



'TIS THE SEASON FOR MOVIES!

HOOKED ON HOLIDAY MOVIES

on The Couch with Mary Carver

Ready to dive into made-for-TV holiday movies?
I'm here to help! This is a guide to trying out
made-for-TV holiday movies without cable.
Enjoy!



HOLIDAY MOVIES FOR BEGINNERS

If you have cable, the Hallmark Channel is airing holiday movies new and old around the clock. But, if you don't have cable, it's okay! You can try out holiday movies with the services you already subscribe to (or on services with a free trial). Here's where to start:



Hallmark Movies Now

This is Hallmark's streaming app, and you can get a free 7-day trial for free.

During your free trial, I recommend these movies:

Window Wonderland: Two rival window decorators compete for a promotion at a big city department store. A fave with funny banter.

Ice Sculpture Christmas: Childhood friends enter an ice sculpting contest together. There are two ice sculpture movies on this app. Don't be fooled. This one is good; the other is not.

The Spirit of Christmas: A woman trying to sell a haunted bed and breakfast falls in love with the ghost. Yep, that's right.

Hitched for the Holidays: Two strangers agree to be one another's dates throughout several holiday festivities and events. Will this pretend relationship take a turn toward reality? What do you think?

Lifetime's website

If you have cable, you can use your cable provider login to watch the latest Lifetime movies on the channel's website.



But if you don't, you can still watch **Christmas Unwrapped**, a 2020 original movie produced by Tiffany Haddish, about a journalist investigating a philanthropist who claims to be doing the work of Santa. Cute, funny, and bonus points for plenty of diversity!



HOLIDAY MOVIES FOR BEGINNERS

Continued, with more options...

Lifetime Movie Club

This is Lifetime's streaming app, and you can get a free 7-day trial for free.

During your free trial, I recommend these movies:

Christmas on the Bayou: Busy business lady goes home to small town and reunites with her childhood friend. Stars Hilarie Burton, who is one of my absolute favorites in these movies, makes the tropes worth it.

Four Christmases and a Wedding: Two people connect and then reconnect over a few years and always at the holidays. Will they ever both be single so they can make a lasting connection? (Duh. They will!)

Love at the Christmas Table: This one tells the story of Danica McKellar at her Winnie Cooper-est and her dad's business partner's son over the years from childhood into adulthood. They're friends, then they're not. They kiss, then they fight. How will the story end? (Adorably, if you must know.)

Santa's Boots: Don't be distracted by the silly name, the off-putting poster, or the eye-rolling premise of finding a guy with only his Santa costume boot. Just ignore that! This movie about a woman who goes home for the holidays and ends up working as an elf at her family's store is very cute!

A Very Nutty Christmas: Look, sometimes these movies are just bonkers. This is one of those times. Melissa Joan Hart is a baker who finds a nutcracker who somehow turns into a real person. Bonkers!



HOLIDAY MOVIES FOR BEGINNERS

Continued, with even more options...



Netflix has joined the holiday movie business over the past couple of years, and I am here for it! Here are some good ones:

Christmas in the Smokies: This is the quintessential movie in the genre. Woman fights to save the family farm. Woman is also reunited with her country music star ex-boyfriend. And they work together on a big holiday event for the whole community. I'm tearing up just thinking about it!

