town cocktail party for prospective buyers. The film has a real sting in the tail with a profound finish which seeks to preach what is important in life, and what is real character etc.	6
Big Year (The)	2012 Comedy about competitive bird watching. But do not let that put you off. It's original and very funny and has a fantastic cast –Steve Martin, Jeff Black, and Owen Wilson	8

Film	Comments and Rating	
<i>Bitter Moon</i>	1992 erotic drama. A good watchable film about a couple who are united by physical attraction but after this fades their relationship becomes destructive and damages another couple. This film is an acquired taste and improves on second watching. Sexually charged and dark and sad at the same time. There is a big surprise awaiting you at the ending and is worth watching for this. Hugh Grant is very young in this and a bit feeble to be honest and a bit of a weak link in the cast.	7
<i>Black Book (The)</i>	2006 Beautiful Jewish girl who worked for the Dutch resistance at the end of WW2 and has a relationship with Captain in the SS in order to infiltrate the Nazis. The depressing thing is that it transpires that at least 3 of the other resistance fighters turn out to be Nazi collaborators who are also betraying the Jews for their own profit. However a great film with a great performance by the female lead. The plot can be a little hard to follow in the final scenes due to confusion between the resistance characters.	8
<i>Black Hawk Down</i>	2001 excellent war / action movie based on true events in Somalia in 1993 directed by Ridley Scott (<i>Blade Runner</i>). Gritty, intense, high octane action drama. A routine military operation is seriously misjudged and under estimated and quickly descends into chaos as the marines are over run by local militia. Excellent cast and well acted. War films do not get much better or more realistic than this.	9
<i>Black Swan</i>	2010 Psychological thriller based on New York ballet. Young woman finding her sexuality, and confidence and confronting competition and shaking off her controlling mother. Explicit sex and violence. Would not be everybody's' cup of tea. A bold and unusual film –in the Carrie mould and class. I liked it.	7
<i>Blade Runner</i>	1982 Sci Fi. Starring a young Harrison Ford . In my opinion perhaps the best Sci Fi ever made. Brilliant. Amazing graphics and sets. Haunting and atmospheric. A movie classic that sets the Gold standard for Sci Fi.	9
<i>Bling Ring (The)</i>	2013 Crime drama. Shocking film based on true events about a morally bankrupt teenage gang in Los Angeles who steal from the Hollywood homes of celebrities . The film depicts a shallow degenerate society obsessed only with wealth, materialism, designer brands, vanity, and drugs. Was potentially a good film , but let down by poor sound where much of the dialogue cannot be deciphered and is obscured by obtrusive loud musical score. In addition the story is repetitive and padded out to make it a feature length film.	5
<i>Blood Simple</i>	1983 Coen brothers first film-erotic thriller, gritty. Dark and bloody but with some humour.	6
<i>Blue Jasmine</i>	2013 Comedy drama. Typical Woody Allen fare depicting how underneath we are all a mess and life is a mess! Cate Blanchett is outstanding and the script is superb. Great cast. Blanchett plays a middle aged ex wife (Jasmine) who since her divorce is suffering from a nervous breakdown and moves to live with her sister. Blanchett as Jasmine cannot shake off her tendency to judge, and her snobbish outlook, always looking down on her sister, but in reality cannot halt her own decline.	8
<i>Blue Lagoon</i>	1980 Two children are ship wrecked on a desert Island and as they grow up they become sexually awakened and have a child. Brooke Shields. Considered soft porn at the time. 1980 . Terrible.	3
<i>Blue Valentine</i>	2010 Romantic drama. Sad story of young couple with young daughter who fall in love , get married, and gradually fall out of love. Wife out grows and tires of husband who still loves her. Like <i>The Story Of Us</i> . Explores the challenges of keeping a relationship fresh. Excellent.	8
<i>Blue Velvet</i>	1986 Thriller. Supposedly a classic. The diversity of views on this film is quite extraordinary . Some even say it is the best film ever! I am afraid I am in the camp of people who do not get it. It is too long (nearly three hours) and much of the script and acting is poor. There is a lot of violence and sadomasochism and overall the film is just weird and bizarre.	3
<i>Boat That Rocked (The)</i>	2009 Comedy drama . Based on the true events of the pirate radio ships of the 1960s. Promises a lot and has huge potential, but disappoints. Weak script, watchable but annoying in parts, vaguely entertaining in others, predictable, school boy humour. A wasted opportunity-disappointing.	4
<i>Body Double</i>	1984 Do not watch this . It is awful. It is not a thriller, and it is not funny. Not sure what it is supposed to be. I only gave it a 3 because it has a young and gorgeous Melanie Griffith in it.	3
<i>Body Heat</i>	1981 Erotic thriller. Kathleen Turner. Personally I like it. It has aged well and remains a tense steamy erotic thriller full of suspense. It is uncomfortable to watch but you cannot look away and you do not know who to believe or trust. I think this film sets the standard for the genre.	8
<i>Body Of Evidence</i>	1992 erotic thriller. Madonna. You get what it says on the tin with this movie. It is a bread and butter formulaic early 1990s erotic thriller. But if you like this genre you should not exclude this one. It is completely watchable, and Madonna does her best to act but looks amazing whilst she is doing it-acting that is! Has a good twist at the end. It seems from the other reviews that you either love it or hate it. But I don't see it that way. Not the best or worst film ever made but just a watchable OK movie.	6
<i>Boogeyman 3</i>	2008. Traditional , routine predictable horror/Boogeyman fare. Set in the USA on a college campus and featuring the usual cast of perfectly formed students / victims. One by one they meet a bloody and violent end in their doms. The usual flashing of the lights accompanied by lots of electrical arking sounds everytime the Boogeyman makes an appearance.	4

Film	Comments and Rating	
	Mediocre but just about watchable.	
