

2014

**The KnightWatcher's Film
Reviews**



The KnightWatcher's FILM REVIEWS 2014 edition



Hi! I'm Bob Brown AKA The KnightWatcher. A big welcome to all you fellow film lovers to the 2014 edition of my film reviews.

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

This edition now contains **777** film reviews. Yes I know that if you buy a commercial book of film reviews it will likely contain more like 18 thousand films so admittedly I have a long way to go and of course there are many films that are not yet covered by this book. But this hobby takes time and have you any idea how long it will take me to watch 18,000 films? I hope I live that long! In the meantime these are the films I have watched in the last few years. At least with this book of reviews many of my readers will know me personally so you have the added interest of knowing the reviewer which normally you would not. So if you disagree with my review you can tell me directly. I don't mind!

There are many films in here released in 2014. So what were the best films this year? I would say *The Imitation Game*, *Gone Girl*, *Paddington* and *Fury*.

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 Amazon Lovefilm if someone likes a film they will automatically just give it a 10, in other words it's all or nothing, 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. I would recommend that you briefly familiarise yourself with the definitions of the ratings which follow before referring to the reviews.

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.

Good watching- *Bob* The KnightWatcher

Definitions of Ratings

Rating	Quality of Film
1	A very poor , awful 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>



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

And while I am singling out the all time greats the best TV drama series ever made in my opinion has been *Homeland* particularly Series 1 & 2.

THE FILM REVIEWS

Film	Comments and Rating	
A For Andromeda	2006 Sci Fi Made for TV BBC movie. When I saw the original in 1961 I was riveted to the TV and mesmerised by it. The story is basically about an intelligent signal received from deep space which contains the plans for a super computer which is duly constructed but unfortunately the computer turns out to have sinister plans for the human race. It was just so off the scale ground breaking and brilliant. Unbelievably there are no surviving copies and it is lost forever. The BBC could not afford not to reuse the tape! So to try to make amends the BBC remade it in 2006. Unfortunately this version is as bad as the original was good. The script is embarrassing, and the acting horrendous. I strongly advise you to avoid this so disappointing and highly amateurish remake especially if you have fond memories of the original. It completely lacks any suspense or tension, and well it's just awful.	3
Adam Resurrected	2008 WWII drama. A fictional tale about a psychiatric hospital in the desert for Jews traumatized by surviving the extermination camps. In this bizarre story the main character, a famous Jewish circus entertainer, was forced to live as a pet dog for the amusement of the Nazi camp commandant. The holocaust camp scenes are very sanitized and no violence is on display. I seriously wondered what the point of this film was given that it was not based on any real events. It has a weird and bizarre plot and contributes nothing to spreading awareness and understanding of Nazi atrocities and the holocaust.	3
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 I Lost	2013 Drama about a lone sailor (Robert Redford) whose voyage goes disastrously wrong and he faces increasing mortal danger. A story about ingenuity, stoicism, determination, strength of character, and bravery. The film unusually has a cast of just one. Redford is brilliant. It is like watching Gravity but on the water instead of space. It also has some similarities with Castaway. Virtually no dialogue. It is some impressive achievement that this film sustains the tension and drama that it does from the start to the end with one actor, and a great deal of detailed activity that could have easily been boring and for that reason it deserves a very high score.	9
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 low budget 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
Amazing Spider Man 2 (The)	2014 Action super hero drama that may appeal to some brain dead 8 year old boys but to anyone else this has to be one of the worst movies ever made Just a mindless frenetic high octane fest of CGI special effects that we have seen so many times before. To try to save this movie the director has crammed in a ludicrous number of parallel story lines many of which appear to have nothing to do with the film. The script is so laughably bad it is in fact hard not to laugh out of embarrassment. There is no character development whatsoever and all of the multiple villains are just rehashed caricatures. Absolutely awful.	1
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 Hustle	2013 Big con drama set in New Jersey in the early 1980s. Excellent film with great cast, and a superb interwoven complex plot of political bribery, mafia, corruption, bluff and double bluff. There is also an overlaid story of two women competing for the same guy. What makes this film special is that the characters are just so credible, with a superbly authentic script. The characters are superbly developed and are all unusually 3D people with human weaknesses and fallibility. A thoroughly entertaining tense crime thriller with	9

