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Catch Me If You Can (2002) is likely 100% BS; how well does it work when you know it's false?

Discussion

I love this movie. I've watched it dozens of times and will willingly watch it many times more. But when I first saw it, I was under the impression that I was watching a (mostly) true story. Obviously I knew it wasn't a documentary and that characters, events, conversations and the like were altered to make them more cinematic. But I still believed the basic premise and storyline was what happened.

Knowing now that it's likely none of the events were even close to what really happened –if there was even as much as a germ of a basis to begin with, I am wondering if the film is still as enjoyable as a work of pure fiction or is everything that happens just too convenient to be taken seriously enough to enjoy it on its own? In other words: if this had just been a well-written screenplay from someone's imagination, would it still have had the same impact? For comparison, one of the things I could not personally get past in Forest Gump was the sheer number of coincidences that put Gump next to famous historical figures. At some point, I stopped enjoying seeing him as a witness to major historical events and just saw it as a convenient crutch for the writer to move the plot along. this makes me wonder if I would feel the same way about CMIYC.











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Taylorenokson • 1y ago

It's even better now, knowing he grifted filmmakers into making a movie about his made up grifting. It's really the ultimate grift.

 \bigcirc \Diamond

♦ 7K ♣

rnilbog • 1y ago • Edited 1y ago



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people who failed to fact check him.	
104 more replies	
Affectionate-Club725 • 1y ago	
Not really that much of a grift on Spielberg, since it was a massively successful film.	
+ 132 more replies	
Chasa619 • 1y ago	
just ignore the whole "based on a true story" aspect.	
its a great story told by excellent actors.	
it not being 100% true does nothing to hinder the fact that its an enjoyable watch.	
) ♦ 2.9K ♣ ♠ Reply ···	
arealhumannotabot • 1y ago	
I'll do ya one better: stop interpreting "based on" as "reflecting reality" or "this is what happened"	
it's more like 'It informed our screenwriting process"	
① 51 more replies	
+ 43 more replies	
Orange_Kid • 1y ago	
I read the guy's book knowing beforehand it was bullshit and it was still really entertaining. Just treat it as to fiction with no pretense of truth, it's still fun.	ta
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
rnilbog • 1y ago Frop 1% Commenter	
The following tale is true. And by true, I mean false. It's all lies. But they're entertaining lies. And in the end, isn't that the real truth? The answer is: No.	
+ 3 more replies	
+ 3 more replies	





My ex father in law is retired FBI who apparently worked on the actual case or in proximity. He hates the movie with a passion, lol





☆ 542 ♣

Reply



Nandor_De_Laurentis • 1y ago

My uncle is retired from the NTSB and was one of the guys investigating Sully when he landed the plane in the river. Absolutely hates the movie. The investigators thought Sully was a hero, they weren't out to get him.

(+) 30 more replies



[deleted] • 1y ago

I could understand that, as the dude still goes around claiming he worked for the FBI for like 40 years, and apparently there is exactly zero evidence of him ever having been paid to do anything other than public speaking about his made up grifts.

(+) 11 more replies

(+) 9 more replies

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r/funny • 5 mo. ago

Catch me if you can



69K upvotes · 415 comments



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203 upvotes · 24 comments



r/funny • 6 mo. ago

Catch me if you can



844 upvotes · 49 comments



r/movies • 2 yr. ago

There are several similarities between Catch Me If You Can (2002) and The Wolf of Wall Street (2013)

7 comments



r/AmerExit • 23 days ago

Escape is definitely possible. I know because I did it.

300 upvotes · 141 comments



r/Cinema • 3 days ago

What is the first film that pops into your head when you see Leonardo DiCaprio?



117 upvotes · 520 comments



r/todayilearned • 10 yr. ago

TIL one of Frank Abagnale's (Catch Me If You Can) first cons was to buy a security guard costume, and place a sign over a bank drop box saying "Out of Service, Place deposits wi...



30K upvotes · 1.7K comments



r/movies • 5 yr. ago

Re-Watched "Catch Me If You Can" this weekend in a different light

107 upvotes · 84 comments



r/No_Small_Parts • 1 yr. ago

Elizabeth Banks in Catch Me If You Can (2002)



78 upvotes · 2 comments



r/MandelaEffect • 8 yr. ago

I recall seeing the "How bow dah/ cash me outside" Dr. Phil girl in the mid 2000's.





Smart Movies like Catch me if you can?

24 comments



r/FIIm • 4 days ago

Pick three of these Leonardo DiCaprio films and the rest disappear forever! What three are you choosing?



60 comments



r/MandelaEffect • 8 yr. ago

cash me ousside happened years ago...

59 upvotes · 58 comments



r/TwoBestFriendsPlay • 4 yr. ago

YOU CAN'T ESCAPE ME, I'LL CHASE YOU TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH



200 upvotes · 12 comments



r/RedLetterMedia • 7 yr. ago

What are the best biopics of all time?

21 upvotes · 58 comments



r/Jokes • 10 yr. ago

A man signs up for an experimental weight loss program.....

43 upvotes · 4 comments



r/Buttcoin • 1 yr. ago

Is there a point that BTC could get to where you will admit that you were wrong about it?

197 comments



r/movies • 1 yr. ago



Do you ever go in so blind you don't even know the genre? And what are the results? How does knowing the genre influence your experience? (Very minor Twentieth Century spoilers)

18 comments



r/movies • 6 yr. ago







r/PubTips • 1 yr. ago

[Discussion] Is it too risky to query the first in a series? How do you know when it's right?

19 upvotes · 22 comments



r/MovieSuggestions • 1 yr. ago

Catch me if you can

8 upvotes · 14 comments



r/movies • 4 yr. ago



Catch me if you can ending (spoiler alert)

9 upvotes · 9 comments



r/movies • 1 yr. ago



Catch me if you can - A wonderful movie

10 upvotes · 25 comments



r/blankies • 4 mo. ago

Remember in Catch Me If You Can when Tom Hanks asked Leonardo DiCaprio how he passed the bah exam and he said he studied for it and passed. That was awesome.

245 upvotes · 56 comments



r/writing • 1 yr. ago

It may be trite advice, but it's worth repeating: the universe doesn't begin at the first word.

114 upvotes · 18 comments

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