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## Dailies: Enchanted

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*Relevant flames: 4 out of 5*

*Enchanted* opens with a pop-up book, read by the resplendent Julie Andrews. She narrates the animated fairy tale of Giselle (Amy Adams)—a girl who spends her merry days, singing, dancing and crafting (quite literally) a graven image of her eidolon future mate, with the help of her furry forest friends. The film's first moments are full of stereotypes, but pass quickly and won't disappoint fans of typical Disney fare.

Giselle's dreams of her pending happily-ever-after with the prince she meets and falls (also, quite literally) in love with, are soon swept away by the prince's mother. The evil Queen Narissa of Andalasia (Susan Sarandon) gives the helpless waif a shove into a magical fountain, effectively sending her to New York, or as she puts it, "a place where there are no happily-ever-afters."

After wandering the Big Apple, the woeful Giselle encounters a lawyer, Robert (Patrick Dempsey) and his young daughter. Robert attempts to help the lost traveler, without letting his daughter get attached, or ruining his own career. In spite of himself, Robert eventually becomes enamored with his charge—which complicates his relationship with serious girlfriend Nancy. His daughter Morgan, played by the incredibly cute Rachel Covey, loves everything about the peppy princess-to-be and clearly prefers Giselle over her future stepmother.

The film portrays the small family's struggle between belief in fantasy versus reality. The mixed media format of live action and animation mirrors the conflict, by pitting the "real world" against "The Land of Make Believe." Morgan's role was not given enough emphasis and may not be strong enough to bring discerning young girls along throughout the entire film. Still, seeing their favorite fairy tale character types come to life will surely gain the approval of many a tiara-toting youngster.

*Enchanted* is not as successful a fairytale mockery as a certain other animated film (which also opened with a storybook, had Julie Andrews in a starring role and whose princesses undeniably kicked butt) still—it is everything a princess movie should be. The costumes are amazing, the characters cute, and the ending as happy as possible.

Part musical, part romantic comedy, *Enchanted* succeeds as a charming, live-action version of the quintessential Disney Princess—right down to the clear slippers and poisoned apples. The makers of *Enchanted* played it safe by borrowing much of the fairytale aspect of the storyline from several classic Disney princess tales. The film's highlights are its comedic moments and the remarkable transformations of animated characters to real actors. The attention to detail is outstanding (Adams' nose even turns up at the end) and when the witch turns herself into a wart-nosed, gray-haired, old woman with missing teeth, she is even more believable than her animated counterpart.

The film's animation is classic, the acting and special effects excellent and not overwrought. While the humor is not enough to save this film from being shelved in the chick flick aisle, the slightly satirical approach gives it character and makes it fun to watch.