Film	Comments and Rating	
	<i>a hard edge.</i>	
<i>American President (The)</i>	1995 Political Drama . Classic political romance. Excellent in parts, and great cast, plot and script	9
<i>American Psycho</i>	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
<i>An Education</i>	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
<i>Analyse That</i>	2002 Comedy. Sequel that should not have been made	4
<i>Analyse This</i>	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
<i>Animal Attraction</i>	2001 RomCom. Also known as 'Someone Like You'. Good cast but predictable romcom set in New York about a dumped female executive who responds by conducting an investigation into male dating behaviour and the biological reasons for male infidelity and promiscuity. Mildly amusing in parts and just about watchable but the plot is unconvincing and the overall result is adequate at best.	4
<i>Another Country</i>	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
<i>Another Stakeout</i>	1993 Comedy drama. Yes it is a sequel to the brilliant original Stakeout and it could never be as good or follow that but nevertheless it is not bad. Very funny in parts especially the dinner party scene towards the end. Richard Dreyfuss is brilliant as ever and the film is watchable and amusing in its own right. Follows the same formula but does have a new plot.	6
<i>Another Woman</i>	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
<i>Another Year</i>	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
<i>Anything For Her</i>	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
<i>Apocalypse Now</i>	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
<i>Apollo 13</i>	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
<i>Apollo 18</i>	2011. Apollo 13 meets Alien. Rubbish. An appolo-gy for a film.	3
<i>Arbitrage</i>	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 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.	6
<i>Argo</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.	7
<i>Army Of Saviours</i>	2009 WWII drama. German film with sub-titles based on a true story about a few farmers in Nazi Germany who sheltered a family of three Jews for two years enabling them to survive when all their local contemporaries did not. Watchable but not particularly entertaining and can be difficult to follow the sub-titles and therefore the plot. A bit flat somehow. Attempts to be a Schindlers List or Saving Private Ryan at the finale but does not come off really.	6
<i>Arthur Christmas</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.	6

Film	Comments and Rating	
At Close Range	1985 Family Crime drama. Greatly under-rated and lesser know gem with superb performances from Christopher Walken as the hoodlum father, and as his son Sean Penn. Based on a true story a relentlessly grim portrayal of low life living a life of violent crime in the US with well developed characters and brutal realism. The son gets sucked into and trapped in his father's criminal gang activities and is over influence by him until he tries to make his escape. Worth seeing alone for the fantastic mid 1980s motors! A very watchable but disturbing and shocking movie.	8
Atomised	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 !	6
August: Osage County	2013 Drama. Billed as a comedy but you will not find much to laugh at. Based on a stage play and it shows, as the film has been produced in the same style. An in depth study of a family tearing itself apart through criticism and complaining. An extended family of two sisters, three daughters, and all their partners. A study of how when strong minded people carrying a lot of anger and negativity they can gradually destroy the love of all their family around them and end up alone. Meryl Streep and Julia Roberts are both outstanding as monsters. A depressing and sad film.	8
Avatar	2009 Very good but you have to get into it. Maybe watch twice to fully appreciate it . Loaded with spiritual and environmental messages.	7
Awake	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.	5
Away from her	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.	1
Babel	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.	5
Babette's Feast	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 dour and dated. It was completely lost on me. Sorry! Many regard this as a perfect 10 masterpiece. I have no idea why.	2
Bank Job (The)	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.	8
Basic Instinct	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!	9
Basic Instinct 2	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	8
Battle in Heaven	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.	3
Be Cool	2005 John Travolta comedy romance in the music industry	5
Beaches	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.	4
Beat	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	7

