

*Catch Me If You Can: The True Story of a Real Fake*, Frank W. Abagnale

First published in 1980, this is not a new book or a new movie (released I believe in 2008). It is one that EPLD has acquired on CD however, and knowing I had a long car trip ahead of me I thought it might hold my interest.

Frank Abagnale's memoir makes for a very interesting story, one that could no longer work in the era of immediate computer data, but that worked overwhelmingly well for him in the 1960s, before information could be easily shared. Abagnale was only 15 when his parents split up and eventually divorced. He found himself devastated by the loss of his family, and began to create a fantasy life in which he was wealthy and important...he made himself into a co-pilot. Finding his way through creating fake identification, lying to get the proper outfitting and forging (and creating checks) became such an easy way to use his mind, and when it wasn't challenging enough, he switched his identity over and over becoming a physician, sociology professor, and a lawyer. His story is beyond belief at times but over five years, all before he turned 21, the FBI claimed he successfully swindled over 4 million dollars from corporations in the United States and across Europe.

The book and the movie vary slightly in the telling of the story, but the CD version managed to cover over ten hours of driving time and provided a great deal of entertainment.