

Multiple Protagonist Films and You Can Count on Me,

A quick note on *You Can Count on Me* - a terrific film., I thought. One of the big problems in Multiple Protagonist films is to re-invent the archetypes of The Outsider, The Dominant Character, The Traitor Within etc - and to find new archetypes.

Poor films render normal archetypes as stereotypes. A good recent example of a stereotypical and utterly predictable Traitor Within is in *Space Cowboys*, where the young astronaut is clearly in pay of the baddies from the start, so when he tries to take command in outer space there is no surprise or interest. In *You Can Count on me*, the two siblings are multiple protagonists - both versions of the same character (child orphaned in small US town now grown up). While usually multiple protagonist films have many versions of the same protagonist, YCCOM has only two. **BUT EACH COMBINES A NUMBER OF THE NORMAL ARCHETYPES.** So that the brother is The Dominant Character (the trouble maker) but is also The Outsider. Both are sometimes The Traitor Within. And so on. Interesting technique.