Film	Comments and Rating	
	<i>the intrigue and desire.</i>	
<i>Beautiful Creatures</i>	2001 Dark comedy British thriller, wacky tale. Rachel Weisz. Amusing and harmless. A sort of <i>Thelma and Louise</i>	5
<i>Beautiful Thing</i>	1996 Drama. Film 4 British gritty kitchen sink drama in the Mike Leigh mould. Filmed 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.	7
<i>Bedroom (The)</i>	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
<i>Before Midnight</i>	2013 Romantic Drama. I was looking forward to this and was not disappointed. An intelligent drama where the dialogue is the central part, and a real attempt to examine a mature married relationship in depth. A couple who love each other but cannot stop squabbling and they do not know why. Similar theme to <i>The Story of Us</i> and also <i>Blue Valentine</i> . If you liked those, you will also like this, and it is as good. This is a sequel to <i>Before Sunset</i> .	8
<i>Before Sunrise</i>	1995 Romantic Drama. The first of this great trilogy .A beautiful window on a chance meeting of two young people who may have met the love of their life. Brilliantly scripted the main feature of this film is the dialogue as the couple gradually drop their guard and find an increasing attraction to each other, and start falling in love. It is touching, true to life and very romantic. The story takes place over just one night in Vienna.	8
<i>Before Sunset</i>	2004 Romantic drama. about a couple who previously had a whirl wind encounter nine years earlier and who reunite when their paths happen to cross again in Paris. Sequel to <i>Before Sunrise</i> . This moving film is all about the script and dialogue. The film unusually takes place in real time ie the 75 minutes of the film cover the same period of the two characters' lives without a break. It is a fascinating study of life changing moments, and of the experience of meeting the love of your life, and the possibility of letting it slip through your fingers. The film examines in depth the human behaviour of emotional connection, flirting, chemistry, and romancing, and how both characters gradually let down their guard and defences.	8
<i>Before The devil Knows You're Dead</i>	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
<i>Behind Enemy Lines</i>	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
<i>Behind The Candelabra</i>	2013 Drama. Michael Douglas makes a good job of playing Liberace. Matt Damon also does well at playing his long term boyfriend and partner. A glitzy film about this larger than life outstanding pianist's excessive ostentation, and his vulgar, excessive showmanship. the story portrays his homosexual relationship in great detail, and projects Liberace as totally camp. The film will make some feel uncomfortable and others will find it unnecessarily long. But overall it is a watchable, fun, well crafted film with good character development.	7
<i>Being Julia</i>	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
<i>Bel Ami</i>	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 <i>Dangerous Liaisons</i> 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	7

Film	Comments and Rating	
	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.	
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
Betrayed- A Story Of Three Women (1995)	1995 Family Drama. Lowbudget US TV movie. Two women who are life long friends and who live next door to each other find their friendship and lives rocked when it is discovered that the husband of one of them is having an affair with the daughter of the other. It is a routine watchable chick flick reasonably well acted but let down by a failure to provide any explanations as to why the unlikely events occurred and a weak ending. The film just sorts of fades away really and the resolutions are rather rushed and unconvincing.	4
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
Beyond The Border (2010)	2010 WWII drama. Swedish film with sub-titles. Set in Sweden in 1942 before the Nazi invasion the story concerns a group of 6 soldiers tasked with guarding a road block near the border. When bored one night 2 of them decide to cross into Nazi occupied Norway and from then onwards everything goes badly wrong. The two soldiers go missing across the border and a rescue mission is mounted. There is an overlaid story concerning the leading lieutenant whose girlfriend is pregnant and also one of the lost soldiers is his brother. Potentially a good film but as so often with war and battle action films during the action it is actually hard to know who is who and what is going on. In this film it is doubly difficult as most of the time all of the characters on both sides are wearing white polar bear suits and white balaclavas against a background of white snow! Graphic and violent but somehow does not grab you.	5
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
Bitter Moon	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
Black Book (The)	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 in 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
Black Hawk Down	2001 excellent war / action movie based on true events in Somalia in 1993 directed by Ridley Scott (Blade Runner). Gritty, intense, high octane action drama. A routine military operation is seriously misjudged and under estimated and quickly descends into chaos as the maines are over run by local militia. Excellent cast and well acted. War films do not get much better or more realistic than this.	9
Black Sheep	2010 Russian WWII drama with sub titles. A dour grim long saga in which everybody dies. A sort of Russian Dirty Dozen in which a group of escapee Russian prisoners end up fighting both the Russian army and the invading German army engaged on a secret mission, so secret, in fact, that we never found out what it was! I think the prisoners are supposed to be portrayed as heroes but most of the time you will not have the faintest	4

