

Casablanca

Why? No, I'm dead serious. Why, Ilsa? Why fall in love with Rick? He's a massive, MASSIVE profiteer who, sure, used to be all sunshine, rainbows and unicorns but the Nazis brainwashed the unicorns and there ain't no more sunshine or rainbows. Ilsa and Rick had met in Paris (of course) but she had neglected the small detail of her being married.

Um, yeah Ilsa...Whether your husband is a less cool version of Solid Snake or not, and death being imminent in the case of being a freedom fighter, TELL the man you're spending days and sleeping in the same bed with that you're married.[Glances at DVD case and tosses it]

So, they had met in Paris as I said and spent days, weeks with each other... then Ilsa gets a letter from some doctor that her husband is wounded but alive. Buuuuuut, she and Bogey Boy had agreed to meet at a train station and run off together. She stands him up.

Alright. Alright. There is officially ONE likeable character in this film now - Bogey is too much a dillhole, Ilsa is an indecisive, flighty woman who should have left those indecisions back in grade school, Lazlo is too wooden to care about.

Who does that leave? ... Why Claude Rains of course! I know I griped about him being a double agent, but honestly he is the one character with the most personality in the

entirety of the film. Yes he's a slimy conman who turns coat as often as Jack Sparrow, BUT he is quite funny. He has personality. PERSONALITY! This is a major element the other mains do not have! Seriously, he has the best lines in the film and it is difficult to not cheer for him even though he would technically be considered a villain.

Back with Bogey and the block of wood: Bogey tells him to hit the bricks which causes Ilsa to have to ninja her way up into his boudoir a bit later, with a revolver, demanding the passes. Bogeyman caves and agrees to hand Madame Dull the passes to Amurica, but she and the block of wood have to come back later to meet with him

Buuuuuuut first, Rains and Bogey agree to entrap Laszlo, but only if Ilsa can go free. Now, that is all sunflowers and jellybeans but does the audience care? Like with Laszlo himself, there is no real pathos for if anything happens to Ilsa. She has no personality and hence gives us no reason to care if anything terrible happens to her. She is as one-dimensional as it gets. Bogey convinces Laszlo and Bergman to come to the club, with an eager Rains waiting in the wings to pounce on the freedom fighter.

Ummmm, guys...IT'S A TRAP! Bogey and Rains appear to spring the trap, but Bogey flips on Rains and demands that the married couple be permitted to fly safely out of the coun-

try without any hindrance.

TOO LITTLE TOO LATE, BOGEY!! Trying to be the hero now is too late.

Throughout the film, Lazlo and Ilsa had been painting Bogey as this pseudo freedom fighter himself; helping the little guy and fighting the good fight. But you never would have guessed that by the way he was behaving. They arrive at the airport and we have our meme moment. The most famous and most quoted series of lines from this entire movie: "We'll always have Paris", "If you don't get on that plane you'll regret it. Maybe not today but soon and for the rest of your life" and "Here's looking at you, kid," says Bogey striving to attain pathos from the audience but fails miserably.

Perhaps I am cynically jaded, but none of those quotes resonate any sort of tangible empathy for the characters. I mean, I am supposed to be sorrowful that Ilsa and Rick are never gonna see each other again, and cheer for Rick as he does something heroic for a change but I honestly just don't care. They waited an hour and ten minutes to give Rick any vestige of humanity, wherein he actually did something to prove he is heroic, and not merely a massive, MASSIVE chud.

Ilsa and Lazlo get on the airplane, as Rick holds the TRUE hero of the film at gunpoint. When I root for Claude Rains and want him to get his own sequel to this broken mess of a film, that

is FAILING at establishing the desired effect of a hero.

The Nazis arrive after the plane has taken off and...I have gotta say that this scene is pretty awesome. The lieutenant of the battalion stationed at 'Blanca arrives and demands to know where Lazlo is and why he is not in custody. Bogey Bogey's his best Bogey and snarks his way into getting a gun pulled on him. Rains tosses Bogey his pistol and the 'hero' of this flick FINALLY demonstrates some heroism by shooting the lieutenant. The gunshot alerts the remnant of the troops, who arrive shortly and get the massive surprise of their lives when they find their leader dead.

"Round up the usual suspects". Rains defends Bogey and the duo walk off into the sunset while the soldiers stupidly don't suspect Rick having committed first-degree murder.

While I may be bashing on this film, I honestly do enjoy it. Sure, there are stupid bits which could be rectified in ten seconds. I consider this to be a guilty pleasure film. That is, I enjoy it but I certainly am fully aware there is much wrong with it. When the most interesting and sympathetic character in the film is one of the main villains that is a severe problem. But, it is time to reeeeeeeel this in and finish up this review.

This has been Le Snarky Libertarian: liberating cinematic minds everywhere!



Courtesy of thehairpin.com



Claude Rains courtesy cinenthusiast.files



Peter Sellers courtesy i.mediaimbd.com