**Hard Rain ft. Enough Wicker**

[00:00:05] The stakes of this movie are immediately so high. An entire town is about to be washed away by heavy rain and idk how relevant this was in 1998, but in 2023 it is terrifying. Anyway, we've got a stacked panel today. We've got Hallie, we've got John, we've got Sarah and Lauren from Enough Wicker, the podcast that brings you a scholarly look at the world's greatest television show, The Golden Girls. And I was lucky enough to briefly appear on this show at a year I cannot remember because of the pandemic but it was like somewhat recently. Anyway, welcome to Lauren and Sarah. All of our listeners are hearing.

[00:00:45] Thank you. Thank you. Enough. Please quiet down.

[00:00:50] When you sent I was listening like throughout the week, I was listening to a few episodes of your podcast and I was just trying to think of like, I've definitely listened to this before, like I've listened to your podcast before, and then I remembered like, wait, this is the I remember Sarah did share this with everybody, like when she guest starred and it absolutely terrific. Did you have you ever done a crossover with other podcast like I feel like I've, I've heard the name of your podcast in the context of another podcast at some point.

[00:01:22] The one we've been on most frequently. Lauren, remind me, I think it's meanwhile at the podcast, we've been on at least two or three times, so I was on recently solo for Lucille Ball book that I have on my docket, but we can talk about that later. But, but yeah, we've done, we've done other like crossovers. I'm not sure about getting super in-depth from like a movie that stars one of the characters so that this is probably new territory for us.

[00:01:50] Yeah, yeah, we've never done that and actually did a basically like a fan call in episode at the end of the year. I think it was at the end of 2021. But yeah, that whole era is like a blur for all of us, I think. So we've had some people who were on that episode who basically just like called and spoke about something that was meaningful to them on the show. A couple actually this one, and we were on Retro Made, which is a podcast hosted by somebody else who had called in during that time period and like connected us, connected with us that way. So I obviously like an ideal world. We would do more of those sort of like fan calling episodes. But that one alone got us a lot of just people who stayed in touch, you know, which has been really cool. And I feel like when people start their own podcast, like if there's something relevant or like Golden Girls adjacent, they think of us, which, you know, that's what we're trying to do.

[00:02:45] And I think I may have also found a large pocket of your fan base in a in a Facebook group I'm part of. It's called All Things Cozy. And it's just people just recommending cozy things that they that they do and and listen to or watch and yeah your your podcast has come up in those conversations as well.

[00:03:02] Amazing. I didn't know about that at all. I mean it's so funny. It's so different from like the, you know, the three detractors that we have online telling us to stop cursing so much. People find us cozy. It's great. Well, let's let's be real. They tell me to stop cursing.

[00:03:20] So we curse all the time. I think every single one of our episodes has the explicit mocking, doesn't it?

[00:03:26] I love it. Beep. Beep.

[00:03:26] This is not a family friendly show.

[00:03:29] No. Even...we'd have even we're doing like the mommy market trading mom. We were like, explicit.

[00:03:36] In order to keep my summary a bit shorter this time here. YouTube's official movie description A weather forecast. Rain action forecast, Hard rain. The torrential excitement swept Thriller featuring a screenplay from the writer of Speed and the on screen talents of Morgan Freeman, Deep Impact, Christian Slater, Broken Arrow, Randy Quaid, Independence Day and Minnie Driver. Good Will Hunting. The setting is the food ravaged note: I think this was meant to say flood ravaged, evacuated town evacuated town of Huntingberg where armored car driver Tom (Slater) is in deep danger. A gang of thieves led by Freeman figures the flood is a chance to hate the $3 million that Tom's transporting from local banks. But there's one thing the gun carrying criminals don't count on. Tom, come hell or high water or both. He is determined to deliver the money entrusted to him before he died. He'll have to survive a relentless pursuit filled with close call, ever rising waters, uncertain loyalties and heart stopping heroics. Sadly, the above description neglects the incredibly important featured role played by our dearly departed Betty White. And speaking of people who starred on The Mary Tyler Moore Show, it also fails to mention that Ed Asner is the driver of the armored car. And as soon I saw him on screen, I was like, Oh, no, he's going to die. And I was not wrong.

[00:05:01] But anyway. Let's get back to Betty. She plays a badass woman named Doreen who refuses to evacuate her home until she and her husband finish setting traps. Because the last time the town nearly washed away, someone looted their home before they got back. Minnie Driver and Christian Slater wind up breaking into their home, where she and her husband are sleeping in the attic with a shotgun and their very cool cat. Anyway, let's hear what the group thought of this heist movie set in a demented version of a water park. I'm going to start with three questions written by ChatGPT, which appears to know more about hard rain than In the Spirit, thank God. So our first question for our panelist Hard Rain incorporates elements of both action and thriller genres. How well do you think the film balances these two genres?

[00:05:43] I don't know the definition of action versus Thriller, but what I would consider a thriller was really not present in this movie at all. So I would say I'm weighting it like 98% action. But yeah, I just thought like, you know, a bunch of Americans, lots of guns and fire and, you know, heroics, also things that don't obey the laws of physics or reality. But, you know, whatever, that's fine. So, yeah, action, action for me.

[00:06:13] I think action, too. I think any time you have to rely on incredible amounts of electricity pulsing through water with no consequences until they just are written in.

[00:06:25] I just want to piggyback on the whole like electricity, water thing, the whole like gunpowder water thing. I'm pretty sure I don't know, guns, but I don't think so. Guns work.

[00:06:33] I was shocked that he pulled a gun out of, like, fully submerged hard rain where presumably weird things are floating around in that water. And it was just firing.. No problem. But I also do not know guns, nor do I want to. So I'll maintain my ignorance.

[00:06:49] They were also just incredible feats of holding breath that were. Yes, kind of written in, but also just like a horribly unpanicked at times where I was like, this is incredibly like when Minnie Driver had that when she was handcuffed to the post. She's just kind of like sitting under there thinking about her predicament. And I was like, this is...what?

[00:07:14] It was very similar to Titanic. I feel like the handcuffs. I was like, I got to just watch Titanic. I'm sorry.

[00:07:21] That actually was in one of the reviews I read. I forget if it was Ebert.

[00:07:24] I saw something. on Ebert.

[00:07:26] Yeah, Yeah, exactly. We're like, Yeah, it would have been kind of cool if they literally didn't just do this way better.

[00:07:34] Yeah. Titanic. Yeah. Titanic was released in December of 97 and this was released in January of 98.

[00:07:42] Tough to follow.

[00:07:44] Very and yeah, and I think that there's a few reasons why they buried this $70 million movie. I think there's a reason they buried this in January. Yeah.

[00:07:52] Well can you imagine if somebody did a water survival movie? Or right before.

[00:07:56] After you did a water right and your water survival movie made $2 billion?

[00:08:03] Seriously.

[00:08:04] Yeah. The only parts where I thought were like, were kind of thriller like, because I thought they were suspenseful. I feel like suspense thrillers are a thing is, is those two parts where you have a room slowly filling with water and a person needing to escape. And they did that twice. They did that once with Christian Slater and the jail cell, and the second time with Minnie Driver along her banister.

[00:08:29] But the Christian Slater one they totally like undo the thrill of it at the end where the guy's like is he dead? Well, I don't know. They're so casual.

[00:08:39] I would classify speed as a thriller. And so I felt like I was I was expecting maybe a little more of like and Speed, I think is also action, too. So I feel like I was expecting more from yeah, that's the claim that this is a thriller. But I agree with everyone. I felt like it was mostly action and like even the suspenseful parts. Yeah, I was like. How? What is. How is it possible? You know, like I was to, like, taken out of it by everything else that was surrounding the situation, to even be, like, caught up in the suspense. So, yeah, it's an action film. For me.

[00:09:17] The most suspenseful part for me was in the armored truck when you thought they called the National Guard. Then all of a sudden the headlights from the Morgan Freeman car just turn on them and. Maybe I was in a place watching it where I was like, Oh, well, what's going to happen? And once the the tension built, when the brights came on, that's when it felt a little thriller because I was like, Oh, God, this is going to get really dangerous.