Film	Comments and Rating	
	<i>idea who is fighting who, or indeed care. Only for extreme WWII addicts.</i>	
<i>Black Swan</i>	<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.</i>	7
<i>Blackout (The)</i>	<i>1997 Drama. Strange film in which a famous actor (Matty) develops an alcohol and drugs addiction and his life spirals out of control. The events in the film are fuzzy and surreal and it is often not clear what is actually happening. I had to watch this film twice to make sense of it. It is better than you may think at first. In the end it is a hard hitting , brutal, and shocking film about decadence and drug and alcohol abuse and the risks and consequences. The Matty character loses everything in this story, but as if that was not enough, there is a monumental twist at the end where he discovers something truly earth shattering about his actions during a blackout two years earlier. Average.</i>	5
<i>Blade Runner</i>	<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.</i>	9
<i>Bling Ring (The)</i>	<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.</i>	5
<i>Blitz</i>	<i>2011 Thriller. I cannot believe the rave reviews and the average score of 3 stars (6/10). A low budget film about a series of police murders set in South East London. A preposterous plot and appallingly acted , a terrible script, with no character development. A thoroughly unpleasant film, with lashings of needless violence . Based on the usual stereotypical hard, rebellious, maverick cop, who in today's world would be reigned in and bounced out the force in five minutes. A very poor quality film, and will only appeal to macho hard blokes on a Friday night after a few pints of lager. I bailed out. Rubbish.</i>	2
<i>Blood Simple</i>	<i>1983 Coen brothers first film-erotic thriller, gritty. Dark and bloody but with some humour.</i>	6
<i>Bloomington</i>	<i>2011 Drama. Routine coming of age lesbian drama about a former child star actress who goes to college to try to forge an alternative path to acting. She forms a relationship with her women-eating female college professor but this latter character seriously lacks credibility and further the film completely ignores all the obvious issues of the taboos of student teacher relationships. Things go lovey- dovey until the younger girl is lured back into acting by her agent and this puts a strain on the relationship. Low budget made for TV movie feel with a weak story and an even weaker ending. An unremarkable superficial highly sanitized mediocre film.</i>	3
<i>Blue Is The Warmest Colour</i>	<i>2013 Lesbian Romantic Drama. French film with sub-titles and winner of Cannes Festival 2013. A coming of age story about a young girl who is unhappy with her relationship with a boy at school and meets an older girl with whom she falls in love and lives with. The film covers a long period and attempts to show how the relationship develops between the girls and analyses the stresses and strains of such a relationship. It is a serious, sensitive and sensuous movie and you can see why it won an award. The long and graphic physical encounters may be too much for some peoples taste, and also the film as a whole is unnecessarily long at three hours. Nevertheless if you have the time and the interest then it is a good, watchable touching film.</i>	6
<i>Blue Jasmine</i>	<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.</i>	8
<i>Blue Lagoon</i>	<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.</i>	3
<i>Blue Valentine</i>	<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 The Story Of Us. Explores the challenges of keeping a relationship fresh. Excellent.</i>	8
<i>Blue Velvet</i>	<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.</i>	3
<i>Boat That Rocked (The)</i>	<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</i>	4

Film	Comments and Rating	
	wasted opportunity-disappointing.	
Body Double	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
Body Heat	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
Body Of Evidence	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
Boogeyman 3	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 domms. The usual flashing of the lights accompanied by lots of electrical arking sounds everytime the Boogeyman makes an appearance. Mediocre but just about watchable.	4
Boogie Nights	1997 Drama set in Los Angeles this story covers the lives of a dozen or so misfits and inadequates working in the pom industry during a seven year period commencing 1977. In particular its central character is a young man who rises from nowhere to be a star of the film industry. In the early years the team as a whole are hugely successful and make a lot of money but in the 1980s the rot sets in and things degenerate primarily due to their cocaine habits. Gradually the gang take to stealing drugs on the side. Contains some nudity and violence. Usually films on this subject are of the soft porn variety , and rubbish, but this one is of a higher quality with a superior script and acting. It is hard to make a film about the porn industry that is not soft porn itself but they achieved it with this film. Watchable and holds your interest for the 150 minutes duration.	6
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
Book Thief (The)	2014 WWII drama. This film misses an opportunity to portray ordinary life as it was for Germans living in Germany throughout the Second World War. There seems to be almost no attempt to capture the brutal reality of the national catastrophe that is happening along the way. It is not a match for the excellent book upon which it is based and is just too cosy and bland. It would be alright as a children's TV serial, or a film for a Sunday afternoon or Christmas Day aimed at family audiences and children , but otherwise is just too sanitised and safe. The background story is a variation of the Anne Frank story but there is just no tension or suspense .	6
Borgen	2010 Danish TV series with sub titles running to 20 episodes based on the Danish parliament and in particular the female prime minister who heads the coalition. There are story threads that endure throughout but also each episode is a sort of standalone drama with a different topical theme. Very watchable and not to be missed. The actress who plays the prime minister is excellent and makes it.	8
Bound	1996 Sexy erotic thriller about a mob ster'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
Brake	2011 Thriller. A run of the mill CIA agent based thriller mainly set in the boot of a car! It is in the style of a Bruce Willis Die Hard type film but not in that league. It has moments of interest but is very average and has a ludicrous plot with some holes in it the size of the CIA headquarters.	5
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	4