Book Of Eli (The)	2010 SciFi drama . In a post apocalypse wasteland Eli (Denzel Washington) is tramping across the USA on a 30 year mission to save the world's only remaining bible. There is a massive contradiction in this film in that the war was supposedly the result of religion, and yet the bible is put forward as the only faith that needs to be reintroduced to save humanity. The plot provides a stage for Washington in his character of few words, to brutally and violently eliminate all opposition to his mission. The plot gets even more preposterous and fanciful but if you can ignore that the underlying film is reasonably well done and watchable. Average.	5
Bound	1996 Sexy erotic thriller about a mobster's girl who wants out. She sets up an ingenious con with her lesbian lover to steal \$2M from the mob . It is a cleverly spun web of intrigue. Violent and scary. A con with many twists. Some explicit girl on girl action. Do not watch this if you are not sure you can handle it.	8
Boy In Striped Pyjamas' (The)	2008 Tragic WWII drama. Nazi Death camps and extermination of Jews. German son of commandant gets mixed up with prisoners and is accidentally gassed . Original plot and good attempt to portray Nazi German family members attitudes and their 'normal' lives.	6
Brave One (The)	2007 Thriller. Like a remake of Death wish-Jodie Foster	5
Breakfast At Tiffanys	1961 Drama. Yes I know this is one of the all time greats, a legend, a classic. But not for me I'm afraid. It is far too dated, and false -like a stage farce to me. Characters are simply not believable but I know that is heresy and I will now probably disappear in the night!	2
Breaking & Entering	2006 Has Juliette Binoche in it which was why I rented it, and she does a good job as an Eastern European down and out mother. But overall the plot about a sympathetic business owner who keeps having his premises broken into by the son stretches credibility to the limit. Also includes a hooker with a heart who befriends him but really adds nothing to the film .	4
Bridesmaids	2011 . A RomCom about a bride and her best friend who she appoints as her maid of honour, and her gang of girlfriends. Actually a very funny film with some hilarious contrived situations and an unlikely romance thrown in with a police officer. Be careful-not suitable to be shown to children.	8
Bridge (2008)	2008 WWII drama. Made for TV remake of the original classic. German with sub titles. Near the end of the war teenage school boys are enlisted to help defend the German homelands to the end. A good drama, with some teenage love interest, and well acted. A group of eight boys attempt to defend a strategic bridge in their village from the advancing American army. The futility of fighting on and especially involving children when the war was already lost is shockingly portrayed. Dramas about life in Germany during the war are fairly rare so don't ignore this one.	6
Bright Star	2009 Period Drama. Supposedly a love story about the poet John Keats and Fanny Browne but very disappointing. The film lacks energy and emotion, is extremely dull, and never gets going. It is so slow, and lifeless and ponderous that it is quite like many French films in style. The two minute trailer contains all the events of any note in the entire film. Impossible to watch without falling asleep. The acting is wooden and the main characters lacked passion and charisma. The only redeeming feature was the beautifully shot period / rural settings and costumes.	4
Brothers (The)	2010 War family drama. Thoroughly recommend this one. Superb acting and a highly emotional film with a punch in a story woven around the contrast of two brothers. Excellent dramatisation of how the horror of war leaves the survivors irrevocably damaged. As good as The Deer Hunter and almost as good as The Hurt Locker. Do not miss this film about modern warfare in Afghanistan.	8
Brothers Bloom	2009 About two brothers who plan and execute their last big con but one of the bothers falls in love with the mark-Rachel Weisz. It's watchable and good in parts but lacks credibility and is repetitious and laboured. A good cast with some fine acting but overall let down by the plot and storyline. Rachel Weisz is superb is ever. The films just seems to lack that certain something. It's just average and is not particularly scary or funny.	5
Brown Bunny (The)	2004. Soft porn (but only in last 3 minutes) Romantic drama. I'll sit through most films but this one defeated me. I lasted 40 minutes before I could stand no more. Pretentious arty farty photographic account of a troubled young man driving across the USA in a van grieving for the lost love of his life. Lots of lengthy shots of all kinds of roads at day and night. Almost no dialogue and nothing happens. Boring and tedious. The film does liven up in the last 3 minutes apparently but only people with no life would have made it that far! Do not be tempted.	2
Bucket List (The)	2007 Jack Nicholas, Morgan Freeman, things to do before you die. Two great performances and an unusual and moving storyline. Definitely worth a watch	7
Bunch Of Amateurs (A)	English sub te humour and observation. Not bad. A bit uneventful. Too slow and flat and not particularly funny. This film under performs and is disappointing.	6
Burn After Reading	2008 Excellent FBI thriller / comedy, great cast, excellent plot. An enjoyable farce.	8
Butch Cassidy And The Sundance Kid	1969 Western. Not the all time classic that I remember but nevertheless a good watchable film. It is a bit dated now and a bit naff in places. Cannot be taken seriously as a Western as the two outlaws are just too polite and friendly, charming and unscary to be taken seriously. It is more of a light hearted drama / comedy really. Katherine Ross is excellent.	7

Film	Comments and Rating	
<i>Butterfly Effect (The)</i>	2004 Poor teenage horror movie about the very troubled and horrific life of a boy growing up and experiencing horrendous situations. In adolescence he discovers he can change the past into multiple versions by reading his detailed diaries. Don't bother.	2
<i>Butterfly Kiss</i>	1995 Macabre thriller about cold blooded serial killer (lesbian) who seduces an innocent girl into falling in love with her, and together they travel around like Thelma and Louise until it comes to an inevitable and tragic end.	4
<i>Captain Phillips</i>	2013 Action drama based on real events of the hijacking and ransom of a US container ship by Somali pirates. Things do not go according to plan and the pirates instead switch to kidnapping the captain instead as a hostage. The captain is as ever brilliantly played by Tom Hanks, but actually the whole film is well cast and acted. The action and suspense will keep you on the edge of your seat. The eventual rescue by the US 'cavalry' with their usual high tech equipment and efficient methods is typical Hollywood fare. However the end result is a great action drama and should not be missed.	8
<i>Caramel</i>	2007 Rare Lebanese film, in French with sub titles. Deals sensitively with the common issues that women deal with the whole world over in their lives. Like a sort of Mike Leigh style. Portrays the lives of 4 women who work in a beauty salon. Many will find it slow and lacking in action. But it grows on you and makes you care about the characters.	6
<i>Career Girls</i>	1997 Mike Leigh drama. Two college flat sharing girls meet up six years later. Deals with the passage of time between friends. Traditional Mike Leigh fare. Quality varies from good to mediocre. Let down by OTT stereotype characters who lack credibility. Also they meet an estate agent by coincidence who it turns out that both girls had had an affair with only six years earlier but neither remembers after only six years. I don't think so. Not really credible in parts.	5
<i>Casino Royale</i>	2006 James Bond Drama. The 21st Bond film and the first of the Daniel Craig era. Quite simply the best Bond film ever and also the best James Bond casting by a country mile. What joy it was when this film burst onto the scene restoring the James Bond genre to its full former glory. It is a 100% thriller with none of the embarrassing comedy of the Roger Moore bad times and the Bond portrayal is a real 3D character with emotions. Bond films do not get any better than this and it even surpassed the Bond films that followed it (A Quantum of Solace and Skyfall)	9