[00:09:45] What about early with the like, you forgot to sign with the fake out?

[00:09:49] I love the fake out.

[00:09:51] That was pretty funny. Like, I laughed, though. Like, I don't know if that was their intent though. I felt like the writer and the whole producers were like, We're going to really get them and their heart rate's going to go up. And I just sort of laughed out loud. So I'm not really sure if that was intended to be funny, but there was that fake out at the beginning.

[00:10:09] I laughed a lot and I kind of thought that they were in on the joke. But to your point, like maybe they diidn't want for me to laugh as much as I did.

[00:10:17] I think I would have not laugh. It had just been Christian Slater, but I think because he was with. What's his name?

[00:10:24] Ed Asner.

[00:10:25] Yeah, but I was like, aw. He's not going to be a bad guy.

[00:10:31] Although you can't, you know, then you have, like, again, Ed Asner, like cute old person. Then you have Betty White, who's a cute person, but she's also not she's like, I forget how you described her in the beginning, Sarah, but she also is just like that friggin lady who won't evacuate. And you're like, God damn it, My job is to take you out of here. Just come with me. And she's like, No way in hell. You know.

[00:10:51] Really, truly help setting that would be for any rescue team of just why.

[00:10:57] Betty White is the scariest person in this movie.

[00:11:01] The woman's got bear traps!

[00:11:03] I love how when she has a shotgun, pull on them like she's just like, you know, hanging down from the from her attic with the shotgun. And her husband says, like, you know what's going on. It's lik go back to bed. I got this covered.

[00:11:15] There is a storyline where it's like, Oh, she's so annoying. And they're like, I wouldn't blame you if you drowned her in the basement. You're like, Cool, cool, cool joke about murdering your woman by a person who's statistically the most likely to murder her. Cool, Cool. I really like that. Really appreciated it. Yeah. Took a little bit of a turn for me. Like, okay, 1990s.

[00:11:33] There was love there though, because he tried. He got offered the slot on the boat and he was like bye! I'm staying here.

[00:11:41] Speaking of Titanic, the part where, you know the part where he threatens her, like, you know, he's trying to row. He starts to row them back towards Morgan Freeman and company and he finally like stands up to her. And that's supposed to get like a cheer from the audience. It felt just like that dumb scene in Titanic, where, where Molly Brown gets or Kathy Bates get yell gets yelled out on the lifeboat. That's not this isn't a cheering moment. I don't want you to talk to Betty White like that.

[00:12:08] That is not what I thought you were going to say, Where they're in the tree. It's kind of like the old people in the bed.

[00:12:14] In the bed! Yes!

[00:12:17] Oh yeah!

[00:12:17] Totally!

[00:12:18] That's exactly when they were in the tree. I was like, Oh, like and the water was running. I remember it was very similar.

[00:12:24] I laughed hard when you told her to shut the fuck up.

[00:12:26] Yeah.

[00:12:28] That was great.

[00:12:29] The timing of it was just I did laugh at that. That was a very laugh out loud moment for me.

[00:12:35] It was kind of like anticlimactic, I thought at the like at the end of the tree scene when he was like, Next time I say to evacuate, like, we're going to evacuate. And that was like a little late. I don't know. I feel like...

[00:12:47] For real.

[00:12:48] I kind of wonder because I know that they that in this movie, like originally Morgan Freeman doesn't get away or I think he may he might even die. And test audiences didn't like him dying. So they went back and filmed him, you know, getting some money and getting away kind of Shawshank Redemption-y. And then I'm kind of wondering if they use that time to also film the Betty White and Richard Dysert scene on the tree because like, there's during the entire scene where, you know, the final wave washes over the town, I just kept thinking, like, I actually asked my husband, Do you think Betty White's okay? Like, it's like, what's got like, what's going on? Like, why isn't it showing her? Where are they? Is she okay? And then they finally, when they showed her and her and her husband in the tree, it's like, okay, they they had to show us that she's alive. Or that

[00:13:38] Yeah they did.

[00:13:38] I love that.

[00:13:39] They...we would have been wondering.

[00:13:42] And she's not she's not Rose young...golden girlsy in this like...she looks old Rose Young that's what I'm going to you.

[00:13:50] I know.

[00:13:50] I thought you meant Rose from Titanic.

[00:13:53] Iconic.

[00:13:55] She's not that young either.

[00:13:56] She's not Rose Golden Girls young but she's still like younger then I feel like where our generation still kind of stereotypically fall in love with her. I just like this old old lady who was fucking hilarious.

[00:14:08] Yeah. Yeah, totally. And I feel like she was like they were definitely an older couple, but they were obviously very like. Capable and self-sufficient. So I think also in the nineties that was like a different like it was like, oh, it's a woman in her sixties who can like set their traps and like, shoot a gun, you know, like, I feel like it was a different sort of like it was like not as much of a trope as old ladies are often and even like, like the type that, like, won't evacuate. Like, I feel like that's mostly like a man, too. So I was really happy to see Betty White in that role and like her husband trying to be the voice of reason. So that was fun.

[00:14:48] I agree. I always think it's and I always think it's refreshing to see older people and action movies. I feel like we don't we never really get that. I think that's also why I like everything everywhere all at once only.

[00:15:00] Totally.

[00:15:00] But she reminded me, Betty White's character reminded me of the grandmother from Dante's Peak.

[00:15:06] Totally! Totally.

[00:15:07] Yeah. The great grandmother that sacrifices herself to save her family and Pierce Brosnan from the volcano. So definitely shades of that.

[00:15:14] I'm gonna move on to the next question, which I'm really into. In Hard Rain, the characters find themselves in absurd and extreme situations due to the flooding. If you were in their shoes, what unconventional item or strategy would you bring along to help you navigate the flooded town and outsmart the bad guys?

[00:15:34] I thrown by unconventional here if it applied to the movie because my item's quite conventional in the situation of hard rain, which is scuba diving gear.

[00:15:47] That is. So good.

[00:15:49] Why, thank you. I was just I actually was very impressed with his little breathing tube solution for when he's at the top of the jail. Like that was like the first time I was like, oh, all right, somebody this movie is in their brain. Like, that was pretty cool. Obviously, after he had already been under the water for 2 minutes without panic breath. But yeah, I think the I don't know if it's an item, but the package of a scuba diving gear would be great.

[00:16:14] Yeah. I mean, I just know my dumb ass would be like, surely it's not going to get that deep. We don't need scuba gear. I'd be like, I'd probably bring a canoe.

[00:16:24] Make sure it's not a metal canoe.

[00:16:26] And I bet you again I'd have a metal canoe. But so if if I was being smart, A wooden t canoe with paddles and life vests.

[00:16:35] My honest answer to this question is like, I would probably just drown. Like I wouldn't be able to. What am I going to get to be? You know? But actually, I also wanted to tell you all I was watching this movie and my partner was on the couch with me, but she was playing, I guess she was playing Zelda or something on her hand. And then she looked up like 45 minutes into this movie and was like, Why is there so much rain? I was like have you been here? She's like, I know this is about Betty White. It's like she's more of a survivalist. So I would I would just like, I don't know for sure, but if it's on me, like. I don't know. I'm probably just going to float away.

[00:17:14] I like that answer, though. It's unconventional in that you're using broader resources and other human beings.

[00:17:20] Yeah. Yeah. And I would bring like, a sense of acceptance, you know? Yeah. Like a rolled joint to, like, be chill about it, you know?

[00:17:31] I mean, I was, I mean, when when I went whitewater rafting a couple of years ago, I was flung out of the boat and like, everybody in the boat was panicking. But when they after they like, after they pulled me back in, they said, like John, like you were you were strangely calm during this entire thing. And I was like. Yeah, I mean. You know what else? What else am I going to do? So I think I think I would be okay with death, like, pretty quickly.

[00:17:58] Geeze. I was going to say, like a paddleboard.

