



13 Lives directed by Ron Howard
Reviewed by Dhruv



Stand Alone Film
Contemporary History, Based on a True Story, Drama

Give a summary without spoilers!

A Thai soccer team finds itself stuck in a cave with no way out. As the Thai monsoon sets in, the 12 teenage boys and their soccer coach are trapped in a series of underground caves that are quickly flooding. They have no food and no way to contact the outside world. Soon reports of the missing boys reach the Thai authorities, and eventually the wider world. The monsoon is relentless, the rain does not stop and the caves keep flooding. The boys are confined to a little platform kilometers into a flooded cave system. They are going hungry and running out of food. As news reports reach the world, the world reaches Thailand. The Thai Navy SEALs start diving into the caves. But, with so much flooded, nobody expected the boys to still be alive. News reports, engineers, and divers from all over the world start coming, all trying to contribute with their expertise and do something good. The world comes together. Just when all hope is lost, the divers make contact with the boys. Yet this is not a moment to celebrate. With every passing day, it seems more and more unlikely that the boys will make it out alive. It takes the world's most elite divers a whole day to reach the boys. How will the boys be able to dive out of the cave themselves? The task is impossible. The world is now watching, united behind the hope that the boys will make it out alive. Will the impossible occur? Will the boys make it out alive?

Watch this movie based on a true story to find out.

What drew you to this book?

I saw an ad for this movie on Netflix. The trailer seemed pretty interesting and it looked like it would be a good movie to watch. I was also alive and remembered the story of these Thai boys. I remember following the news and actually feeling the suspense and despair the movie portrays. I remember how we all hoped for a miracle and just wished that the boys survived. These memories were still relatively fresh in my mind, and I knew that a movie on it would be a very powerful story. The trailer was also very engaging and it seemed like the movie would be one worth watching.

Did it remind you of something that you've previously read?

Not really, but it did remind me of a movie (I can't remember the title) where some animals were stuck in a little hole of water in the middle of a massive ice sheet in Barrow, Alaska. In that movie too, the whole world came together to rescue those animals. While that is where the similarities end, the general idea is pretty much the same. People, even with all their differences, come together because they believe in the power of humanity and have hope that their actions will lead to a common shared outcome.

To whom would you recommend this book?

I would recommend this to anyone who remembers this event from real life and wants to relive it. This would be great for someone who wants a riveting story that keeps them on the edge of their seat. The story has a little bit of everything: drama, action, and comedy. It has a fast paced storyline and will not bore you. Anyone who just has some free time and wants something new and exciting to watch should check this movie out.

Overall, did you like it and would you recommend it to others?

Overall, I like the movie and would recommend it to others. I have said plenty of positive things about this movie, but I felt like it could have been better. Overall the movie had a clear storyline, good dialogues, and good cinematography. But something felt missing, and I don't know exactly what. This is one of the few movies based on a true story where I was actually alive during the true story and clearly remember it. Usually, the true story happened a long time ago, and I have no real connection to it. I have nothing to compare it to. But, this time was different. I remember reading the news articles that elaborated on all of the technical difficulties with getting the boy out of the cave. I remember the suspense the whole world felt when the rescue was happening. I just felt that when compared to the actual emotions I felt, the movie was lackluster in conveying those emotions. The characters in the movie too just didn't feel well developed. They seemed too robotic and too logical in a sense. The elite British divers just felt too logical sometimes and a connection between them and the audience was lacking. Even the boys just felt too generic in a sense, and I felt like I didn't really get to know them. Still, this was overall a pretty solid movie even though some specific aspects weren't too good.

Anything else that you would like to add to this review? What made you choose it? Did you like the cover? Was it recommended to you? Did you find it at the library?

One thing I learned after watching the movie is that nothing can beat your actual memories of an event. This made me think: there are so many historical events that older people have strong memories of, yet people my age have no real connection to them. This is why different people perceive the world very differently.