<i>Celestine Prophecy (The)</i>	2006. Oh Dear! The book was fantastic, and full of interesting concepts about energy, spirituality, etc but the film just does not compare with the book. Neither does the film compare with the Da Vinci code. I don't remember all the stuff about battles between the military and the rebels in the book either. Was that added to inject more action and violence? I imagine that the concepts would have been too much for the average cinema goer and they would have all left before the end. I have given it a 4 because I find the subject so interesting and films about spiritual intelligence are as rare as an England football trophy. But in truth this would not be for most people and was disappointing.	4
<i>Cement Garden (The)</i>	1992 Would not be most people's cup of tea. Incestuous relationship develops between eldest brother and sister in family of 4 children after both parents die separately in close succession. Watchable but weird.	5
<i>Chain Reaction (1996)</i>	1996 Action thriller with a young Rachel Weisz. A team in US university discover how to extract hydrogen from water as a new alternative fuel. Story meanders into a ridiculous confused improbable unrealistic conspiracy political / FBI soup of rubbish.	3
<i>Changeling (2008)</i>	2008 Mother's anguish when abducted son returns but it is not her son. Clint Eastwood. Watchable but too long.	6
<i>China Moon</i>	1994 erotic thriller. Good romantic love triangle thriller. I am a fan of erotic thrillers especially those produced in the 1980s and this one is typical of the genre and does not disappoint.	7
<i>Chloe</i>	2009. Erotic thriller about wife who tests her husband who she suspects of philandering with a paid prostitute who she ends up with sleeping with herself. Can't say that is not different! Stars Liam Neeson. Watchable.	6
<i>Chris Ryan's Strike Back Disc 1</i>	2010 war drama made for TV series. Based on Iraq. SAS soldier Chris Ryan returns eight years later to single handedly rescue a female journalist hostage. Unusual to see a British made action war film based on British military forces. Very credible and tense. Well worth watching although not as good as the excellent similar themed Homeland.	7
<i>Chris Ryan's Strike Back Disc 2</i>	2010 war drama made for TV series. Based on Iraq. SAS soldier Chris Ryan in two more dramas based firstly in South Africa / Zimbabwe and secondly in Afghanistan. Unusual to see a British made action war film based on British military forces. Very credible and tense. Well worth watching although possibly not quite as good as Disc 1 and definitely not as good as the excellent similar themed Homeland series.	7
<i>Circumstance</i>	2012 Youth and lesbian drama. A serious, controversial, brave, and rare film about youth rebellious and underground culture in Iran. Not content with just portraying Iranian youth living out their Western culture fantasies (clothes, alcohol, sex and music etc) and enduring brutal raids by the 'Morality Police', the film sympathetically majors on a lesbian relationship, and the ways in which women are controlled and oppressed by authoritarian puritanical men. The film also portrays a controversial view of the legacy of the revolution by the young. So lots of taboo in this which is why the film could only actually have been made outside of Iran. A rare Iranian film with sub-titles in which it is not always that easy to tell who is who.	6

Film	Comments and Rating	
	<i>In the end though a good film , with a virtually unique theme , well acted but which is sad and depressing.</i>	
City Of Ember	2008 Sci Fi drama. Future city underground . Power source is running out. Good in parts but excruciatingly bad in others. Some aspects are embarrassingly amateur.	4
Close My Eyes	1991 Family relationships drama. Early Clive Owen, Alan Rickman, Story of incestuous love affair between brother and sister. Actually it is very well acted and a good film .	7
Closer	2004 Appallingly bad and awful film with all star cast wasted inc Julia Roberts, Jude Law about sex and relationships between 2 couples. The script is a joke.	1
Cloverfield	2008 Disaster movie set in new York as usual. War of the Worlds meets Alien and Armageddon. Filmed in annoying home camcorder style like Blair Witch style. Very gory. How the camera survived the annihilation of New York is a mystery.	5
Code Unknown	2000 I rented it because Juliette Binoche was in it and she was as usual excellent. But it's another French slow moving strange concoction. A group of loosely interwoven stories about racism in modern Paris. Sub-titles. Hard to follow. Hard work.	3
Colour Of Night	1994. Bruce Willis. Erotic thriller mystery in the Hitchcock style. Could also be an Agatha Christie who dunnit. Much nudity and soft porn sex. The plot is extremely hard to swallow but if you can ignore that the film does have some merit being packed with suspense, action, and big twists and well flesh. I can see that it is in many ways an awful film but I have to admit I found it watchable, and did get to the end and found it reasonably enjoyable. I've seen a lot worse.	6
Compliance	2012 Drama. Unusual story based on real events about how ordinary law abiding people will do almost anything when they believe they are blindly obeying orders from someone in authority. This is about an apparently common scam of a prank caller who calls a fast food outlet pretending to be a police detective and , in this instance, convinces the manageress to carry out a strip search of a pretty blonde employee played by Dreama Walker. Things get even more extreme as staff suspend common sense and blindly follow instructions from the 'detective' on the telephone. Shocking. Let down by some scenes which are obviously just padding to make the film feature length.	6
Complicity	2000 Thriller. Scottish film made by the same team as The Crow Road and in the same mould. A good plot and brilliant cast including Valerie Edmond but can be a little confusing and I ended up having to watch it twice but it was worth it. The plot is interesting because it appears to be some sort of international conspiracy theory but as the story unfolds it turns out the explanations are much closer to the personal lives of the main characters. Watchable and every bit as good as The Crow Road.	6
Confidence	2003, Rachel Weisz. A run of the mill big con story in the Hustle mould with a complicated hard to follow plot. I am not a big fan of this genre.	5
Consenting Adults	1992 Classic early 1990s erotic thriller. Kevin Spacey superbly plays the new neighbour who disrupts Kevin Kline's perfect marriage and life. Spacey plays a charismatic charmer who is supremely confident and easily manipulates Kline into his insurance scams which net him millions. The plot gets darker as the sexual tension between the two couple rises. I watched this film when it came out and am pleased to have rediscovered it now. It's an underrated example of the genre and I recommend it.	8
Constant Gardener (The)	2005 Ralph Fiennes and Rachel Weisz. Weisz is the wife of a diplomat and an activist who exposes cavalier testing of drugs in Africa. She is murdered in what becomes a suspense thriller with conspiracy theory type credibility. A great film and one for conspiracy theorists.	8
Conversations With Other Women	2005 Highly stylized and annoying split screen format. Divorced couple meet up at a wedding reception and have a dalliance. Average film.	5
Conviction	2010 drama. Wild brother is wrongfully convicted of murder, in USA. Single mother sister qualifies as lawyer in order to clear his name, and expose frame up by police . Her fight takes 18 years to free him. Based on a true story. Good watchable film.	6
Cook, The Thief, His Wife, And Her Lover (The)	1989 Comedy, drama, fantasy. This film is completely weird, bizarre, and surreal. After the first 10 minutes I really was about to abandon it but something made me hang on in there. Abused wife , Helen Mirren, of brutal, sadistic, vulgar gang leader husband takes a lover. From then onwards Mirren is never seen in clothes again, and has sex in all the hidden nooks and crannies of the restaurant (especially in the toilets). Everything in this film especially the mountains of food, and the gluttony is phallic and suggestive and is about the connections with love, and sex, and death. There is prolific nudity and sex. Cannot decide if it is the masterpiece creation of a genius or complete drivel. I suspect the latter. The wildly varying reviews on Lovefilm reflects this. Beware the end is gratuitous bloody violence and gruesome torture ending in cannibalism!	4
Counterfeiters (The)	2006 WWII Drama. Based on true story of concentration camp where Jewish bakers, printers, and craftsmen were forced to forge British and USA bank notes in a plot to destabilize their currencies. A very good film, well directed, cast, and acted. German with sub-titles which sometimes come and go a bit too fast to read. Let down only by an appalling and very dated musical score.	7