[00:18:00] You and Lauren are just vibing in the corner while I'm underwater and trying to save Hallie and Sarah has been knocked over on her paddleboard because that wave is big man. All right. But I can I can I have a question about this? So we are planning this survival, right? As if we are characters in the movie. I question the entire fucking premise. I don't think Christian Slater would ever. So I guess my question is, the whole time, because his uncle was a scammer in on Morgan Freeman. Oh, another twist. It was cool. Who got accidentaly shot by his like 17 year old crony. Anyway, does is he actually trying to protect the money for the good of this company?

[00:18:44] So I think they were. There was a lot of different answers they were trying to tumble around like because I think at first they try to convince you that because they even Morgan Freeman even says it like right away, oh, he hid the money because he knows that if he knows that, if we don't know where it is, we'll keep him alive. And it's like I mean, I'm pretty sure that if he had just left the money in the truck and just, you know, ran ran off behind a tree, like they would have just left. They would not and not looked and not looked for him. Yeah. And then they and then it's like the kind of and I feel like at some point that, you know, there is a part of him that, you know, wanted to honor his uncle, but I don't think his uncle would have. I don't think his uncle would have cared because his uncle didn't care about that. His uncle, you know, was in on it and didn't care about the money. And then he talked about Bailey's, how part of him was kind of tempted. And I feel like that would have been more interesting if he. You know, if he was kind of wasn't completely knowable and he was actually hiding the money, you know, because it's like now is his chance. I feel like that would have been more interesting than just this convoluted mixture of all three that we got.

[00:19:58] I agree. I think there was a missed opportunity in the screenplay for everyone to sort of grapple with the idea of the money. You know, even Minnie Driver, you know, you get the sense that she. Was away. She went to college, was like someone in the town to go to college. Right? And then is now back and restoring this church. And what would she do with the you know, there's like a lot of I think questions that you could yeah the altruism of I care about my job so much that I will save all this money is a little more far fetched I'd say. But maybe that makes somebody...

[00:20:38] Also the money's insured. Like he's got to be trying to steal it, right? Like, there's no way.

[00:20:42] I guess that's fair. Yeah.

[00:20:44] I was like, where? He's totally stealing that money, right? But then I really didn't know. I couldn't figure it out his motivations.

[00:20:49] But then at the end, it doesn't make any sense, is it? Because then he fucking falls in love and his mind is changed by the awkwardly. It's not even that many drivers that religious. She just happens to be restoring the church like it doesn't. And she's so concerned she doesn't think that the gallons and gallons of water damage is going to make like it's going to be fine, but it's crazy.

[00:21:11] Well. The the romance of this, too, is funny if you look at it in relation to speed. Because in speed, I completely bought the romance. Like in speed. I was like, mmm-hmm trauma bonded. This is completely. They were together in a way that the whole movie was sort of very much them. We you knew was going to end with a romantic thing. This felt...

[00:21:35] The line at the end, to your point about trauma bonding right at the end of speed, he says something like, Do you know that it's common for people in near-death experiences to want to have sex or something and it's like somehow hot. And then at the end of this one, he's like are you alright. She's like I'm really tired.

[00:21:52] Yeah. Girl, you've been treading water for, like, 7 hours at least.

[00:21:56] I do wonder, if Minnie Driver, she I wonder if she had if they took her input into how her character would react. Because sometimes I feel like I feel like this movie does have a woman does have a female character problem.

[00:22:07] Yes.

[00:22:08] Especially like the like why the like why the almost rape scene? Why the almost assault scene? But it's the fact that they didn't have her like during her scene. Like you said, I think Hallie said earlier that she's kind of under reacting when her when she was tied to the banister and water was filling up and she wasn't screaming and she wasn't like they they tried really hard to, I think, give her some like a sense of agency to save herself as much as she could before Christian Slater eventually finished that for her. But then, like, do they actually do they actually get together in this movie? Because I think. I think it just kind of ends on that and that dorky freeze frame.

[00:22:54] It does just end. It just ends.

[00:22:55] They're too tired have sex.

[00:22:57] There's no other way to describe it. It's not dorky freeze frame. It ends with, like, something that's so like, Wow, I thought that was at least going to be a kiss. The only now that I wanted a kiss, but it felt like that was going to happen. It was a 90s movie with Minnie Driver and Christian Slater.

[00:23:15] And her reaction, like after like after she's almost killed by Randy Quaid one last time. I kind of did like her reaction of just like kind of just collapsed, like with her head down, just like kind of just kind of waving that she's okay. She's just so fed up with this shit. And, you know, in real life, Minnie Driver says that she absolutely hated doing this movie because, I mean, I think that every I think every actor that has to work in water for two years probably hates that movie that they were in.

[00:23:44] Two years. Sorry, two years?

[00:23:47] I think so, because I saw when I was looking through making up stuff, I saw publications from like nineties, 1996 of them on the set. So this was. Yeah, they were doing this for a while.

[00:24:02] Can I read?

[00:24:03] Even Kate Winslet.

[00:24:03] Go ahead. Sorry. Kate, when Kate Winslet was.

[00:24:07] Even Kate Winslet hated making Titanic.

[00:24:11] Because of that.

[00:24:12] Because of the water.

[00:24:12] Because they're freezing.

[00:24:15] She got Hypothermia at one point.

[00:24:15] Yeah.

[00:24:16] Fun Times. Roger Ebert comments on this movie, by the way, the whole stepping in water is like, can I can I read part of the review? He's really funny. Like, Hard Rain is one of those movies that never convince you it's stories are really happening. From beginning to end. I was acutely aware of actors being paid to stand in cold water. The suspension of my disbelief in this case would have required psychotropic medications. By the time we finally arrived at the story, I was essentially watching a documentary about wet actors at work.

[00:24:49] SAVAGE. Oh, wow. You know, Not to deep cut of Titanic every 5 seconds. But this is apropos because I think everyone was just so wet in this movie. And the thing with Titanic is that there's a lot of dry before they get to the wet. And I think you need a little more dry to sort of like get everybody ready. Everyone was wet when they were in the car and she was like, she looked at Minnie Driver, looks cold.

[00:25:21] How how long is this movie again? It's like an hour and a half. 3 hours of Titanic. Right? So It's just the wet half of Titanic.

[00:25:30] Another Titanic connection Is that the director of this Michael's salon? Salomon I'm so sorry if I if you're listening to this, Mr. Salomon, if I mispronounced your name.

[00:25:42] He's not listening but.

[00:25:44] He was mostly a cinematographer.

[00:25:46] He was listening. And then if I can stop because we were riffing on him.

[00:25:49] My film is not Titanic.

[00:25:50] He's like I get it. I didn't make Titanic. Move on.

[00:25:54] I mean, like, you know, for I mean, for for baby boomer dads everywhere. He's he's famous for making being the Band of Brothers TV series several years ago.

[00:26:03] Okay.

[00:26:03] Band of Brother is good.

[00:26:03] It's very good.

[00:26:06] He was also the cinematographer. He was a cinematographer turned director. And he did a cinematography for The Abyss. This is why pretty much why he got this movie, because he knew how to film water. And I believe see, James Cameron did The Abyss, right?

[00:26:24] So I'm sorry the only requirement for being the director of this movie with filming water, that explains a lot actually.

[00:26:31] Pretty much.

[00:26:32] But to be fair, it did get a lot of accolades for its realistic portrayal of water. Like, to be fair, movies at this time, this is right when everybody was like, Oh, we can use CGI, you know, like Titanic used it. But well, but I don't know if anybody ever saw Air Force One, which was like the year before this, I think.

[00:26:49] Did we see Air Force One?

[00:26:52] I'm sorry. I just want to make sure, you know? It's kind of like Dante's Peak. Get off my plane. But like, the plane breaks at the end of the CGI, and you're just like, even as a 13 year old or whatever it was, 1997, I was like, No. Just no.

[00:27:12] That's what I think there is, that this movie actually kind of got a second wind on home video. And I also notice on I mean, not that this is my guess is indicative of too much, but letterboxd on the ratings on Letterboxd actually aren't bad because I think a lot of people are just kind of people that are just kind of discovering this movie now are gushing over, Oh my God, all of this is real. Like, except for the CGI, except for a little bit of CGI and miniatures. I mean, even miniatures are practical effects.