Film	Comments and Rating	
	credibility to the limit. Also includes a hooker with a heart who befriends him but really adds nothing to the film.	
Breathe In	2013. Drama about a young foreign exchange student (Sophie) pianist who come to stay with a New York State family but starts to form a mutual attraction with the father who is also her music teacher. A softly softly understated slowburn story which is more about the subtle observation of their behaviour rather than anything actually happening. The film is a little tense and tragic but will be too uneventful for most people's taste. Spoilt by poor acoustics and dialogue that is hard to decipher.	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
Brokedown Palace	1999. Drama. A young Claire Danes stars in this story which is a rehash of Bangkok Hilton. Heroin is planted on two young girls by a drugs smuggling chamer, and they are arrested and jailed. The film is entirely predictable and has a weak plot that adds almost nothing original. Weak ending. Average.	5
Broken	2012 Drama. British film about an 11 year old girl from a broken home living with her father, who endures chaos and upset with most of the relationships in her life. She lives in a small close which seemingly has a disproportionate helping of dysfunctional families, a simpleton and bullies. Even more happens than used to in Brookside! She maintains a cheerful disposition in the face of constant adversity. The film builds to a violent and dramatic conclusion. It is well acted and scripted and very watchable although sad, depressing and shocking.	7
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 subtle 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
Butterfly Effect (The)	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
Butterfly Kiss	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	4

Film	Comments and Rating	
	<i>until it comes to an inevitable and tragic end.</i>	
Caligula	1979 Drama about the life of a young deranged Roman emperor. I watched the uncut version which lasts about 2 weeks. This is a Marmite movie and it gets ratings from 1 to 10 with people equally divided. It has to be the most sexually explicit movie ever made and features nudity , gruesome punishments ,and graphic sex from start to finish. It is also the most explicit and complete portrayal of the debauchery and decadence of the Roman Empire that you are likely to see. You have been warned. But it remains an iconic film that film buffs need to see for completeness It is a big set extravaganza by the director Tinto Brass. On the odd occasion when the actors are not completely naked the costumes are good. It has an all star cast and the acting and script are not bad. You need to be extremely broad minded and have a strong stomach to tackle this one so be warned. It is not just a not so soft porn film in that it does have a watchable story and reasonable plot, with some character development. Outrageous!	6
Camomile Lawn (The) Disc 1 (Episodes 3 & 4)	1992 Channel 4 TV drama. A watchable TV series drama about an extended family of parents, aunts, uncles and cousins at the beginning of the second world war set in Cornwall and London. The story focuses on the colorful love lives and relationships of the relatives seemingly including with each other against the back drop of escalating danger and the struggle with the enemy. Based on a book the production was considered quite racy in 1992 containing a lot of nudity. In the second half the acting , script, and direction remained somewhat stylised and stilted and this has reduced the score. Great cast though. Episodes 3 & 4 do not quite live up to the promise of the first half and in the end the overall result is just average. Episode 4 is set in the present 40 years later in 1983.	5
Camomile Lawn (The) Disc 1 (Episodes 1 & 2)	1992 Channel 4 TV drama. A good watchable TV series drama about an extended family of parents, aunts, uncles and cousins at the beginning of the second world war set in Cornwall and London. The story is told as a series of flash back and flash forwards. The story focuses on the colorful love lives and relationships of the relatives seemingly including with each other against the back drop of escalating danger and the struggle with the enemy. Based on a book the production was considered quite racy in 1992 containing a lot of nudity. Some of the acting , script, and direction is somewhat stylised and stilted and this has reduced the score. There is a lack of chemistry and connection between the main characters. Great cast though and an interesting plot.	6
Captain Phillips	20013 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
Caramel	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
Career Girls	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
Casino Royale	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
Casualties Of war	1989 Vietnam war film. Extremely shocking story based on real events in which a squadron of five kidnap an innocent young Vietnamese girl to rape her and eventually murder her when she looks like she may lead to them being spotted by the enemy. Sean Penn gives an excellent performance as the crazy, maverick ring leader Sergeant and Michael J Fox is equally impressive as the voice of good and morality in the group who unsuccessfully tries to prevent the evil activities. The film depicts the struggle that the Fox character had to get anyone in authority to investigate and prosecute the rest of the group on his testimony. A brutal disturbing , graphic , realistic and unpleasant movie that depicts the horror of war .	8
Cat Chaser	1990 Thriller. American war veteran (Dominican Republic) begins a steamy affair with an old flame who is now married to a nasty and corrupt Dominican general . This film is now dated but watchable although only adequate at best. The plot is hard to follow in places and the film feels like an adapted stage play with a lot of rapid fire conversation that is important to the plot. However it gets more straight forward as you get deep into the film. But is it worth the effort? Probably not. Some nudity and a lot of violence some of which is	4