Crash (1996)	1996. The original film with the title Crash. A highly bizarre soft core porno thriller about finding car crashes sexy and strange obsession. Not for everybody. Highly alternative viewing.	7

Film	Comments and Rating	
Crash (2005)	2005 Superb social commentary on racial prejudice and disharmony. A superb film.	9
Crazy Stupid Love	2011 Stephen Carell, RomCom from the top drawer. Makes you laugh and cry. Some unexpected twists . Wife of adoring husband suddenly wants a divorce and he gets adopted by a player who becomes his mentor in pulling women.	9
Crow Road (The) Disc 1 Of 2	1996. 4 hour BBC series released as a 2 DVD film . Following a seven year silence after the mysterious and unresolved disappearance of his Uncle Rory, teenager Prentice sets out to uncover the truth - but the truth lies under a tapestry of dark secrets shrouding his own family's past.	6
Crow Road (The) Disc 2 Of 2	1996 Have just watched the second DVD. Unfortunately there was a bit of a gap between the two DVDs before Lovefilm could send the second DVD which did not help me understand what was going on. I don't think I ever really got into The Crow Road. It was lost on me I think. I did not see it at the time on TV and have only now watched it in 2012. It just is too slow and drawn out. By the time the plot is revealed to you at the end of the 4 hours I just felt 'So What'. I was past caring really. Very surprised some people found it funny-I saw nothing to laugh at in what is quite a dour Scottish film. I liked Valerie Edmond though and will look out for her in the future.	5
Cruel Intentions 3	Urrrhg! The OC meets well I'm lost for words. Highly contrived sex farce portraying worst aspects of young Californian culture.	2
Crush	2001 RomCom. Unusual emotional roller coaster. Starts as a 4 wedding style RomCom, but then evolves into a straight romance, and then unexpectedly turns dark and sad and becomes a tragedy. Explores the friendship between three 30+ women which is tested when one of them has a passionate relationship with a much younger man. The three lead women characters are all excellent. As I say the film has severe twists and turns and it is not always clear what the film is aiming to be but I found it watchable and touching nevertheless.	7
Damage	1992 I always liked this erotic drama. Jeremy Irons is superb and totally credible and Juliette Binoche equally superb as the smouldering sexy, enigmatic mistress woman of mystery. The fireworks and passion that ensue are legendary but the film is compulsive viewing as you cannot turn away from watching a man who seemingly has everything become helpless from following a path of self destruction that eventually encompasses his whole family. The final pathetic scene of the fallen but still compulsive obsessive talented man alone as a recluse is unforgettable.	8
Damned United	2009 Michael Sheen is brilliant as Brian Clough during his reign at Leeds in the 1970s. A very good watchable dramatisation even if you don't like football	7
Dan In The Real Life	2007 Excellent Rom Com. Very funny. Steve Carell, Juliette Binoche. Definitely worth the 8. The parallel lives of his 3 daughters and the parenting dilemmas are very funny and very well observed. Plot has some very funny twists.	8
Date Night	2010 Comedy. A very funny RomCom set in NY. They steal someone else's dinner reservation. Steve Carell is brilliant in this. I just cannot understand how some do not like this film. I found it absolutely hilarious. I loved it. It is a great comedy.	8
Dawn Of Evil-Rise Of The Reich	2009 WWII film. Unusual and rare and possibly unique dramatization of life of teenage Adolf Hitler. A strange film, with some odd content that attempts to show the influences on Hitler which led him to abandon his talent as an artist and start to lead a small group of vigilantes with anti Semitic ideology. German with sub titles. The Hitler character is credibly and convincingly acted. This version interestingly asserts that the young Hitler was hugely influenced by an elderly mentor / friend who was a Jew. Overall an average film and one for those with an interest in the Nazi era.	5
Debt (The)	2010. Helen Mirren as a Jew tracking down evil Nazi doctor from the concentration camps. Good Jew / Nazi based thriller with twists. I enjoyed it.	7
Deep Blue Sea (The) (2011)	2011 Romantic tragic drama set in 1950 about wealthy woman (Weisz) who has a steamy affair with an RAF Battle of Britain hero but who cannot commit to her or give her the love she craves. She is driven to despair and attempts suicide. A dark, sad, depressing, and joyless story. Weisz is superb but the film is not an enjoyable watch and you sort of end up wondering what was the point? Adaptation of a book and stage play.	5
Deer Hunter (The)	1978 Hard hitting shocking story of group of friends before, during, and after the Vietnam war. Unforgettable. Would be a 9 but for the fact that the first half of the film is toooooo long and includes an entire wedding reception in real time.	8
Defiance	2008 Daniel Craig as Jewish resistance in second world war. Craig is good in this and overall it is a good watchable film. Recommended.	6
Definitely Maybe	2008 I really liked this Romantic journey. Loved all the characters (inc Rachel Weisz) and the script was very good. Let down slightly by loose ends in the plot-mainly lack of detail as to why the 3 relationships come and go such that there is a slight lack of credibility. But overall a very enjoyable film with a happy ending that keeps you guessing. I very nearly gave it an 8.	7
Delicacy (2012)	2012 Romance and delicate observation of human behaviour. I am not a great fan of French films and this one is very typical, slow moving, ponderous, self indulgent and pretentious. I am very surprised at the high scores and great reviews this film receives. Having said that it is a watchable average film but no more than that. I agree that the slow and subtle examination of the budding romance between the beautiful widow and the office dorky geek	5

Film	Comments and Rating	
	<i>is in contrast to the usual Hollywood RomCom overnight sensation whirlwind approach. But does the Romance really convince? We do not really see enough of the supposed charms of the geek character to find his attractiveness convincing. Gives balding geeks some hope (although I'm not one!). French with Subtitles.</i>	
Detachment	2011 Detachment. Wow! Not for the faint hearted A heavy and very depressing deeply worrying drama about modern American youth culture and daily life in school depicting very neglected and unloved disturbed kids and a supply teacher with an equally troubled past. Have things really got this bad? This is not a fun or enjoyable movie to watch but has some important hard hitting messages and is about decadence and decay of modern culture. Best to watch it on your own!	8
Devil Wears Prada (The)	2008 Very good comedy set in the fashion magazine industry in New York. The film is made by the very strong cast especially Streep in the lead role as the all powerful dragon, supported by Anne Hathaway and Emily Blunt who are both excellent. But it has to be said that whilst it is a very good watchable film, it is more amusing than outright funny, and secondly towards the end it tails off like they did not know how to end it, and in the end plumps for a rather tame predictable ending.	7
Diamonds Are Forever	1971 James Bond. This is the seventh JB and the sixth and last in which Sean Connery played Bond. This is the weakest of the Connery Bond films and the rot is setting in. Still better than all of the Roger Moore Bond films that followed but this one could not decide whether it was a thriller or a comedy. This one includes the excruciating embarrassing non PC attempted mocking of the two gay baddies and also the dancing girl who attempts to attack Bond by doing somersaults! By this time the Bond films were seriously losing their way,	6
Die Another Day	2002 James Bond drama. The 20th Bond film and the fourth of the Pierce Brosnam series. Rehash of previous Bond films. Villain hopes to use glass / diamond studded satellite to harness light and energy from the sun. Starts well but goes downhill. Let down by very annoying stupid fencing duel between Bond and the villain, and laughable cringe making special effects, especially the exploding plane near the end, and the invisible Aston. Known for the iconic duel between the Aston and the XK8. This was thankfully the last of the dodgy Bond films before the brand was fully restored to its former majestic glory by Casino Royale and Daniel Craig.	5
Dinner For Schmucks	2011. A good RomCom with a world class cast. Steve Carell is as superb as ever. A comedy with lots of values and morals. A creative plot that allows opportunities for a diverse range of funny scenarios and to give reign to a spectrum of funny actors. Stephanie Szostak as the female lesser known co star is excellent. Very good comedy, light family fun with a message.	7