[00:27:42] Exactly. Yeah.

[00:27:43] Like, they they flooded they flooded a hangar for this six. It took them it took $6 million to flood to build a town graveyard and flood it inside of a of a giant hangar. I mean, that's.

[00:28:00] The practical effects are amazing. In fact, that this was like a silent movie with, like, maybe just some, like, water noises. I would have been just as into it as I was with dialogue.

[00:28:10] I feel like, honestly, if Christian Slater was just going to, like, steal the money or like if he was like, Why are you doing this? Just tell me why. And then I feel like I would have been on board or they or if he was like. This is my family's company. You know, like, I don't know, something to like.

[00:28:25] Right Yeah!

[00:28:27] Explain. Like his uncle's honor. Like, I don't know. That's not it. I wanted some motivation. I agree with what you're talking about that really are, like, very one dimensional, that he's just, like, so noble that he must do the right thing because it's the right thing and it's just like hollow because, I don't know, I feel like. I don't know. I think if they just built that out a little bit more, it would have enhanced the plot quite a bit.

[00:28:51] Do you do you think like they did a bunch of rewrites or something? Because, John, you were talking about like it feels like in the beginning they're going different ways. And you just reminded me, Lauren that when he's in the truck, he says something like, I'm getting out of this town. Right? Like, they could have done one of those classic, like, I can find myself in a small town. And then he's like, But Minnie Driver was there all along or some shit, right? Like, they just didn't go that direction. And I wonder if they were trying to initially.

[00:29:17] It's like Frank Capra's Hard Rain. Like, I kind of want to watch that.

[00:29:23] Frank Capra's Hard Rain!

[00:29:25] Oh, my God.

[00:29:26] I mean, this is also supposed to be this is they said that this was written as a Western, like they wanted this to be like the spirit of a Western. And they said that is just they just kind of got that idea, just kind of got washed away gradually. I can see the skeleton of a Western though. I can see like, okay, you have who you think is the bad guy, and then he turns out to be kind of a more shades of gray guy. And then the real bad guy is law enforcement. And I feel like that's like, you know, that's something out of like a John Ford John Ford movie or, you know, just a lot of shades of gray character. But, you know, like Lauren said, this would have been a lot more interesting. And I feel like everybody was a little bit I know, more self-interested and. We we didn't need. We didn't need a white hat in this movie.

[00:30:16] Morgan Freeman's costume is very Western, and I felt like maybe they kept that from they were originally like, right.

[00:30:23] And the are you totally tied for the lawn for, you know, a screw the town, like throw the badge away. Right. That is very western. That's interesting. See, this is why I wasn't going to replace this, guys, because, John, you pulled out the Western thing and they asked if it was action or Thriller, so whatever.

[00:30:39] Yeah, ChatGPT hallucinated some genres there. I don't even know if they were trying for Thriller. I didn't vet these questions.

[00:30:45] Now I feel like they.

[00:30:46] They.

[00:30:47] Now I, right, they. Now I feel like they have so many scenes on the cutting room floor and someone was just like, no, we need more water. You think there was you think there was a dry 20 minutes.

[00:31:00] There could have been a dry 20 minutes of like some good narrative.

[00:31:03] We just got the fake out at the beginning mostly like they.

[00:31:06] They didn't make us care about the town at all. Like the reason that what made Titanic work so well was that we got to see the ship in all its like beautiful, elegant glory. And then all that elegance got submerged and destroyed in front of our eyes. We this is a lot of this town was just kind of like in shadows. And they didn't really show a lot of character in this town. I feel like, you know it's.

[00:31:30] You're supposed to care about the church, do you think?

[00:31:32] I think that's the closest thing. And I and I think I kind of like like at first when I when I realized, okay, so they're taking refuge inside this church and they're still in danger. So are you like, are they trying to say that, you know, like God isn't home and God kind of turned his eye on on this town and everybody's out for themselves. And, you know, the sinners are being washed away in a flood. And I bet you somewhere that's there's probably something like that in their screenplay. But it just got I feel like it just got mixed up because, you know, the good guys still win. And it's just so like for a premise that. You know where they're implying that God is. You know, God is at home. You know, people all the all the good guys still survive. And, you know, there is a tagged on love story. It's a bit formulaic.

[00:32:24] About the town piece. Like obviously Titanic is like one of the most celebrated movies of all time. So maybe like coming down a little bit. I feel like in Twister they do a really good job of like this side character and like, here's their little story and like, here's like, like everybody knows Helen Hunt because she's like in the town tracking storms and like, she's the hero to the whole town. And like, I felt like. Yeah. Like Betty White and her husband were really the only, like, town characters that had, like, a smaller plot that wasn't like one of the people we were following. So, yeah, I think that that's a really good point. Like, the town isn't really a character beyond it's just really flooded. The levees are broken, you know, like.

[00:33:11] That's so that's such a such a good point, Lauren, because Twister also, I think, did a really good job of having balancing the natural disaster with a back story. You all you know why Helen Hunt's character is chasing the twister. Because she lost her father. Like there's a reason she's doing it.

[00:33:33] Spoiler alert!

[00:33:34] Twister's so good.

[00:33:36] Twister. I have a very special spot in my heart for Twister.

[00:33:37] It's a fabulous movie.

[00:33:40] No, I totally agree that the the little secondary characters had a little more story depth.

[00:33:46] I also want to just add the whole like, not the script, not really taking things seriously. And no, listen, not knocking, like Speed was a wonderful movie. How the fuck are you going to top that? Sorry, dude, Whatever. But I looked up the actual script just to sort of, like, follow along and see what the notes are. And there's some really funny notes that are just like the non dialogue piece. There's so much non dialogue direction in the script, right? Like painting the picture of this natural disaster stuff. But the part where at the very end, like with the levees going to break with the alarm goes off at the dam or whatever the guy is fucking pooping and shopping for guns in a catalog, whatever, it's in the script and just then they all hear something truly ominous a siren pierces the night and that's all it says. It's just like, Wait, what? You're reading it? And you're like, the ambulance. Like, what's. What's they're talking about the siren for the dam going off. But I just that just kind of made me chuckle a little bit. Like, again, it's it should have been tweaked a little bit. The script just really needed tightening, as we've all said here, from a characterization of the town to characters in general. Yadda yadda.

[00:34:58] My husband, he points out a lot of stuff in these movies too. He says, like, you know, shouldn't he have a point? He kept point out the inconsistencies in like, you know, like where the water levels were and like, shouldn't like, you know, this water just like rose a foot in the scene. And it's and it's been like 30 minutes and now it's only risen like two more inches like, you know, and Titanic like I think the, you know, the sinking of the ship. And we keep on talking about Titanic, but the sinking of the ship in the movie, I believe, is about the same amount of time. Like it's it's an almost real time. And James Cameron very, very, you know, the perfectionist that he is, you know, keeps the water levels pretty consistent. Like I'm absolutely obsessed with Titanic, too. So it's yeah, it's for all of its other historical inaccuracies. He was pretty spot on about, you know, at least like within the movie, like what the water was doing. And in this the water just in the water seemed controlled by, you know, the narrative like, you know, the contrivances of the narrative rather than. You know, just being a force of nature that these people are trying to escape.

[00:36:10] Right. So Hallie your point about like cutting room floor and all of the inconsistencies? Like there's that that adage that's like a movie is made three times like the screenwriter writes it, the director shoots it and then the editor edits it. So it's like somewhere in that mess of things, right? They were just like, Yeah, this seems dumb. And then it's like the water just jumps like one foot or something. Or maybe it was 3 hours and they had to cut it down. I have no idea. But clearly there was not like a perfectionist at the helm, like James Cameron.

[00:36:43] I will say one of the things just in my in my nerdy brain when I was watching it kept going like I wish I knew. How do I put this? I was like, I wish I knew more about water dynamics in a town. Like, I wish I knew what? Like, how do I know when the dam is going to go over? Like, because when I heard that alarm, weirdly,.

[00:37:03] A siren pierces the night.

[00:37:06] My instant, I weirdly was like, Oh, the National Guard is here.

