

Library Lines, Dennis May, Kirkland Town Library staff

Winter in central New York. When you take away the daily shoveling, clearing off your car, and the constant fear of slipping on a slick patch of ice, you're left with the beauty of snowball fights, snow angels, and a good excuse for a cup of hot cocoa. I won't lie to you and say that winter is my favorite season. I might even go as far as to say it's my least favorite; not because I hate the snow, but after being raised in deep southern Georgia, snow and the cold just aren't part of my DNA. So starting around November each year, I become a homebody, only going out when it is absolutely necessary, when the sidewalks and roads are clear, and, of course, to visit my local library. While some may pass the winter months with a good book in front of the fire, I find that the best thing to do when the snow is blowing outside is to lose myself in the world of movies.

Since their earliest iteration, the purpose of movies has been to illustrate ideas, stories, and worlds that are different from reality. Every year, I make a list of movies that I plan to watch during the cold, lonely months of winter that make me long for a warmer climate and remind me that the season isn't so bad. These movies can only be enjoyed properly with a warm bowl of popcorn and a big cup of hot cocoa, or, depending on the movie, a glass of red wine.

*The Shawshank Redemption (1994)*: Based on Stephen King's novella "Rita Hayworth & The Shawshank Redemption," this movie is all about - you guessed it - redemption. We follow Andy Dufreine as he is unjustly torn from his modest life as an accountant to the bleak reality of a prisoner in Shawshank Penitentiary. This film earns its spot on my best winter movies list due to its undeniably brilliant story, filled with sorrow, pain, and just the right amount of humor, and a scene of pure joy when the prisoners spend a hot summer day tarring a rooftop in exchange for a couple bottles of "suds." The happiness radiating from the prisoners who are finally able to feel human again is enough to make you feel warm and toasty no matter the weather outside.

*Fargo (1996)*: "You betcha" this is on my list. Set in the snowy, frigid plains of Minnesota, the story follows Chief Gunderson as she unravels the deadly secrets of a local car salesman. This movie is the opposite of warm and cozy. This movie is on my list for the sole purpose of being able to say, "At least that's not me."

*Pride & Prejudice (2005)*: We are all familiar with Jane Austen's works, but is there one more popular than her novel of the same name? This story, set in 19th century England, centers on lower class Elizabeth Bennet as she meets high class Mr. Darcy and they immediately clash heads while falling in love. In the words of Sheldon from *The Big Bang Theory*, "She's got too much pride, he's got too much prejudice - it just works." This film made its way onto my winter movie list because there is nothing cold about witnessing two complete opposites fall hopelessly in love.

Apart from making it on my list of winter movies, these titles have another thing in common: you can find each of them at the Kirkland Town Library! They are located in our expansive collection of films, ranging from comedies to dramas, westerns to classics, and

movies fit for the whole family. Visit the KTL to check out more titles that make the cold season warmer and to share with us your own winter go-tos!