Dinner With Friends	2001. Andie MacDowell in a very underrated film. Bit like The Story of us. Many of the other reviews are very harsh. This is a good watchable film. Good observation of people and marriage.	6
Dirty Rotten Scoundrels	1988 Steve Martin, Michael Caine. Classic comedy of mutual scamming based around a romance between the scammers. Good fun and deservedly a classic.	6
Django Unchained	2013 Western. A great film by Tarantino. A clever and industrious negro slave becomes a bounty hunter and sets out to rescue his wife from slavery. A great film, original, unconventional, fresh, and highly entertaining and amusing. A very enjoyable watch although a little long, at nearly three hours and very violent. One of the best Westerns ever made. As good as a Clint Eastwood classic. Recommended.	8
Domestic Disturbance	2001 John Travolta. Good well executed thriller that is worth watching. Ex husband (Travolta) does not take to ex wife's new husband and his son witnesses a frightening development that ends in Travolta having to take drastic action. It is well acted, efficiently constructed and easy to follow. Has a TV movie feel to it.	6
Door In The Floor (The)	2004 Jeff Bridges, Kim Basinger. Steamy drama about teenage boy who goes to work for aged author (Bridges). Boy forms relationship with wife Basinger. Watchable average film but fairly uneventful, and unremarkable.	5
Dot The I	2003 Romance. Rubbish. Dodgy acting. Awful film. Absolutely hated it. No credible connections or emotions in the love triangle. Very slow. I must have missed something as there are a lot of favourable reviews and some say the last 20 minutes are good but I gave up long before that.	1
Double Indemnity	1973 Erotic thriller. Sadly extremely dated, plodding and unerotic. Only interesting from the point of seeing the 1970s apartments and clothes. The film is entirely shot like a stage play and has almost no musical score which seems strange nowadays. The acting is wooden and unconvincing. The story just seems to be going through the motions mechanically and the film has little to commend it. It is apparently a remake of a 1944 classic which I have not seen. Anyway don't bother with this version. Any routine TV detective story would be better.	4
Double Jeopardy 1992	1992 Run of the mill erotic thriller. Starts well but in the end a bit disappointing. Yes there is a twist near the end but after that the film is very rushed like they could not wait to get finished and the ending is poor. Watchable bread and butter film but that is all.	6
Double Jeopardy 1999	1999 Highly implausible thriller but it is entertaining and engaging. Holds your attention with	6

Film	Comments and Rating	
	some surprising action scenes. Rat husband fakes his own murder , and wife is convicted , goes to prison , and loses touch with her son. Tommy Lee Jones –her parole officer-saves the film as it lurches towards its violent climax.	
Dr No	1962 James Bond drama. The iconic movie classic first Bond film that started it all. Brilliant in its day and very innovative. Inevitable that now it looks very dated. It does have the big set but even that looks pretty low key now. But a film that seemed so groundbreaking and exciting at the time will always be held fondly in a movie watcher's heart. Definitely worth a watch if you've been in a cave for the last 50 years.	6
Dressed To Kill	1979 erotic thriller. A Hitchcock style story about a transvestite homicidal maniac. Disjointed. The film does not flow. It is poorly scripted, very poorly cast and highly formulaic and predictable. Unbelievably Michael Caine is in it. How did he ever get associated with something as mediocre as this?	3
Duchess (The)	2008 Kiera Knightley, A great period drama about the Duchess of Devonshire in loveless marriage forced to give up her lover to retain access to her children. Thought to be a faithful representation of the times. Lots of parallels with Charles and Diana.	8
Duplicity	2009 Confusing plot, Clive Owen useless as ever, very stilted, hard to follow, but second half of film gets better and in the end the twist is unexpected	5
Dust in Baby	2008 Tear jerker drama. Dakota Blue Richards. Young teen who was abandoned as a baby and endured a succession of foster homes and children's homes retraces her roots. Very touching , moving and an under rated film. Juliet Stevenson is excellent as her guardian and Dakota Blue Richards very convincing and superb . Dakota has a big future ahead of her in films. Very watchable. Makes you feel grateful.	7
Eagle Eye	2008 Surveillance. Impossible to know what is going on . First 2 minutes are good. Rest is unwatchable. Totally incomprehensible. I cannot believe some of the positive reviews out there. It is just a mindless fest of action for action's sake.	1
Easy Rider	1969 Watched this again recently. Not the classic I remember . Has not really stood the test of time . Dated predictable 60s drugs and sex, intended to shock. Watchable though , and a great soundtrack.	5
Easy Virtue	2008 British film based on Noel Coward play set just after WWI. Prodigal son returns home with gorgeous American wife (Jessica Biel) and incurs the prejudice and hostility of his snobby aristocrat mother (Kristin Scott Thomas). Brilliant cast –includes Colin Firth. Meanders between comedy and serious statement but very entertaining with an unexpected twist ending.	8
Edge Of Darkness	2010 Thriller. Mel Gibson investigating murder of his daughter who worked for nuclear energy research company illegally making dirty bombs. Although panned I quite liked it.	7
Edge Of Love (The)	2008 A good watchable enjoyable film , Kiera Knightly, WW2 story of Dylan Thomas, Love story with trio complications.	6
Edmond	2005 Thriller. Low budget just about watchable mediocre thriller about a New Yorker who after visiting a fortune teller , leaves his wife and goes completely off the rails. The acting and script are disappointing. The main character rapidly descends into a sleazy depraved world of violence and prostitution. His downfall is rapid and absolute and instead of breaking out and breaking free from the shackles of his former life he finds himself facing ruin and oblivion. The film is crude and depicts racism, and gory violence, so be warned, if you do not have a strong stomach. The is an unsuccessful attempt to save the film and give it deeper meaning through some moralizing and amateur philosophy about life towards the end but it looks like a bit of an afterthought.	3
Eight Mile	2002 Kim Bassenger , Brittany Murphy, Clearly you need to be like Eminem and his rap music to like this movie. If you do then you will like this story woven around Eminem playing himself. It is a brutal hard hitting portrayal of trailer trash life in Detroit in the mid 1990s fighting for survival in an urban jungle. A shocking film with depth and messages about aspiration and ambition in the midst of hopelessness.	8
Elysium	2013 Science fiction. A truly dreadful film. Remixes ideas from Soylent Green, Blade Runner, and Armageddon to name a few. I was attracted to watch this by the imaginative set created for the Elysium 'planet', and the great cast, and the plot which sounded original. But the film is terrible. It is just non-stop relentless wham bam mindless boring special effects, and brainless violence, and high octane action. Any character development is rushed, and laughable. It even starts well, but descends very rapidly into chaotic oblivion. The musical soundtrack is annoying and intrusive.	2
Enemy Of The State	1998 Action thriller. A plot about US government agents using state of the art surveillance technology to pursue and frame an innocent lawyer (Will Smith) to try to cover up a murder they have committed. A bonanza of fanciful technology and a fantasy about how efficient and reliable it all is. It all makes for a non- stop technology fest action movie but there is no real depth to this film. I am quite sure that real life is nothing like this and nonstop wham bam action is not a substitute for character development and substance. I liked it at first but oh how repetitive it is and in the end I had to fast forward long sequences of it as it was just so long and non- stop action that just became tedious. Gene Hackman is always excellent of course but his contribution was not designed to use his full talent. Not sure why they bothered paying his fee as anyone could have done his part. I know there are many who are	5

Film	Comments and Rating	
	satisfied with just continuous action and special effects but a movie must offer more than that for me to enjoy it.	