[00:37:10] Maybe that's from Twister. Like, I was like, that's that means somebody coming.

[00:37:15] Yeah. And then they were like, Oh, no, it's the dam breaking.

[00:37:19] The other thing was I was like, What? The water is so awful. Like, so dangerous even that the police are there felt dangerous.

[00:37:27] It had a lot to say. And I'd love to hear your thoughts on this, Lauren, about the public service not being respected at your job by the mayor who ditches all of the people in town to handle the business and he's out of the way. And that was like the one set up we got for Randy Quaid. Like insane pivot to villainy. Like. It's just like the mayor is like, see ya later.

[00:37:48] Yeah. Yeah. I mean, I don't know. I feel like it's pretty obvious. There's not too much to get into depth.

[00:37:58] Yeah, It's not quite deep, yeah.

[00:37:59] Yeah, yeah. You know, like Randy Quaid the villain. But I do feel like the way that he's introduced, even from the very beginning, it's like I really am picturing, like, such a Westerner now and like, actually I'm picturing specifically in the Golden Girls when Dorothy's dressed as the sheriff, you know, for the play, and she comes walking in with, like, her nightstick. Like, that's like, now how I pictured Randy Quaid. Like, walking in the beginning when he's telling everyone to evacuate.

[00:38:23] Oh, my God.

[00:38:25] And I don't know, I feel like from the very beginning, you can tell he's like a kind of like a power hungry guy. And it's fun. It's like a little like a scandal, though, in the middle of it. But it's like it's just like he's like a bumbling guy and he's really bad and he's super corrupt. So yeah, I feel like there's not too much like to unpack there, but it's a fun little subplot.

[00:38:50] I just love the call back to the Picnic the production, I think it was.

[00:38:55] I feel like they're dressed the same.

[00:38:57] Okay. I want to get into the Betty White of it all. Thank you for that beautiful transition. Betty White's character, Doreen, brings a comedic and unexpected element to the film. How does her portrayal of an eccentric elderly woman add humor and charm to the story? Share your favorite scene or line from Betty White character and discuss why you think it stands out in the movie. I mean, my favorite scene is when she's holding the cat and, like, aggressively yelling at everyone.

[00:39:21] So good. The cat's so great. I love when you meet her because I think you are like, I don't know. I was expecting, like, kind of sassy, but like, ultimately sweet and lovable Betty White, like, as she normally plays. And this lady is, like, really not. Like, I feel like if it I don't know. I wish I. I don't know. I wonder if it weren't Betty White or somebody like I didn't have an attachment to like, if I would have felt anything but, like, annoyance for this character. Because I do find her, like, sort of endearing, like obviously it's like so cool to see an old lady like setting bear traps. But ultimately her, like her reasoning for saying is bad and she's like, stubborn and she's like, causing a problem. So I don't know, I wonder if that was like, considered or if they were just like Betty White said, She'll do this. So we got it. We got to get her, you know, like, I don't know that she's a necessarily like a fit for it, but maybe that's what they wanted was like twist Betty White being mean come see this rain movie.

[00:40:19] But I also think like, yeah, the point about like, would I be even attached to this character as much if it weren't Betty White is a good one because as we all mentioned before, it's lovely to see a depiction of not only a woman, but like an elderly woman that in an action movie slash thriller, slash Western. But like she ultimately is a vignette in the plot. And to your point, Hallie, there could have there could have been so many more vignettes of townspeople affected by this plot, Twister or Titanic. And I don't know. It totally threw me the like emotional scene and I like I did get very much like the old dying people in the bed. Titanic scene in the tree because I was like, wow, this part pulls the heartstrings. But because she was old, that was the only reason that, like I wasn't given a shit. If somebody else was up there cuddling and dying, probably. But like, just because the movie didn't really give me that, like, depth of emotion. But yeah, I'm not sure if like. Betty White is, like, super necessary. Like, I don't I'm not sure if Doreen is super necessary to the movie other than adding color, although obviously we're all pleased that Betty White is playing Doreen. I also like her scene when she's introduced. I think that's the strongest one.

[00:41:34] I agree. I totally agree. I agree. I think the first scene of hers is my favorite, where she has to remind the sheriff that she didn't vote for him like I didn't reelect you. You weren't even supposed to be here. That felt it. And I agree that. I think Betty just made it like she made it because she was Betty White and she was able to be a little more. You know, just Betty White with a rifle. It's just like rootin' tootin' fun.

[00:42:10] Can't not be likable. It's like this character is such like a curmudgeon, but, like, so rooting for her. I still want to save the cat.

[00:42:19] I forgot about what might have happened to the cat. We didn't see the cat in the tree. And I'm upset about that. But I hope it's a strong swimmer.

[00:42:25] What's the. There's a website for movies. Like Does the Dog Die in the end? Is there one for cats?

[00:42:31] I think they do. And on that side, they've actually expanded it that they had...

[00:42:37] Never heard of this site. I've never heard of that site. That is hilarious.

[00:42:41] Yeah. They expanded it to like include, you know, like trigger like actually like, you know, legit trigger warnings to for for a bunch of other other things.

[00:42:50] Like does it feature child murder? Because that's something that now I'm trying to stay away from.

[00:42:55] Correct. Right. Like actually stop [unintelligable].

[00:42:58] Because my worst nightmares really in reality. But yes, you should check out that site. I think it does a very good service for the animal lovers in our world.

[00:43:08] I also will never not find any person with a rain bonnet. Not funny.

[00:43:15] And her rain jacket combination? Yeah, the rain bonnet, rain jacket combination with like costuming was on point that day. I was, like, so cute.

[00:43:26] I'm ready for my rain bonnet era. Like, bring em out.

[00:43:29] Yeah, yeah. It's perfect weather for it in New York. I wanted to. Also just point out that. So Betty White is only 15 years older than Morgan Freeman in real life. She's older, for sure, but she's not like a I don't know. I feel like she's not played to be like a. A grandmother. Exactly. Just like an elderly character. But Morgan Freeman, I feel like, is like his age is like not really a factor so much. And it's interesting that the gap in real life is. Only 15 years. I don't know. I feel like that was. Morgan Freeman's character seemed, I guess, like much younger than Betty White's, which is maybe just like a social interpretation because, like, I don't know. What about his story? And her story says that, but I guess it's like that she's trying to, like, defend her home. And like, not leave for home. And he's out like, you know, essentially being like an outlaw. I don't know. I felt like they seemed like a much bigger age gap than they actually are in real life.

[00:44:35] I would like it more if they had switched it with two roles. I want to see Betty White lead the heist.

[00:44:39] Yeah, I agree.

[00:44:42] I feel like in 2023, Betty White's character would have to have been Betty White like the year before she died and everything would have been like stunt like stunts where Betty went with, like, jumping in the water and doing and you'd have have. It would be that.

[00:44:57] I'm for it.

[00:44:57] Can we talk about the about the cast in a little bit before we get into our own casting.

[00:45:02] Oh, yeah. Like the actual movie casting. Yes.

[00:45:05] So Siskel actually said that he he didn't like the movie either, but he was really surprised by how poorly it did. Like considering, like, you know, it was very he said it was still very entertaining, but just kind of on a reptile brain level. The fact that they spent.

[00:45:22] Did this review come out before the movie? I just love the idea of a critic totally tanking it and being like, I don't know why it didn't do well.

[00:45:30] Yeah, I know, right. But it's I think the fact that the studio dropped like they spent two years and they spent $70 million and they then, you know, dropped this movie off in January, which is a no man's land for for any good movies.

[00:45:53] While Titanic is still in theaters, obviously.

[00:45:56] Other movies that are still in theaters at the time include As Good As It Gets Good Will Hunting Tomorrow Never Dies. Jackie Brown, Scream 2, Flubber, Mouse Hunt and also. But this movie did I think this movie did outperform Spiceworld by a little bit, which is unfortunate I know right now, but it's.

[00:46:19] Not in my home.

[00:46:21] So there's a bunch of this set, like all these December movies, all these like November, December movies are actually still floating around. And this movie gets and this movie also gets crushed by them. So the day after this movie was released in L.A., Christian Slater turned himself in to the police for for like some drug charges, battery and assault. Yeah.

