

## Rom Coms Make For a Cozy Fall

By Dennis May, Patron Services

I haven't written about movies in a little while now - not because I have been reading more (I'm still on track to reach my goal this year, but not reading as much as I could be), but because I have not watched that many movies in the past few months. I know - I'm shocked too! But for the past few weeks, I've gotten my movie watching up to speed by watching a ton of romantic comedies. I don't know if it's because we are on the cusp of autumn (which in my opinion is the most romantic season), or if this genre gives me the warm and cozy feelings associated with the season. All I know is when I want to watch romance, I go all in. In the month of September I have watched all three *Bridget Jones's Diary* movies, *Serendipity*, *Kate & Leopold*, and *How Do You Know*. I plan on rounding out the month with my personal favorite romantic comedy, *Notting Hill*. Before that, I will probably watch Julia Roberts's entire romance library. As soon as it's time to crack open pumpkin ales or sip on pumpkin spice lattes, I will switch over to my list of spooky movies: *Casper*, *Beetlejuice*, and the *Halloweentown* trilogy (you know, the stuff that induces nightmares). Until then, however, I will be getting through as many romantic comedies as I possibly can!

*Which Brings Me to You* (2023) stars Lucy Hale from *Pretty Little Liars* (2010), and Nat Wolff from *Paper Towns* (2015) as two people, burnt out on love, who meet at a wedding and fall for each other instantly. They decide to take things slow by telling each other stories about their past loves and heartbreaks. Critics called this film cute and clever, and praised the leads' chemistry.

Okay, fine. I guess I'll include the greatest romantic movie of all time. Written by Richard Curtis, *Notting Hill* (1999) tells the story of everyday man and travel bookstore owner, William Thacker (played by 90s heartthrob Hugh Grant), falling in love with international sensation, Anna Scott, (Julia Roberts), after she visits his bookstore. Anna yearns to feel like a normal person while William is immediately taken by the beautiful movie star. Let me tell you, this movie awakened my love for romantic comedies. It's witty, charming, and beautiful. Critics would pick it apart for its sappy, unrealistic ending, but don't listen to them. This movie is perfect.

The last intensely romantic title is Rainbow Rowell's newest book, *Slow Dance* (2024). Rowell takes us on a journey of two best friends navigating their feelings for each other. If that doesn't sound sentimental enough, their story is told through a combination of flashbacks from when they fell in love (but didn't understand what that meant) and scenes from the present day when they reconnect. Rowell does a great job transitioning between the past and the present seamlessly as she connects the dots in this whirlwind romance. I was lucky to be able to pull this off the shelves before it became popular!

There's something about getting cozy on a chilly fall evening and putting on a romantic comedy on the television or reading a romance from front to back. If you are like me and love to wind down a day of leaf blowing, apple picking, and flannel wearing with a sappy love story, then you are going to love browsing the Kirkland Town Library's collection of romance novels and movies!