

Huck and the King of Hearts

US : 1993 : dir. Michael Keusch : Crystal Sky Communications / Trimark : 94 min
 prod: Steven Paul : scr: Christopher Sturgeon : dir.ph.: Victor Goss
[Chauncey Leopardi](#)
 Graham Greene; Dee Wallace Stone; Gretchen Becker; John Astin; Ed Trotta; Peter Jurasik;
 Shevonne Durkin; James Crittenden; Christopher Stone; Barl K Willerford; Robert Miranda

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	KBytes	Ω □ € Z ♀	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
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Radio Times review:

"Kid's adventure in which a boy and his native American friend set off across America in search of his grandfather."

[no listing in "Halliwell's Film Guide", "Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 1996", "Speelfilm Encyclopedie", "The

Critics' Film Guide", "The Good Film and Video Guide", "Movies on TV and Videocassette 1988-89", "Rating the Movies (1990)", "The Sunday Times Guide to Movies on Television", "The Time Out Film Guide", "TV Times Film & Video Guide 1995", "Variety Movie Guide 1993", "Video Movie Guide 1993" or "The Virgin Film Guide"]

Twain shmain. This is a big-buddy-little-buddy road movie with a boy *nicknamed* Huck and an itinerant card-playing indian called Jim. That's pretty much where the resemblances end and the 1990s irritations cut in. But to set the scene – the opening titles find Billy "Huck" Thomas down at the old swimmin' hole reeling in catfish (a potent icon of mythic American boyhood). He checks his grandfather's watch, which is slow, and high-tails it back home. However, Huck is clad in billowing dungarees that would comfortably accommodate three of him, and he speeds back home by mountain bike, so we know what benighted period we're in.

As he arrives home his stepfather charges out from the porch, belt doubled, and marches him without further ado to some off-screen woodshed (another potent icon of that same myth). One whipping later, and not seeming especially the worse for it, Huck discovers his stepfather has sold his mountain bike, and resolves to run away to grandpa Zack, who has regaled his childhood with thrilling letters of his high adventures overseas. The watch itself, so the story goes, had been the gift of a grateful sultan whose daughter Zack had rescued. Huck, his father only recently dead, and mother so grief-stricken that she latched onto a beery neanderthal who slaps both her and the boy about, hits the open road and heads first for his aunt, a man-hungry air-head with a yen for beach nazis. So how are we doing with the Mark Twain checklist? Let's stick with it though.

See also "BADKONAK-E SEFID" and "BASHU" - both recent Iranian films, and subject index under ARAB WORLD / MIDDLE EAST.