[00:46:46] Yeah,I did not realize that it was. Like that's the timing of that.

[00:46:51] So the fact that he that they were making that they started making this in like 96 and then all that stuff, like all this stuff happened in his personal life, like drugs, alcohol, domestic violence happened in 97. And I'm wondering if the studio realized that they needed to bury this movie because of Christian Slater. Because I don't know. Because I feel like if they had just, like, dropped this off in the middle of summer, it would have done fine. Like it would have just been like another, you know, natural disaster.

[00:47:18] Lizard brain.

[00:47:20] Yeah. Lizard brain. Yeah. It was a brain blockbuster that would have that probably would have made at least his budget back. You don't drop a movie off in January for no good reason. But I do remember, like, seen previews for this because I was already obsessed with Titanic by then being like, oh, another another movie where everything gets flooded. And I really wanted to see it. And I finally and I finally got to see it now. And. Yeah it was okay.

[00:47:43] Oh, I'm sorry. You waited 25 years to finally see this movie.

[00:47:47] It's been it's been 84 years.

[00:47:52] The Titanic deep cuts are just really making my life.

[00:47:57] If...This is a Titanic podcast now.

[00:47:58] This is the Titanic podcast.

[00:48:00] There was a website called Kate Winslet Fan dot com that was up and running in the nineties. It was there was a forum, so I don't know, I spent a lot of time on there and like 97 to 2001. So I'm very happy anytime Titanic comes up.

[00:48:17] Kate Winslet was like, Yeah, I rewatched it after I rewatched Titanic after the submersible extravaganza.

[00:48:26] Oh.

[00:48:27] She's incredible.

[00:48:28] And you guys, it's it still holds.

[00:48:32] It still holds up. My husband never saw it because he's an alien and he watched it last year and was like, gosh, it's movies like, yeah. It won a lot of Oscars and reminded me of that. Like there was like a tweet from someone who was 20 like this year and they were commenting about Celine Dion's My Heart Will Go On. And they were like, Man, this song should have been much bigger than it was. And then somebody replied, like, no offense, but were you alive?

[00:48:59] It was huge.

[00:48:59] Yeah.

[00:49:00] It was huge. That movie rocked the world.

[00:49:03] My, my, my step by step kids, you know, they're you know, they're boys. And so they're just like, Titanic's dumb. They're straight boys. So, you know.

[00:49:14] I was like yeah there you go.

[00:49:16] Like, like Titanic's dumb. And then they had.

[00:49:20] But they're boobs in it.

[00:49:21] I was gonna say there's great boobs in it, but.

[00:49:23] They had the nerve

[00:49:24] Spectacular boobs.

[00:49:25] They had the nerve to call it a cult classic. So many things wrong with that. But yeah.

[00:49:29] Just a classic. It's a classic.

[00:49:32] I rewatched it though. I kind of rewatching, almost every year, but I finally got through, watch it on the big screen back in April and I as a day off and I was there by myself and I was just like bawling my eyes out because I hadn't seen it in theaters since I was eight. And it's just so much more emotional and, you know, like it hits you. The movie actually grows with you. Actually, I think the more likely you.

[00:50:00] I agree. I think it really the movie really does grow with you as you get older. I did I did see an interview with Kate Winslet, though. She was like, I didn't see it. I haven't seen it since it came out in 1997. But then I did see it when it went to 3D and I saw it with my kids and that was a mistake. So we got to we got to the

[00:50:22] I was like, because of the boobs

[00:50:24] We got to the boob scene

[00:50:25] And the car scene.

[00:50:26] We have the boobs scene and the car scene. And they were like, Can we go get ice cream? And she was like, Let's go.

[00:50:31] Oh my God. It's like the opposite. Yeah, that's really weird. That's hilarious. Being really embarrassed to watch TV with your mom. Except that is your mom.

[00:50:39] It was the fun fact. The hand thing was a last minute addition on the day. The more you know.

[00:50:45] You go, the more you know. I'd love somebody to tune in right now in the middle of this podcast and be like, Wait, I thought this was Hard Rain. What are you guys talking about?

[00:50:52] We gotta stop.

[00:50:56] Should we talk about updating casting? We could also talk about I'm updating the plot, but I don't really know that we need to update much. It's just a bunch of rain.

[00:51:03] I feel like this movie would have been a lot more digestible if Christian Slater's character was fixed and his motivations were fixed. Because I feel like I think I think I'm Lauren said that she would have been on board and like, I feel like I would have been more on board if his motivations for why he did what he did made made more sense. Because I feel like on the surface, you know, a heist like a heist in the rain in a flooded town, that sounds cool. Like that. That actually sounds cool. Like. Like, like on its own, But just the execution is just.

[00:51:38] Even if he was just MacGyver. I don't even need a plot. But if there was just more, I like turning a flashlight into a snorkel. I could have gone with that.

[00:51:45] There you go. That's fair. Totally. Forget the actual name. Was it Ray? The guy who was quoting Bible verses. Is that Ray? Okay. I just love this guy because it's like he has. He just comes in, he look like he's. But he's the comic relief, essentially, right? Like, but he is that character that the the little crew that, like, Morgan Freeman rolls with in the beginning is very archetypal. Right? Like, he's the guy who knows what's going on. They have a last minute addition who's a total fuck up. And then you have like the semi-serious guy. I mean, there's there's they're perfect. Like, the composition is perfect, but I just love the line delivery of all the line deliveries of the guy. But when he's just like, Excuse me, Jim, I hate to interrupt and all when they're like having. a conversation.

[00:52:28] Like, I hate to interrupt Bible study, but.

[00:52:33] That's really great. And then what? The Bible guys, just like at night, we go down to the river and into the river, we dive. I literally was like, I'm from New Jersey, and I was like, Springsteen, these like, they're not all like, I can't quote from the Bible all the time. I forgot what it is. It is very funny. I was sad that he died.

[00:52:52] I'm wondering if that was trying to be like they're trying to make their own Jules from. Was it Jules from Pulp Fiction? Was that was that Samuel L. Jackson?

[00:53:00] Yeah, exactly. Samuel Jackson You're right. Exactly. Same deal. Damn this movie's just pulling from everywhere.

[00:53:07] And they're just trying. Like. They're just trying something with God. Like, I don't know what they're trying to do with God. I forgot about that character, but I just such a half baked God idea subplot.

[00:53:17] Yeah. They didn't know what they were doing with God either.

[00:53:20] Well, look, here's my thought. Do we think we needed the uncle to be in on the heist? Like, I feel like that would have helped Christian Slater's motivation if he was an innocent guy that was killed. That is a good point. I get why they wanted the twist. I understand, but they almost dropped that too. Like then it was also like,.

[00:53:41] Yeah.

[00:53:42] It doesn't have the gravitas. It should for sure.

[00:53:45] It doesn't have the gravitas it needed. It's like it didn't own it.

[00:53:49] That's what it feels like. It feels like piecemeal, like. A bunch of editors. Fingers in the pie, editing different pieces. One guy is really about the God angle, John. And then he sort of they they you know, they here, have a few lines over here. Minnie Driver Sure, whatever. Then they like have the Christian Slater's bad, the Christian Slater's good, Christian Slater's indifferent. He's saving the company. He's out for himself.

[00:54:13] He also had a lot of injuries that looked far more severe then like what happened or people.

[00:54:21] There's also poop in that water man there's it's so dirty. Right? Like.

[00:54:24] I mean, there were injuries that were way more severe than they looked on. Like that would have killed you. Like when Minnie Driver got punched, she would have been dead. K?

[00:54:35] K?

[00:54:35] She would have been dead.That is not. When They knock her off the boat? She would have been dead.

[00:54:43] Well, even like, it's just a lot of it's phoned in, you know, it's like Christian Slater has, like, pink blood when he's in the jail and you're like, Oh, my God, Just get a little bit better. Probably spent all your budget on water.

[00:54:55] And the shot that Morgan Freeman gets at the end. That look like it killed him and then he like, is not even in pain at the end. He's just like, Yeah, got me right here.