Film	Comments and Rating	
	<i>pretty graphic and a high body count by the time you reach the end.</i>	
<i>Cathy Come Home</i>	1966 Family Drama. Dramatised documentary and probably the most famous British TV play of all time. A play that shocked the nation at the time and brought the welfare and social services systems into public consciousness. A bleak story about a mother who gradually loses her home, husband and children through an inadequate and harsh welfare system and which helped changed both this and British attitudes to welfare – for the better. The uncaring brutal approaches of the time are portrayed in this fictional drama that is overlaid by a commentary of real people's actual experiences from that era. Obviously this film, directed by Ken Loach, is now dated but is nevertheless iconic and highly watchable. People who are old enough all remember where they were when they first watched Cathy Come Home.	7
<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>Chef</i>	2014 Comedy about a Los Angeles chef who gets fired and starts a business selling food from a van and travels across America. A highly predictable story which is just amateurish and naff from start to finish. The soundtrack of loud continuous Mexican and Cuban style music is very annoying and aimed at injecting a happy feel good overlay to what is a boring mundane story. There are also attempts to raise the tone by injecting lots of scenic backdrops that border on making the film look like a travel documentary. The script is embarrassingly bad and the film is much too long and padded out. May interest some with a food obsession as there are hours of close ups of food preparation. Grossly inferior to the similarly themed 1996 Irish film The Van.	2
<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>Chinatown</i>	1974. Drama thriller. Early Jack Nicholson film in which he stars as a private investigator out to break down local government corruption. He forms a smouldering relationship with a murdered victim's widow (Faye Dunaway). This is an iconic Hollywood classic and both my film ratings books categorize this as a perfect film with highest possible scores. Unfortunately I did not find it to be as good as that. It is a very good film, with reasonable plot but that is all. It is a little slow by modern standards. It is set in the 1930s but the style is classic 1970s thriller with lots of saxophone soundtrack. Unusual for a film where the baddie wins.	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>Circle of Friends</i>	1996. Romantic Drama. Coming of age story about three young girls in Ireland in the late 1950's off to attend Trinity College Dublin. The film portrays the attitudes towards, and behaviours of dating and romancing of the time as each of the girls searches for love and experiments with sexual relationships. A young Colin Firth has a small part, but the main star is probably Minnie Driver. A good drama, well scripted and acted and a well regarded film.	6
<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	6

Film	Comments and Rating	
	<i>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 . 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
Claire Of The Moon	1992 Lesbian romantic drama. A straight author shares a cabin with a gay psychiatrist at a writers retreat in the US. The film is directed like a stage play with long sequences of stilted dialogue between all the other guests at the retreat (who are all women). The film tries to elevate itself with pseudo intellectual discussion about the differences between men and women , and also between gay and straight women. But the main theme is the simmering relationship between the two women in the shared cabin which finally erupts at the end of the film. The acting is so poor and the script so false, and the characters such stereotypes that it is borders on being a farce. Poor.	2
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	4

