Movies Based On True Stories: The Ultimate Trivia Guide To True Story Films

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Synopsis

A look at over 400 of the best historical movies (and some of the worst) purporting to be "factual" or "based on actual events"; and how Hollywood has distorted, altered, manipulated, exaggerated, even falsified history under the all-encompassing premise "based on a true story."

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Customer Reviews

A good airport read but sorely missed the mark. The author states his criteria for selection and I'm good with that. He is an expert on what he likes and I am not. However, several generalizations were made which cannot go unchallenged despite the selection criteria used. Let me give one example of the lack of depth. It was stated in one review that, 'Not many good movies came out of the 70s...' Anyone with any knowledge of 1970s movies will surely question that. I know tastes vary but....my goodness, that's off the mark by a long shot. Here are a few examples to chew on: Star Wars, The Godfather (1 & 2), Rocky (1 & 2), Taxi Driver, One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, A Clockwork Orange, American Graffiti, Apocalypse Now, Alien, Mad Max, The Deer Hunter, The Exorcist, Jaws, Deliverance, Carrie, Young Frankenstein, Enter the Dragon, Superman, Close...
Encounters, Life of Brian, Chinatown, Dirty Harry, The Sting, Halloween, Saturday Night Fever, Jeremiah Johnson, MASH, The French Connection.... and on and on and on. Not only is it misleading to say... 'Not many good movies came out of the 70s', it's flat out wrong. So, if your looking for a quick read, this will pass the time without taxing your brain too much.

This book had more facts than you could ever use in trivial pursuit, but that's what I purchased it for. I found the stories behind the films interesting. I only gave it two stars due to the large amount of war pictures that it included and at times it seems repetitive on movies of similar subjects. I would also say that included was quite a bit of American bashing by the Australian author. All in all this book was however a great source of trivia.

Even though he admits in opening he makes personal comments. He should leave his one sided political drivel out and stick with facts. It was very obvious his views by how he mocked some actors and gave others a pass. To add more after reading. I would advise EVERYONE to avoid this like the plague. Many of his so called truths are rumors and some outright false hoods. Plus he somehow finds ways to add comments that have absolutely nothing to do with the movie he is discussing. He somehow was able to have one of his longest rants on the Silkwood post, where he discussed the 911 attacks and the impossibility of it being a plane that hit the pentagon. Maybe he should stick to tabloids and rumors. YES a plane COMPLETELY full of fuel traveling at a high speed and hitting a solid wall CAN and WILL completely be destroyed. His assertion that it was not enough debris is ridiculous. Most plane crashed are not DESIGNED to be occupied missiles as this was, that is why MOST crashes have more debris, the pilot would be trying to SAVE it not intentionally crash it. Also tell all the people who saw it and the families who lost loved ones on this plane it did not crash.

I would given more stars, but in reviewing the movie Pearl Harbor the African American sailor was awarded the Navy Cross during the Japanese attack. The this award is second to the Medal of Honor. No doubt that he deserved the MOH for his actions. Someone in the chain of command did not feel that African American deserved such a high honor. Recently, Jews, Puerto Ricans and African Americans have been awarded the MOH for service in the Korean conflict probably for the same reasons.

I was done reading this book before I'd really even started. Penny and Garry Marshall are brother and sister and Penny’s daughter Tracy was NOT a result of incest. Her real father is Michael Henry
and she was adopted by Rob Reiner. It's not just a stage name. I couldn't finish this book knowing I couldn't trust a damn thing written after that.

We always knew that Hollywood played with the truth and included the line "Based On a True Story", when they made movies about real life events. This book will give you an idea of how much. The writer is very opinionated and biased, but seems to have done his homework and research as well.

This could have been a decent book. The premise is certainly a good one, but it should really have been 'my opinions on Movies... plus some ranting and raving...'. There should be a warning on this book that states the author WILL offend the hapless reader with his own agenda. I got as far as Silkwood but the accompanying political statement stopped me cold in my tracks. I'm amazed it's gotten as many good reviews as it has. What an Australian has to say about the Pentagon attack on 9/11 has no place in a book about movie trivia! And then he has the nerve to say he's no conspiracy theorist, but that the rest of us poor deluded folk are idiots because we didn’t question the veracity of the Pentagon attack. Is he out of his tiny little mind??? Well well, the next time there’s a terrorist attack I suggest he come on down to see for himself. I doubt seriously he knows anyone personally involved in the 9/11 attacks - as I do, and the thousands other people who were touched by this tragedy. I’m surprised he didn’t add that the Twin Towers never really existed, it was all smoke and mirrors. What a disgrace. What was his publisher thinking??? I could go on and on about this pathetic author but I’m supposed to be reviewing a book about movie trivia. It’s a shame I wasn’t really reading one.

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