[00:55:05] Right here. A famously less meaty spot of my body. It doesn't hurt.

[00:55:11] Yeah. Nothing vital in this area. It'll be fine.

[00:55:14] I think at one point, like they kept on the cup and doing that weird thing too with like the town statue. Like they kept on using the statue this point.

[00:55:21] Also a titanic vibe.

[00:55:23] Yep. And then when they. And then when like the boat kind of went over it and it got kind of got Pierce with the statue sword. I just looked over at my husband and said, like, why did Morgan Freeman fall asleep? Like, like, why is he? And then he says, No, John, he he got knocked out in the crash. It's like, oh, that wasn't very I don't know why That wasn't very clear to me.

[00:55:45] Yeah, I thank you for bringing up the statue. I totally forgot about that visual. And that goes back to what we were saying earlier about like. It could have been this earmark throughout the film of how high the water was going, but we only see it like two or three times and it's totally random.

[00:56:00] I also feel like it's different watching this this movie and like this destruction and like a post Katrina era and like it's happened. Many, I think, also like the climate is changing and like this is happening like many, you know, multiple times a year. I feel like cities in the in the US alone are like having to basically, like totally rebuild. And I feel like in 98, like it was still something that like could be sort of fictionalized in this way but so many like. So I have like a a bunch of times in my notes, I'm like, oh, this is different in like a post-Katrina era and like, like the talk all the talk about the looting and like the like the way the town gets when it floods and like, how ready they are for it. Like, so I feel like it it's not even necessarily something I would change about the plot, but I think it's a different lens to look through it. And like they talk, they say literally, like the levees broke, like a few times they talk about that and like, do that's something that's totally in the general lexicon now. I feel like because like not even in storm areas, because we know about it. So I think that's interesting, too. If, like you polled audiences like, you know, from 98 versus now, like how many of us would equate it with like Katrina or like Hurricane Harvey or like one of the big storms that we've seen?

[00:57:18] That's a good point. And even for 1998, I did find it really bizarre how Minnie Driver was like, I guess another levee broke. Like anybody who lives somewhere with levees is not kind of like shrugging off the levee breaking at any point in time.

[00:57:33] Yeah, she's pretty like nonchalant about it until it's like your church is going, girl.

[00:57:40] Well, can we just real quick, can we go back to what we were talking about, the lack, I think, John, you brought up or she's just not quite strong representation or female character. I'd love for us to itemize all the list. The big thing for me was the very dramatic gun holding scene at the end, because look, I mentioned before, I'm not into guns, whatever, but like that was the most stereotypical. Like the girl has the gun, she doesn't know how to use it. It's terrible scene I've ever seen. And it was really disappointing for me because she did have all these strong moments, but they were just pockets of just like, Come on, man.

[00:58:18] It's so disappointing. She stabbed a man in the neck with no hesitation and she can't hold a gun.

[00:58:24] It reminded me of like, I'm like, This is random too. But I just remember reading about, like, the development of Belle and beating the Beast and how I can't remember him. I'm so sorry. But writer of that movie that was writing Belle kept on fighting and fighting and fighting. You know, the all the all the male creators about, like, you know, they all wanted her to go and find ingredients to make a cake for for Beast. And it's like, no, like, why don't we, you know, give her something more active to do? Like, I want her to read more. And so they compromise. Like, well, we'll just have to sitting and reading a lot, which is was kind of their compromise. It was more intellectual than baking a cake, but it was still kind of passive. And I feel like they were kind of having the same conversation about Minnie Driver's character. Like they kept on saying like a strong, independent female character, she can save herself, she can take care of herself. She's a bad ass that's refurbishing this church. And they would give her moments where she got to rescue herself. But then at the last minute, Christian Slater had to step in or somebody else had to step in and finish rescuing her, you know, like she was like I thought that was pretty ingenious, actually, Like the way that she saw. We moved up the banister and like, was unscrewing the banister to survive. And it's like, that's pretty ingenious. Like after you, you know, after you killed your after you killed your near rapist, you're, like, slowly getting yourself out of the situation and then but still needed Christian Slater to finish and finished rescuing her. I just couldn't allow her to ever finish rescuing herself.

[00:59:54] The saw in the kitchen, you know?

[00:59:56] Yeah, exactly. Yeah. So the kitchen in the cabinet by the sink, you're like.

[01:00:01] That's where I keep my saw in the kitchen is not where you're supposed to?

[01:00:04] Also, like, that was like a saw, saw, saw. That wasn't a.

[01:00:08] No. I know. It was crazy.

[01:00:10] I also don't think we needed the assault. The near assault.

[01:00:15] Definitley Not.

[01:00:15] IT just didn't. It felt out of contact. It felt it felt not right for this movie.

[01:00:20] Yeah, it was again splashing some other guy was like in the background. Being like, we need this. I think. John, you're absolutely right that that analogy about Beauty and the Beast. It's all the stuff that goes on beyond behind the scenes, and especially for a movie that took two years, like there had to be some crazy negotiating and like, this producer wanted it that way or had these expectations or whatever. And clearly Christian Slater was kind of off his gourd. And you say messy, right? You know, in that sense of the word behind the scenes.

[01:00:51] Ironically, like out of all the Christian Slater performances I've ever seen, this one, he actually seemed toned down.

[01:00:58] Cause he was so bored?

[01:01:00] Yeah, yeah, maybe. But I feel like it's there was no, like, manic energy from, like, how he wasn't, like, Pump Up the Volume or Heathers or. Yeah. He was just kind of flat.

[01:01:15] No, I see what you mean. There was kind of an everyman quality to him that was kind of off for Christian Slater, if that makes sense.

[01:01:22] Like, they were they trying to have him be for, you know, essentially the straight man so that people could imprint upon him. But like, again, you know, that's so surface level. You go back to our earlier question of like, what's his motivation? And to me, it just seems like you're getting yourself into a dangerous situation for absolutely no reason and you don't even get to kiss the girl at the end. Look, you're too tired to bone.

[01:01:46] Yep. Too. Freeze frame.

[01:01:48] Everyone was excited for the movie to be over there. Like, just stop it.

[01:01:52] Right When that happened, right when they did the freeze frame, I kind of expected like a like a rap song to pop up summarizing the plot of the movie.

[01:02:00] Totally. That's exactly the era. Right.

[01:02:04] Should we talk recasting?

[01:02:07] Keke Palmer.

[01:02:08] Oh yeah. We like to catch Keke Palmer in everything. That's the theme of this podcast.

[01:02:14] I don't know which which character, but like all of them.

[01:02:17] All of them.

[01:02:17] Yeah, all of them. Like a nutty professor situation.

[01:02:20] Please do.

[01:02:22] The funny thing about this, though, is I feel like this movie because it has so many like hard hitters in a fun way that like, I just want to see the same people older.

[01:02:32] I don't I don't know how to break this to you but Betty White's dead.

[01:02:35] You get Lily Tomlin in that Betty White. But I. I was thinking that Christian Slater could be recast. We could put Kristen Stewart there and we could have the movie pass the Bechdel test, and it would be a more interesting queer storyline. We could keep Minnie Driver. That would be fine.

[01:02:54] Hey, I'd love that.

[01:02:55] I think she's got the same brooding energy. We could write in some, you know, some motive, motivation to solve that problem. But I feel like she is a little similar to Christian Slater. Like, generally, sometimes in her performances.

[01:03:09] I think you're right. And she could do a very everywoman type of role. Right. But yes, I also agree that Minnie Driver could just be Minnie Driver. It's just like that woman's title is to me. I'm like she even that much older in my mind.

[01:03:23] And she was so excellent in Good Will Hunting. It is funny that these crossed over. So at the same time because it's like, wow it. You get a phenomenal actress in both movies and.

[01:03:35] So much range.

[01:03:36] So much.

[01:03:37] Canould we fit Megan Mullally in this is in this movie somewhere, In this remake? Somewhere.

[01:03:42] We can always fit her. Yes.

[01:03:44] And Nick Offerman could be the husband.