Entrapment	1999 Sean Connery, Catherine Zeta Jones. Good watchable enjoyable innocuous yarn about two master art thieves who hook up , but you are never sure who is double crossing who.	6
Envy	2005 Comedy with an amazing cast. Albeit young versions of Jack Black and Ben Stiller. Rachel Weisz is in it as well but wasted as her role gave her little opportunity to show her talent. I found it amusing and funny in parts and is definitely worth watching but is not in the same class as some of the later work by Ben Stiller and Jack Black.	6
Escort (The) (1999)	1999 Erotic drama. French film with sub titles. Entertaining average watchable highly improbable fantasy about a boring middle aged French husband who deserts his family and escapes to London to work as a paid escort. His paid sex life and unpaid love and sex life explode with young beautiful women! In your dreams! Credibility is stretched too far. However his increasingly complicated life spirals out of control. Despite the implausible plot the film has a strong cast and is well acted. An unconvincing twist awaits you at the end.	5
Exterminating Angels (The)	2006 Sexual fantasy. French film with sub titles. A middle aged man lets his fantasies run wild and makes a film watching lots of nubile young girls masturbate and voice their hidden desires! There is a surreal and parallel universe twilightzone dimension to the film that is never fully explained. The story ends in tears . It succeeds in being mildly erotic in parts. Watchable adequate film but no more than that.	4
Extraordinary Measures	2010 Drama. Harrison Ford, Brendan Fraser . True story about the development of new drug to treat a serious medical condition of two young children and the father who becomes a campaigner for the development of the drug. A great and moving film about never giving up.	8
Extreme Measures	1996 Hugh Grant, Gene Hackman, . Doctor in NY uncovers medical research into spinal repairs using live human patients as subjects. A bit like Coma. Can this really be Hugh Grant playing a straight role?	6
Fargo	1996 A great thriller with some memorable performances-who can forget the female lead detective in the frozen wastes of Minnesota. Faultless.	8
Fascination (1979)	1979 Horror. French film with sub titles. Extremely bizarre story of a group of vampire women who hold a ritual in a castle dressed only in net curtains and sacrifice a male guest who is a thief on the run. I imagine he would have welcomed any means of escaping this film including being carved up and drunk. Lots of blood, nudity and sex but the acting is appalling and the film as a whole is COMPLETE RUBBISH.	2
Fascination (2005)	2005 An unerotic erotic thriller. I watched it because I thought it could not possibly be as bad as the reviews but it is! The acting is awful and the musical score embarrassing. The plot is preposterous. Is that enough to be going on with? Do not be tempted. Deffo rubbisho.	3
Fatal Attraction	1987 erotic thriller. Cannot believe that this film is now 25 years old. It has aged so well. Still a standard setting classic of the erotic thriller genre. The bunny boiling scene is of course iconic in the movie world. Michael Douglas is superb with his hunted rabbit in the headlights expressions. A classic film that everyone should see but is there anyone who has not seen it yet? Surprised that this predates Basic Instinct by 5 years. Tense and captivating from start to finish.	8
Fear (1996)	1996. Lowbudget adequate teen thriller. Sexy 16 year old girl falls for older smooth talking boy who turns out to be very bad news and a psychopath and have some very nasty friends . Builds to a massively violent climax but the film is entirely predictable throughout. The most notable feature is the performance of a very young Reese Witherspoon.	4
Feast Of Love	2007 romance / drama. This film is like an American version of a mix of Four Weddings and a Funeral, and Love Actually. It is about 3 or 4 couples whose lives become intertwined, and about love, disappointment , bereavement and hope. Morqan Freeman is an excellent choice and as brilliant as ever. The characters are appealing and attractive and credible and make you care about them. OK it's cheesy and a chick flick, but actually I liked it and it is emotional and definitely watchable.	6
Fever Pitch	1997 I adore this film. It is absolutely one of my favourite films ever. It just has it all. Just brilliant. Make you laugh and cry all the way through. Maybe it is because I am a lifelong football supporter myself and can identify with the emotions so much but it is a great backdrop for a very convincing RomCom too. I cannot recommend it highly enough.	10
Few Good Men (A)	1992 Excellent drama about megalomaniac marine in charge of Guantamino Baybase , (Jack Nicholson) and courtroom drama with Tom Cruise (Naval lawyer) and Demi Moore (one of her best films) tackles the morality and legality of obeying orders, loyalty and honour. Superb.	9
Fight Club	1999 Black Comedy drama. Going by the other reviews most love this film. One thing for sure- you will either love it or hate it. Personally I hated it. Definitely not for me. It is a very dark comedy supposedly making some deep points against capitalism and consumerism through anarchic rebellion. The argument is that you can break out from being a consumer sheep through bare knuckle man to man fighting as this way you can actually feel something. It is a relentlessly violent and disrespectful film and anarchic story and goes on far too long. The conclusion becomes so surreal you are not sure what is going on.	5
Fighter (The)	2008 Based on true story of two brothers who both fight and the rise of the younger brother to	6

Film	Comments and Rating	
(2008)	win a world championship. Has love interest. A watchable film.	
