

The Castle at the Top of the Falls

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I first caught a glimpse of the Rhine Falls while I was in the train to Neuhausen am Rheinfall, a small town in Switzerland. Something about it seemed so mesmerising—maybe it the Laufen Castle perching proudly at the top of the falls, the clean, misty water of the Rhine, or the rainbow forming from the mist below.

I was excited just looking at the marvel from a distance.

Once my family and I dropped off at the Neuhausen am Rheinfall station, I could hear a resounding murmur of the water thrashing down to the bottom of the falls from afar. The sight was mostly blocked from the station. It wasn't until we reached the first of the two lifts to the falls that we could see the sights a little closer, in all its glory.

Descending down, and walking a little further from the wooden platform, I was happy that I could see this sight. The water was clear and the powerful tourist boats



fought against the currents at the bottom of the falls to get to the rock in the middle. There was a really long, winded and scenic road to the castle and a rail bridge at the upper portion of the river.

We could get to the Laufen Castle at the top by two ways. Either by one of those tourist boats, or the really long sets of stairs to the top. Since Switzerland really knows how

to burn a hole in your wallet, and it already did when we bought the whole package for a full tour of the Rhine Falls from the station in Baden, we chose the scenic route.

I'll be honest. The climb to the top was as difficult as pronouncing the names of the cities in Switzerland. The flights of stairs were tall and narrow. Luckily, there wasn't a huge crowd. And the people were nice

enough to make way for those who were faster in covering the flight of stairs. The stairs also had separate platforms for people who wanted to take pictures.

The sights and experience of climbing the stairs was a different experience too. You could feel the warm spray of the waterfall while you climbed up, and I've already blabbered on about the view several times.

Three-quarters of the way, at the upper portion of the falls and below the castle, we got to the rail bridge leading to the castle on the Rhine. And it isn't until when you get to the bridge that you realise how wide the Rhine is. On one side of the bridge is the pretty little town of Neuhausen am Rheinfall, buildings and infrastructure waving up and down the hillside, and on the other side are the falls.

Countless flights of stairs later, we reached Laufen Castle. There wasn't much to see inside Laufen Castle as most of it was restructured into restaurants and hostels. So we started our way down the lower chambers and pathways of the castle.

In defence of "horrible" women in TV and movies

FATIMA JAHAN ENA

Over the last couple of years, Hollywood has certainly delivered by bringing us multi-faceted female characters in shows and movies, although it does have its share of unfairly written two-dimensional roles for women. However, an issue arises when a strong female lead is antagonised by a wave of viewers passionately hating the characters for seemingly questionable reasons. This phenomenon can be observed in the public's perception to two drastically different female characters: Skyler White from *Breaking Bad* and Miranda Priestly from *The Devil Wears Prada*.

Throughout *Breaking Bad*'s massively successful run from 2008 to 2013, we were introduced to Skyler



White, wife of Walter White. As the show progresses, Skyler discovers the truth about Walter's meth-making business and her reaction to that garnered an unprecedented amount of hate from the viewers.

Some fans detested Skyler so much that they sent death threats to Anna Gunn, the actress. It can be argued that Walter started producing drugs only to provide for his medical treatment and his family, however, he ultimately admitted that he did it because he liked it. Skyler merely wanted to protect her family from the valid dangers arising from associating with her husband, but many viewers viewed this as her obstructing Walter's path to success. The actual antagonists of the show did do

a lot of despicable things but were celebrated instead of hated.

Another example worth noting would be Miranda Priestly, the cold and commanding editor-in-chief in *The Devil Wears Prada*. Even though she is the devil that the title refers to, Miranda's devilish image comes from the fact that she is a perfectionist who demands excellence. Her biggest negative trait would be that all of her employees are under crushing pressure to give satisfactory performances which push a lot of limits. But when the employees do perform well, they thrive, such as Andy.

Miranda has done some morally questionable things for the advancement and security of her own career, but those are rarely used in critiques for the character. Much like Skyler, much of the hatred towards Miranda comes simply from hating them without valid reasons. This unjust critique is not usually received by male characters with similar personalities, which shows that even if a female character is fleshed out and written well, they might still get the unfair branding of "horrible."



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