[01:03:47] But like I actually said, Bill Nighy, like it's how you pronounce his last name should be the husband because he is like that old curmudgeon dude who just has attitude about his wife and would probably do like some comedy tour about how much he hates his wife but actually does love her in that role. But I do. I do like Nick Offerman as a choice.

[01:04:12] I like that stunt casting. I'm going to just throw the Randy Quaid character out there because I really had a hard time with this one. And I went with Rainn Wilson from The Office.

[01:04:22] Honestly, should Hard Rain? I feel like Hard Rain should just be like kind of a comedy thriller. Like I'm just imagining like Rainn Wilson, like, you know him when like the characters, everybody is kind of gets whiplash when he reveals himself to actually be stealing the money. It's like, Of course I am a $3 million. I make I make like $10,000 a year.

[01:04:42] The young guy, Kenny, the 17 year old fuck up. I don't know how I tell you the is, but he seems like that. I actually put Chris Tucker composed like his comic relief. So that fits in with your comedy.

[01:04:55] He's like 55 years old. But yeah.

[01:04:58] Well I mean whatever. He's just a loud mouth. It's perfect. We're not respecting ages.

[01:05:04] Not respecting ages.I love the idea of Chris Tucker.

[01:05:06] Yeah.

[01:05:08] I'm wondering if, like, the character, that character should just kind of be portrayed as like an as kind of a scared intern that's making a lot of mistakes. Like, what about Michael Cera?

[01:05:18] Oh.

[01:05:20] I kind of like Michael Cera as the Bible quoting Ray.

[01:05:23] Michael Cera would have played a bit or he would have played the really the guy who kind of has the the crisis

[01:05:31] Oh the crush. The crush on Minnie Driver, a guy.

[01:05:32] I feel like it would have been maybe someone like him.

[01:05:36] Wait no, who was the guy? Phil? Was it Phil who was the awkward guy?

[01:05:40] Yeah.

[01:05:41] That was him. Right. Okay. Because I had Tobey Maguire for him. Cause the same vibes, you know, like for. I also thought, like the Ed Asner character, I just thought of this immediately. And I think if that's Danny Glover, just like old man, like just like he's just becoming voiced and he's just like, Yeah, this is the job. And then he gets fucking shot by Chris Tucker.

[01:06:04] I thought of a different Danny. I was thinking Danny DeVito.

[01:06:07] I'd like Danny DeVito to be the mayor. I feel like there's a lot of contenders for the role.

[01:06:12] When they when Ed Asner was shot, just kind of popped out of nowhere into the frame, clutching his throat and dying and and like, drowning in water and blood. It did remind me of of Danny DeVito dying and Batman returns.

[01:06:25] Oh, yeah. When he grabs his throat.

[01:06:27] So gross. But he's puke like pink blood in this movie instead of black blood.

[01:06:34] Also, that makes me think of Michael Keaton, who I feel like could be the Tom character.

[01:06:40] Oh, we do need more Michael Keaton. He hasn't been around enough lately.

[01:06:45] Michael Keaton. We need more. Very much. We need a couple more women. Like. Like. Like one of the outlaws should be a woman.

[01:06:52] Let's make it two.

[01:06:54] Let's see.

[01:06:54] Yeah, Let's go.

[01:06:55] We don't need to limit ourselves. It's really male heavy.

[01:07:00] It's very patriarchal thinking.

[01:07:04] What about? Leslie...

[01:07:05] If we have a token male. Oh.

[01:07:08] Leslie Jones, Kate McKinnon. Just all Ghostbusters.

[01:07:10] The whole cast were women. And you had one token Guy which role would it be?

[01:07:13] I mean, I'm just picturing, again, Michael Cera, just like, floating helplessly in a boat and in a big chair and a big like, deputy hat just.

[01:07:21] So there you go. Michael Cera would be perfect.

[01:07:25] And then Morgan Freeman, the main so the main Morgan Freeman part. What did we say again. Oh, wow. We didn't talk about the Morgan Freeman character yet.

[01:07:35] See, but now, like, our whole plan has changed.

[01:07:38] Like, yeah, now I want some badass lady to do it.

[01:07:43] I mean...

[01:07:43] Who Could it be.

[01:07:45] I mean.

[01:07:46] Octavia Spencer.

[01:07:47] Oh, my God. Yeah, that would. That would. She would be really fucking intense.

[01:07:53] Totally. Is this the comedy version or it's like that part is the only straight play part and every other part, it's classic relief? Actually. Like Morgan Freeman part is just the same beat all the time. But I did like the part we didn't talk about where you just like how many times were in it for the money. It's so funny because it's like it does play with the twist of like the villain's Heart warms and he's just like, Fuck you, I want to get paid.

[01:08:24] I feel like he had like one of the most realistic motivations in the movie.

[01:08:29] Yeah, it was super clear why he was in it.

[01:08:32] Bryan Cranston could also do it. True. Totally believable. And it would be a similar kind of thing where I just want to go to Belize maybe one day or no Belize was Christian Slater. I just want to have my retirement that like this is my retirement. I want to have my nest egg.

[01:08:50] Okay, Now I'm relating to this movie. Retirement is a motivation that I can relate to you.

[01:08:57] Go. But again, the Belize vibe was totally Shawshank Redemption. Same kind of thing, you know, You're like, Damn.

[01:09:04] See, we went over.

[01:09:05] I got it. That's what happened. It was made over such a long period of time that so many people were like, Well, they did this, they did. This, they did this, they did this. Minnie Driver like, Well, we did this in Good Will Hunting. What we did. Yeah, it's a Frankenstein movie.

[01:09:15] It is a Frankenstein movie, it's a monster.

[01:09:18] And then we say Minnie Driver gets to keep her part. I feel like she's even grown like the the idea of like, you know, this this, this very artistic woman, like restoring a church single handedly, like, feel like Minnie Driver has grown into that kind of persona, like, more over the years.

[01:09:33] She's holding that gun steady this time.

[01:09:36] Exactly. Oh, absolutely. Yeah. Because she target practices in the back of a church, but now it's like in New England, like an art colony. She had to move to a new church.

[01:09:47] Higher ground.

[01:09:50] I feel like I feel like this a remake of this could have been alan Arkin's swan song as as a Charlie Ed Asner character.

[01:09:58] Yes!

[01:10:01] That would have been a great call. Yes.

[01:10:04] I love him.

[01:10:05] I feel like this was a fun one. And who knew it was going to have so many relations to Titanic? Who would have thought?

[01:10:13] I feel like like our remake that we've kind of pieced together. I actually kind of want to watch our version.

[01:10:22] All right. I'll contact Minnie's people.

[01:10:24] I'm game. Yeah.

[01:10:27] We'll do a reading of this one too.

[01:10:29] I'm sending a lot of handwritten letters to strangers and hoping they'll get back to me. Like when I wrote for Newbery authors as a fourth grader.

[01:10:37] Love it.

[01:10:38] Could you just imagine, like being a producer in Hollywood? Just getting. Just getting like a handwritten letter? Like I have ideas for a remake of Hard Rain.

[01:10:47] Hi. Me again. Another idea?

[01:10:50] Yeah. Yeah, exactly. Once again, you just be like, you know, Tim Robbins and Shawshank Redemption. Just write a letter a week. So they give in.

[01:10:58] So for August, we're going to be watching the 2000 Robert Zemeckis directed, I think, classic What Lies Beneath with Harrison Ford and Michelle Pfeiffer.

[01:11:10] Oh, my God. Love it. I love that movie.

[01:11:15] I've never seen it. I am so excited.

[01:11:17] Okay. You have to watch it on the biggest screen you have in a super dark room by yourself. It's required.

[01:11:22] Don't you'll be too scared. I could never.

[01:11:25] I'm so excited. I bet you it was a movie. I wanted to see it. My mom was like, No.

[01:11:31] Well your mom was right.

[01:11:33] I really was. That was something that I would do because I remember, like, the hand on the bathtub in the tub.

[01:11:39] On the tub! Yeah.

[01:11:39] And I was like, This is probably not appropriate for like, that age, but I'm glad to see it now.

[01:11:44] Is going to be great.