Fingersmith	2005 Period drama set in 19 th century. BBC series. An unusual and original plot with more twists than a game of pontoon. Very good acting and casting, It is long (180 mins) but is well worth the effort. It gets better and more intriguing as it progresses. There is a lesbian relationship tastefully and credibly done. A very good drama of betrayal, love, greed, wealth, poverty, and a gigantic scam. This film has it all. I was surprised that I was not aware of this when it was on TV.	8
Firewall	2006 Harrison Ford in a very good thriller where he is head of security at a bank in Seattle but his family is kidnapped to try to force him to release \$10M ransom through computer hacking. Very credible performances all round. Violent.	7
Fish Tank	2009 Drama. Bleak gritty portrayal of the lives of a very young single mother and her two daughters the oldest of whom is 15 in a grim tower block in an east London sink estate. Depressing and sadly extremely realistic view of people living hopeless lives. The mother's boyfriend also turns his attention on the daughter with predictably disastrous results. A compelling watch.	7
Five Hundred Days Of Summer	2009 Romance, slow and annoyingly stylized. Implausible ending. Dull, poor and disappointing. Fees like it lasts 500 days. Boring and cringe making	3
Flame & Citron	2009 WW2 Drama based on true story about the Danish resistance in 1944 set in Copenhagen. Sub titles. I agree that it is a bit long but it is definitely watchable. Has some similarities to The Black Book so if you liked that then this may be for you. Good in the sense that you are never sure who are the goodies and baddies just like the real situation. The relationship between one of the resistance fighters and a glamorous seductress is intriguing as you are never sure which side she is on.	7
Flawless	2008 Thriller. Demi Moore struggled, Michael Caine excellent as ever, 1960s jewel robbery. Watchable but plot becomes unrealistic. Terrific cast but end result is disappointingly average.	5
Flight	2012 drama. Denzel Washington is excellent as the hard living airline captain who brilliantly lands a stricken plane, but then faces an enquiry into whether he was in a fit state to fly. The movie evolves into a credible examination of the road to facing and dealing with alcoholism. I loved the line that finally in jail he observes that for the first time in his life he is free-free from the grip of alcohol. A great movie.	8
Flock (The)	2007 Richard Gere. Gere is responsible for a group of paroled violent sex offenders. He suspects several of them are still involved in the abduction of a new victim. Gere is mentoring a new female recruit. A very good drama.	7
For Your Eyes Only	1981 James Bond drama. The 12 th Bond film and the fifth of the Roger Moore series. I have never been a fan of the Bond films where Bond is played by Roger Moore. I could never take him seriously as a hard, cruel and dangerous agent. The film is thankfully mainly a straight thriller rather than embarrassing humour of the other Roger Moore Bond films. The early scenes in the winter Olympics are boring and the plot is confusing. The film improves in the second half. There is much activity under water and the female young ice skater athlete is annoying.	5
Forbidden	2002 soft porn love story. Most low budget soft porn films of this genre are absolutely dire rubbish. But this one is watchable and a cut above. Yes there is oodles of sex and nudity but the four main characters can actually act which is unusual and in particular Renee Rea the lead female is very credible and likeable. OK as a late night titillating easy watch.	5
Forces Of Nature	1999 RomCom Sandra Bullock Starts OK but seriously peters out and ultimately disappoints. Has a few amusing moments but most of it is just absurd and lacks credulity. The story tries to be a sort of mix of Trains, Planes, and Automobiles and When Harry Met Sally but this film is not in the same class as either of those. Even Sandra Bullock lacks lustre and her presence will not be enough even for her fans. It is watchable but that is all. Weak ending.	4
Forgotten (The) (2004)	2004 Watchable thriller about mother with a lost son and erased memory. Low budget American TV movie feel. Ridiculous plot with human aliens abducting children.	2
Fortunes Of War Discs 1 & 2	1987 WWII drama. Epic made for TV BBC series set in Romania and Greece. Stars a young Emma Thompson and Kenneth Branagh. It is OK but very slow and drawn out. (Nearly seven hours long). If it was a third of the length it might have been a good film. The other reviews over rate it for my money. A lot of the acting is mediocre, and some of the characters are OTT caricatures e.g. middle class wasters and head in the clouds academics. Good in parts.	6
Fortunes Of War Disc 3	1987 See fortunes of War Discs 1 & 2. More of the same except in the last two episodes on Disc 3 there is more human story and relationships as the drama draws to a conclusion. Still very slow though.	6
Fountain (The)	2006 Very weird sci fi story. Actually 3 parallel stories involving the same characters 500 years apart. Middle story is a tragic love story of Doctor unable to save his wife but first and third stories are about search for the tree of life and after that it just gets very bizarre. A minimum IQ of 200 needed! But the film does have an absolutely outstanding sound track - probably the best soundtrack I have ever heard. I became fascinated and intrigued by this film and have since watched it several times and seen a lot more to it and increased my rating from an original 4. It grows on you.	6

Film	Comments and Rating	
Four Lions	2010 comedy. This film is very different and alternative dark comedy about a cell of hapless and incompetent would be Muslim Jihad terrorists in the UK. A dangerous and controversial theme you will agree and I am surprised that this film was ever released, Many will find it racist and offensive. The film starts well and you may think you are in for a treat but it does get predictable and repetitive and a bit slapstick. However it is definitely funny in parts right through to the end. I think there is something healthy in all races and religions being able to laugh at themselves. Watchable if you are not easily unsettled by the subject which many will find impossible to find funny.	6
Frankie & Johnny	1991 Very good drama romance set in early 1990s New York. Michelle Pfeiffer and Al Pacino are both superb in this. Great supporting cast. Great character development. Touching and sad but in the end uplifting love story between two battle scarred and hardened characters. Unusual score-sounds like it is going to break into Brief Encounter.	7
Freedom Writers (The)	2007 Voluntary integration of multi ethnic children in a Long Beach school and the efforts of a young female teacher to teach tolerance and harmony and the dangers of racism. Watchable but overrated.	5
Frightened Woman (The)	1969 Italian erotic thriller fantasy dubbed in English. Weird, surreal, bizarre story where the director indulges his sexual fantasies. Briefly a wealthy narcissistic male supremacy psychopath tortures his female victim slaves. Dated, stylised 1960s fare, with the usual horrendous intrusive soundtrack. Memorable only for the iconic amphicar which makes an appearance. Whatever happened to them? Watchable but have a magazine handy to keep you fully occupied!	4
Frivolous Lola (18)	1998 Absolute rubbish sex film. Unwatchable. It beat me and I turned it off. Low budget soft porn. Do not be tempted.	1
From Here To Eternity	1953 The supposedly Hollywood classic with 27 Oscars. OMG. Did Americans really ever behave this way? The men all macho and tough. The women all feeble and weak? Were they really as confrontational and rude to each other. Is this really a window on a bygone culture? I hated this film. I could never find this stilted dialogue and stiff wooden acting convincing. This film is not in the same league as Casablanca in my opinion. Overrated. B/W. My score will be an act of film buff heresy.	4
From Paris With Love	2010 Thriller. John Travolta-very good action spy thriller set in Paris. US agent taking out an entire terrorist cell. Good twist at end. Very violent. Also quite funny in parts.	7
From Russia With Love	1963 James Bond Drama. The second Bond film was feverishly awaited but was sadly not as good as the first. Set in Istanbul, Venice. Lots of scenes on a train journey. Now looks very dated with lots of horrendous back projection. Weak Bond girl. No big set. Worth seeing for completeness but not a classic Bond film.	5