Film	Comments and Rating	
	<i>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!</i>	
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
Cracks	2009 Sensuous drama about a remote girls on a Scottish island school set in the 1930s. A fanatical, possessive and highly dedicated young teacher brilliantly played by Eva Green (Casino Royale) has cultivated a position of total influence and control over a small team of girls who are under her wing. She is with them all the time and they are her life. But the equilibrium is disturbed by the arrival of a new, worldly wise and beautiful girl pupil from Spain who also begins to influence the group. The teacher starts to also be mesmerized by the new arrival and fall for her with disastrous results. The harmony of the group and the school is eventually brought to a tragic ending. A story about coming of age, sexual awakening, the abuse of positions of authority, loyalty and trust. Better than you might expect although a slow burn film which takes a long time to get going and which requires patience.	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
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	1992 Drama. Rather amateurish New Zealand film in which two girl friends have a horrendous car accident and one of them suffers brain damage. The other girl who was driving the car impersonates her friend and forms a relationship with the writer that her injured friend was travelling to interview. She also forms a relationship with the writer's daughter. She shows herself to be a selfish, dangerous and destructive character in her subsequent relationships with the writer's family with whom she stays whilst her friend is in hospital. A study of love, seduction and attraction between the two friends, and also with the writer and his daughter. It is also a tale of self obsession on the part of this main girl character. It is watchable and mediocre at best but it does improve a little as it progresses so hang on in there and there is a big finish.	4
Crush	2001 RomCom. Unusual emotional roller coaster. Starts as a 4 weddings 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 3 40+ 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
Cuckoo (The)	2003 WWII drama. Unusual Russian film with sub titles. Very different to most war films. A Finnish SS officer, and a Russian officer, both seek to hide with a warm and practical recluse Lapp war widow in a remote camp where she lives off the surrounding land and sea. They speak three different languages and are unable to communicate verbally. It is a gentle study of complex human behaviour. Both men, whilst wary of each other, form romantic attachments with the mothering woman. This is a quality film with depth and messages.	7
Dallas Buyers Club (The)	2013 Drama based on a true story of an aids victim in Texas in the 1980s who campaigned for trial experimental drugs to be made available to other terminally ill sufferers. He took on the might of the authorities who were in the pocket of the drug companies whose motivation was to control the drugs that were available to maximise profits. A strong moving serious film with some great performances.	8
Damage	1992 I always liked this erotic drama. Jeremy Irons is superb and totally credible and	8