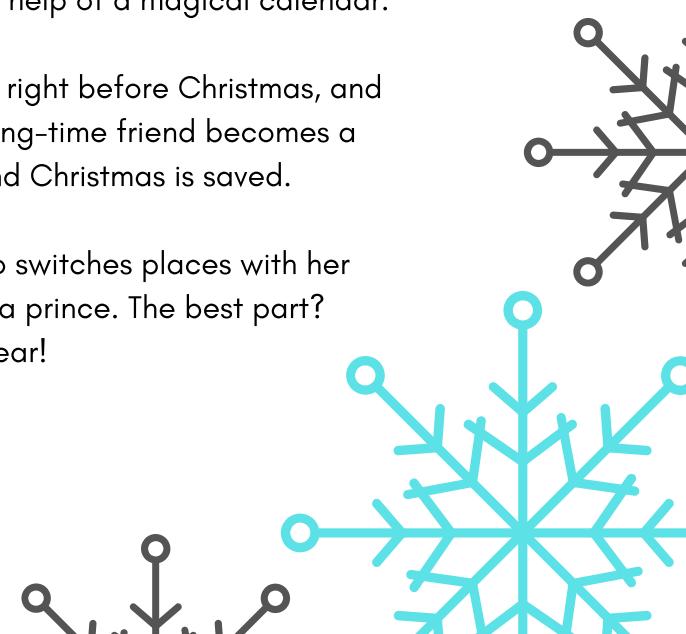
A Christmas Prince: An American journalist goes undercover to get a scoop on a European "playboy" prince. And then they fall in love.

A Cinderella Story: Christmas Wish: If you've seen the other Cinderella Story movies, you won't be surprised by a beat in this one. But that doesn't stop the main characters from being adorable.

The Holiday Calendar: Not to be confused with another holiday calendar movie on Hulu, this one is about a photographer and her childhood friend figuring out that they are meant to be. With the help of a magical calendar.

Holiday Rush: A big shot radio DJ loses his job right before Christmas, and his spoiled kids lose their minds. Luckily, his long-time friend becomes a business partner, lessons are learned, and Christmas is saved.

The Princess Switch: A baker from Chicago switches places with her lookalike, a European duchess engaged to a prince. The best part? We get a sequel this year!





HOLIDAY MOVIES FOR BEGINNERS

Continued, because there's still more...

Hulu

Hulu also has a few good, made-for-TV holiday movies.

Here are the ones I'd recommend:

A Christmas Movie Christmas: If you'd like to see a strange spoof of holiday movies, this one's for you. Two sisters—a big fan of these movies and a holiday cynic—find themselves trapped inside a holiday movie world.

Christmas on Holly Lane: Three life-long friends reunite at the holidays to help each other deal with some issues. Strong friendship vibe in this one.

Happiest Season: A woman takes her girlfriend home for the holidays, but surprise! Her family doesn't know she's gay. Top-notch cast in this movie about friendship, family, and love.

Turkey Drop: If teen movies or YA novels are your jam, you'll love this one about a college student who comes home for Thanksgiving and tries to keep her long-distance boyfriend from breaking up with her.

Amazon Prime

Prime has quite a few holiday options for you. Here are my top picks:

A Bride for Christmas: If How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days had a December baby with Runaway Bride, it would be this movie. Funny and cute!

Christmas Contract: A woman returning home for the holidays doesn't want to face her ex alone, so her friend's brother pretends to be her boyfriend. One of my favorites!





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But wait! There's more...

Freeform website

If you're new to the world of holiday movies, you might be surprised to know that Freeform (formerly ABC Family) is a big player. You can watch all of these movies (and more, if you'd like) on the Freeform website:

12 Dates of Christmas: A woman goes on a blind date and it does not go well. She falls and hits her head and then has to relive that day over and over again until she gets it right.

Christmas Cupid: It's another ghost movie! A Hollywood PR exec's biggest client dies and comes back as a ghost to help her find true love.

Holiday in Handcuffs: In hindsight this movie is quite problematic. But if you can suspend belief and common sense, this one with Melissa Joan Hart and Mario Lopez playing strangers who pretend to date under duress is a lot of fun. Or maybe that's just the nostalgia talking...

No Sleep 'Til Christmas: Two strangers (one of them an engaged woman) discover they can only fall asleep if they're next to one another. The main characters are played by actors married in real life, so that's fun!

The Truth About Christmas: A political consultant is cursed by a store Santa and cannot tell a lie. This proves problematic when she spends the holidays with her client and boyfriend's family.