Frost / Nixon	2008 political drama. A truly perfectly crafted movie. Michael Sheen and Frank Langella are just stunning in the two main roles and Rebecca Hall adds a nice balance so the film is not only about the duel between Frost and Nixon. It is just a superb film-I have watched it at least 3 times and it is still as good.	9
Frozen	2010. Thriller -3 young people stuck on a chair lift in a ski resort for a week after the resort has closed for a break. Horrific.	5
Full Metal Jacket	1987 US Marines Vietnam classic modeled on The Deer Hunter and Apocalypse Now. Very good. Portrayal of life of a marine in Vietnam.	7
Game (The)	1997 Thriller. A successful businessman has his life taken over by a deranged agency with devastating consequences. This occurs supposedly as the result of a gift from his brother and is meant to be fun but instead is extremely sinister. The plot has no credibility at all and is increasingly preposterous as the film progresses. Having said that Michael Douglas's brilliance keeps the film highly entertaining and impossible to turn off. It is definitely watchable and so extreme that the film does have a riveting excitement where you wonder just what will happen next.	7
Gangster Squad	2012 Violent hard hitting story set in the late 1940s Los Angeles. Sean Penn steals the show as the evil gangster leader Micky Cohen. Ryan Gosling superb as goodie police detective, and Emma Stone terrific as Cohen's squeeze. Not for the squeamish. It is good and watchable, and entertaining. The cars and sets are wonderful. But there is too much gratuitous violence and the relentless machine guns make it like watching a video game.	6
Gathering Storm	2002 Rare film dramatizing the years leading up to WWII in Britain concentrating on the rise of Winston Churchill, and his marriage to Clementine, and family life at Chartwell. Good character development, and Albert Finney is brilliant as Churchill. Captures the political campaign well that Churchill ran to raise awareness of the threat of Hitler.	8
General's Daughter (The)	1999 John Travolta. A US army general's popular daughter (herself a captain) is found raped and murdered. Travolta investigates and uncovers a shocking major scandal. It is a little contrived but is a very good action drama / thriller.	7
Get Lucky	2013 Thriller. British film set in London about two brothers and a group of hoodlums and professional gangsters running a mafia style protection racket. The plot becomes increasingly interweaved into a tangled web where disaster is waiting to happen. Sure enough it progresses inexorably towards a big finish where everything comes crashing down in a bloody finale. The characters are credible and in the end the product is a watchable average thriller.	5

Film	Comments and Rating	
Get Smart	2008 Steve Carell in a Spy spoof and Rom Com thriller based on CIA but rather like Johnny English with Jaws from James Bond thrown in. Steve Carell is a very funny man and is always good value and does his best but apart from him this film is a disappointment. It is clearly inspired by Johnny English and is an American remake but is inferior. The film is highly formulaic and predictable and relies on a lot of slap stick action. I liked the film at the beginning but it just got so repetitive and in the end boring.	5
Ghost (The)	2010. Excellent political thriller based on Blair involving CIA and prosecution of war crimes. It goes as far as it can get away with to make some veiled accusations about the Blair premiership.	8
Girl In The Café (The)	2005 Romantic drama. OK not the best film ever and not Richard Curtis' best film either but definitely watchable. The two lead roles are superb (Bill Nighy and Kelly MacDonal) and it is a low key gentle pleasant innocuous meander of a story. Two lonely souls sort of drift together for a while and a little connection and love is briefly found before their lives diverge again. It is wrong to describe the relationship as a whirlwind romance-more a gentle drifting together of two awkward lonely people. It is sensitively handled and I liked it.	7
Girl In The Park (The)	2008 Family drama. Starts well and promises a lot but goes downhill I am afraid. The plot becomes increasingly unrealistic and improbable. It is well acted especially by the two main leads, Sigourney Weaver and Kate Bosworth but they are making the best of a thin and dodgy plot. The pace is slow and boring and repetitive. The long awaited ending is a damp squib and you sort of end up asking what was the point of it really. It is only lifted to a 4 by the individual performance of Weaver.	4
Girl Who Played With Fire (The)	2009. Dark brooding, gory, sequel to The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo. Reasonably faithful to the book. Very Good drama / thriller but not quite as good as Dragon. Very watchable.	7
Girl With The Dragon Tattoo (The) (2009)	2009 Original Swedish version with dubbing in English. I liked it. A good thriller. I very nearly gave it an 8. Grim and hard hitting.	7
Girl With The Dragon Tattoo (The) USA Version (2011)	2011 Daniel Craig. Thriller about the abuse of women. Explicit rape scene may cause offense to some. An excellent remake of this popular book. The plot is still as complicated and difficult to follow due to the vast number of Swedes involved many from the same family. Helps if you have seen the other version or read the book. I preferred it to the Swedish original version.	8
Glengarry Glen Ross Feature	1992 Star studded cast, but very much a stage play style. All acted in a play style single office. I did not enjoy this. A rather pointless flog of a high pressure sales team under enormous pressure themselves. A long aggressive and highly alpha male competitive uncaring rant between the players who spend the entire film insulting and belittling each other.	4
Glorious 39	2009. Early WW2 film about Nazi appeasement. Pretentious and contrived film that lacks credibility. Plot is just not believable. Wooden acting.	4
Going All The Way	1997 Drama. Drama about unlikely friendship between two guys who have just completed military service in the USA set in 1954. One is confident ex college sports hero and can have any girl he wants and the other is a nervous social outcast. The story is about the sexual awakening of the social outcast and his excruciating and ultimately sad experiences of adolescence, and his horrendous relationship with his overbearing parents. I thought it was sensitively done and I liked it and consider this an under rated film.	7
Golden Compass (The)	2007 First Dakota Blue Richards film. Watched it because she was in it (with Daniel Craig and Nicole Kidman). Children's fantasy. Everyone has an animal alta ego (Demon). Dakota is excellent.	6
Goldeneye	1995 James Bond drama. The 17th Bond film and the first of the Pierce Brosnam series. There had been a gap of six years since the previous (Licence To Kill) Bond movie. The style reverts to being mainly a thriller which is a welcome relief after the Roger Moore series lost its way so badly. However the plot is disjointed and disconnected. It is something about the Sean Bean character stealing a space based nuclear weapon. I never have understood what the opening scene of Bond abseiling off the dam has to do with the plot.	6
Goldfinger	1964 James Bond Drama. Absolutely ground breaking Bond that set the Gold standard for the next 42 years until Casino Royale. Until 2006 Goldfinger was the best Bond movie of all time. Great villain, and the introduction of the immortalized Aston Martin, and who can forget Pussy Galore who turns out to be a goody, and the model of Fort Knox. If you never seen it-do not pass go-go and watch it immediately.	8
Good German (The)	2006 Kate Blanchet, George Clooney, great cast. Set in Berlin at end of second world war. Filmed in black and white. Disappointing. Good in parts.	2
Good Mother (The)	1988 Dianne Keaton, Liam Neeson. Very credible drama about a single mother who falls in love with an artist and loses custody of her 4 year old daughter over an unfortunate and accidental event involving contrasting attitudes to nudity and the handling of sex education with children. Excellent cast and script. Touching and sad.	8
Good Shepherd (The) (2006)	2006 Fantastic cast but this marathon length film defeated me. The entire story of the CIA back to the stone age. Like watching paint dry. Just too slow and ponderous for my taste.	2
Good Year (A)	2006 Absolute rubbish. Impossible to get through. Crowe is mis cast in this. Good scenery photography but that is all. Otherwise this film is appalling.	1

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