Film	Comments and Rating	
	<i>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.</i>	
<i>Damned United</i>	<i>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</i>	7
<i>Dan In The Real Life</i>	<i>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.</i>	8
<i>Dance With A Stranger</i>	<i>1985 Crime Drama. British made film telling the story of Ruth Ellis, the last woman to be hanged in Britain in the 1950s. Ellis is an ex prostitute divorcee working in a tacky night club and kept with her teenage son by a sugar daddy who actually loves her in a one sided relationship. Ellis abuses his love and instead has a long term obsessive relationship with an upper class toy boy who eventually dumps her. Ellis can never come to terms with this and murders him. Miranda Richardson is excellent as the hapless Ellis. Well acted and very watchable.</i>	7
<i>Dangerous Parking</i>	<i>2007 Drama. A story about a hard living drug taking alcoholic film director who abuses himself, women, and just about everybody else. Apparently if you watch it long enough, it is about going into rehab and trying to regain control of your life, before the character has to then face an even bigger challenge with his health. But I found this film just too disgusting, intolerable and in your face to watch. I lasted about 15 minutes of over the top two dimensional acting, continuous foul language, and vomiting. But it was the attempt to put an entertaining light comedy edge on it-the cheeky men behaving badly / or loveable rake themes that really turned me off. Unwatchable.</i>	1
<i>Dark Blue World</i>	<i>2001 WWII drama. Czechoslovakia film with sub titles. Story of two Czech pilots flying for the RAF in England in the early part of the war who compete for the love of a local mother. After the war one of them returns to Czechoslovakia where he is branded a criminal and imprisoned and tortured by the communist regime. Watchable average war film.</i>	5
<i>Date Night</i>	<i>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.</i>	8
<i>Dawn Of Evil-Rise Of The Reich</i>	<i>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.</i>	5
<i>Days of Heaven</i>	<i>1979 Romantic drama. A young Richard Gere in this drama about a young couple who drift through the US in the early 20th century finding work where they can. They settle on a wheat plantation in the great plains where a dangerous love triangle ensues with the wealthy owner. But all is not as it seems. Meanwhile Gere manages to wear the same suit and waistcoat working the fields every day and always appearing perfectly pressed and immaculate. the film is unusually narrated throughout by a child, but its greatest merits are the outstanding photography, and the fascinating array of early automation on the farm. A sort of Out Of Africa set in the mid west of the US. watchable and reasonably good.</i>	6
<i>Dead Calm</i>	<i>1988 Thriller with a star studded cast of just three set on a private yacht. Brilliantly acted by Nicole Kidman, Sam Neill, and Billy Zane. Tense and totally credible. Not in the slightest dated. Slightly let down by a completely unnecessary and naff Carry style ending. It would be an even higher score if they lost the last 3 minutes. Highly recommended (unless you are a sailor!)</i>	8
<i>Dead Sexy</i>	<i>2001 Erotic Thriller. A formulaic film trying to follow in the footsteps of Basic Instinct. This film must have seemed dated even when it was released, as it seems to be a throwback to the style of ten years earlier. A female police detective gets sexually involved with the suspect for a series of identical high class call girl murders. Sounds familiar? It is! It is all there – the usual red herrings and the unerotic sexual encounters which are just embarrassing rather than qualifying as soft porn. The usual twist at the end which you will see coming a mile away .</i>	4
<i>Debt (The)</i>	<i>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.</i>	7
<i>Deep Blue Sea (The) (2011)</i>	<i>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.</i>	5
<i>Deep End Of The</i>	<i>1999 Family Drama. The film stars Michelle Pfeiffer but apart from that it looks and feels</i>	4

Film	Comments and Rating	
Ocean (The)	like a lowbudget TV movie. Well worn tear jerking story of a mother who lose one of her three children, in this case a three year old boy, in a crowded hotel reception at a high school reunion. The rest of the film is about how the rest of the family cope or do not cope with the tragedy over the years. There are some surprising twists to follow but these fail to recue what is only a watchable adequate movie at best. The plot seems to leap ahead without adequate explanation at various points and the acting is dubious in places.	
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 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.	5
Departed (The)	2006 Thriller. Based on Boston police and mob theme. Unbelievable all star cast. This is a widely very highly rated film and I was disappointed to find I just could not get into it. It has an intricate complicated plot that takes a lot of following, and I found that I just did not care about any of the characters, who were all thoroughly unpleasant, so much so that I just could not be bothered to put the effort in. I was also turned off by the endless gratuitous violence. In the end the array of confusing characters and convoluted plot was too much for me and I gave up on it. But I accept that many others love this film with an average score of 8/10. I must be missing something. I just gave up on it as I was not enjoying it.	4
Desperado	1995 . Modern Western action movie set in the 1990's in South America. Wall to wall continuous fantasy fest of violence and blood – and then some more blood. Not sure if it is meant to be taken seriously or just a spoof. Hopefully the latter. One man with a deep grudge sets out to reap revenge on a notorious drug lord and wipes out his army. Traditional fare of massive arsenals of huge automatic weapons and an endless supply of hoodlums to sacrifice. The main man also hooks up with the usual gorgeous beauty to pass the time with in between battles (when will these women learn to pick better?). This film tries to shock with the level and degree of graphic violence but actually there is little original about it.	5
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 Roget 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
Diana	2013 Romantic Drama based on the last two years of Princess Diana's life. This film was universally panned but unjustifiably in my view. I am going out on a limb to suggest that it is nowhere near as bad as the popular newspaper reviews. Naomi Watts makes a great fist of playing 'the most famous woman in the world'. I actually enjoyed it so you must make up your own mind. I think possibly the problem is that Diana is so well known and loved that many can never accept or tolerate anyone 'impersonating' her as she is	6

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