



FILM: **THE LOST CITY**

FDG RATING: 2.6 😐😐😐😐😐

Film Discussion Group (FDG) Scale is 1-5 (5 is best)

The Nee brothers: *directors*
Sandra Bullock: *actress, Loretta Sage*
Channing Tatum: *actor, Alan*
Brad Pitt: *actor, Jack Trainer*

DATE: September 18, 2022

DISCUSSION SUMMARY: **THE LOST CITY**

Reclusive author Loretta Sage (Sandra Bullock) writes about adventure romance stories in exotic locations featuring a handsome, muscle bound hero, Dash McMahon, who is on the cover of her book. Her cover model, Alan, (Channing Tatum), who she resents because of his somewhat simpleton personality and all the attention he attracts for his good looks, goes on tour with her to promote her new book, *The Lost City*, when an eccentric billionaire kidnaps Loretta, convinced that she can lead him to an actual lost treasure at the center of her latest story. Alan is nothing like the action hero he portrays, but he sincerely cares about Loretta and is determined to prove he can be a hero in real life so sets off to rescue her. He solicits the help of his handsome, muscular meditation guru, Jack Trainer, (Brad Pitt) who looks like and has the personality of an adventure hero.

It's a fun film, a bit silly, simplistic but entertaining with purposely exaggerated adventure situations and heroics. Channing Tatum and Sandra Bullock are great actors who have good comic timing. But a few discussion participants thought they did not have chemistry. One comment was that Brad Pitt should have had the lead role, so the twosome would have had more heat. Jack quickly gets shot to pieces on his mission to rescue Loretta, so Alan must overcome his inadequacies to save the damsel in distress on his own. Brad Pitt fans thought they killed him off too soon, but others really liked the unexpected quick demise of Brad Pitt-Jack Trainer. One observation was that Brad Pitt's character was well written compared to the others and uplifted the film.

Another discussion participant liked that the movie was working to be both an adventure-romance (*Raiders of the Lost Ark*, *Romancing the Stone*) and a satire of such films, but thought it did not succeed, especially with Daniel Radcliffe as the billionaire evil genius who seemed to be trying too hard to be an obsessed sore loser.

A favorite scene was when Loretta is squeamishly picking off the slugs attached to Alan's back after they both climbed out of the swamp. It was also a cute parody that, unlike the usual action hero, Alan thought to pack sensible shoes for Loretta to change into since traversing the rough terrain in high heels would be a challenge. He also brought snacks knowing she gets cranky without something to nibble on.

Some of us had low expectations so actually enjoyed the film more than we thought we would. It was a simple diversion movie with good actors. Ridiculous at times, but a relatively entertaining diversion. The film was a bit like the damsel in distress, but wasn't saved, scoring a weak 2.6 on our scale of 1 to 5. (5 is the best.)



See you at the movies!

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