JANUARY-JUNE 2025 POST

Trespasser, The (1929) Gloria Swanson, Robert Ames, Purnell Pratt, Billy Bevan
A strong-willed secretary meets a wealthy suitor, quits her job, and elopes. Soon after, the man's wealthy, prominent father steps in to annul the marriage, and when her new husband appears to weaken under his father's forceful intervention, she bolts. Nine months later she bears a child and never tells her ex-husband. She struggles to raise her child as a single mother and eventually does what she needs to in order to raise her child. Gloria Swanson shines in an Oscar-nominated role. The plot twists, the emotional choices, and the competent acting make this film well worth watching. (Shot simultaneously in silent and sound versions.) IMDB: The Trespasser

Good Sam (1948) Gary Cooper, Ann Sheridan, Ray Collins, Louise Beavers, Bobby Dolan Jr., William Frawley, Edmund Lowe
After attending a church service on charity, Sam becomes the world's most ambitious do-gooder—helping every conceivable person in need. Unfortunately, he neglects his wife's needs, which creates the film's primary conflict. The good that Sam carries out in the film goes to extremes, but the exceptional acting and a few laughs along the way make this film worth watching. IMDB: Good Sam

Morals for Women (Big City Interlude) (1931) Bessie Love, Conway Tearle, John Holland
Helen lives a luxurious life in the apartment paid for by her boss/lover. She hosts parties and provides ladies for her boss's clients and friends. When her old boyfriend from her hometown shows up intent on marrying her, she returns to her hometown to lead a straight life and marry. Circumstances, however, force her to return to her life as a party girl and jeopardize her opportunity for marriage. The intriguing plot and Bessie Love's exceptional acting make this film well worth watching. IMDB: Morals for Women

Ladies of Leisure (1930) Barbara Stanwyck, Ralph Graves, Lowell Sherman, Marie Prevost, Juliette Compton, Willie Best, Charles Butterworth
Party girl, Kay Arnold, leaves a scandalous party in the wee hours of the morning and is picked up by a wealthy young man, Jerry, who drives her home. He paints in his parents' mansion and hires Kay as a model. She falls in love with Jerry, but wearies of his absence of affection for her as well as his intended marriage to his fiancée. Eventually, Jerry does fall in love with Kay. They plan to marry until Jerry's father forcefully objects and works to block the marriage. Kay makes a life-changing decision. This early Stanwyck film features her youthful beauty and showcases her acting abilities. Consider this film well worth watching. IMDB: Ladies of Leisure

Somewhere in the Night (1946) John Hodiak, Nancy Guild, Lloyd Nolan, Richard Conte, Sheldon Leonard
George Taylor hides his amnesia while recovering in the hospital from war-time injuries. Upon his release he tries to piece together his past and realizes he was involved in activities that included missing millions and murder. Suspenseful and well-acted, consider this film worth watching. IMDB: Somewhere in the Night

Sunny Skies (1930) Benny Rubin, Marceline Day, Rex Lease
This film focuses on the lives of two college freshmen—the hard-partying, star athlete and a socially awkward nerd and their relationships with girlfriends. The only reason to watch this film is to get a glimpse of college life in the '20s. IMDB: Sunny Skies

Sinners in Paradise (1938) Madge Evans, John Boles, Bruce Cabot, Marion Martin, Gene Lockhart, Milburn Stone
A plane crash in the Pacific forces individuals from disparate backgrounds to get along and survive. Living together reveals the worst in them all. Consider this film not worth watching. Zzzzzzzz. IMDB: Sinners in Paradise

Terror in the Haunted House (My World Dies Screaming) (1958) Gerald Mohr, Cathy O'Donnell, William Ching
Fragile, American-born Sheila Wayne has lived in Switzerland since childhood and suffers from terrifying dreams of an old mansion. When she marries, her husband takes her back to America to live…in the exact house that terrifies her in her dreams. He convinces her to live there to cure herself of the debilitating dreams. A creepy caretaker, a suspicious owner of the mansions, and her gaslighting husband make up the characters that only feed her fears. Although trite, poorly acted, and low-budget, consider this film worth watching. IMDB: Terror in the Haunted House

Panama Flo (1932) Helen Twelvetrees, Robert Armstrong, Charles Bickford
The fiancé of a New York chorus girl leaves her for two weeks but promises marriage when he returns. He never returns, and a rough drunk calls in a debt she owes him by forcefully taking her to Panama, where he's a wealthy oil man. Years later, her boyfriend "coincidently" lands his seaplane on the lake next to her cabin and promises to steal her from the oil man and return her to New York. Things don't go as planned. Helen Twelvetrees highlights this film with hard-boiled, professional acting. Viewers will find this film overdramatic but interesting enough to watch. IMDB: Panama Flo

Red-Haired Alibi (1932) Merna Kennedy, Theodore von Eltz, Grant Withers, Shirley Temple
Lynn works at the gift counter in a hotel and attracts the attention of a wealthy patron. When the hotel closes, he offers her a job. She gets an apartment, a clothing budget, and needs to accompany him in public and "keep her mouth shut." She naively realizes too late that he's a murderous mobster. Although the acting in this "B" film is substandard and production values are low, consider this film interesting enough to view. IMDB: Red-Haired Alibi

Our Little Girl (1935) Shirley Temple, Rosemary Ames, Joel McCrea, Lyle Talbot
Molly lives an ideal life with her mom and dad—until her doctor dad spends so much time away from home with his work that he neglects

his wife and child. His nurse at work confesses her love for him, and his wife falls in love with the wealthy, handsome neighbor and plans a divorce. Heartbroken Molly runs away from home. This sugary sweet, simple plot isn't one of Shirley Temple's best, but it's entertaining enough to watch. IMDB: Our Little Girl

Dr. Christian Meets the Women (1940) Jean Hersholt, Dorothy Lovett, Edgar Kennedy, Rod La Rocque, Carol Compton
A 'famous' professor comes to town with his lovely assistant to introduce the ladies in town to his regimen of exercise and diet pills to help all lose weight and improve their health. Dr. Christian learns early on that the 'doctor' is a charlatan, and his pills are dangerous. He can't convince the ladies in town, however, and he eventually has to address growing illness among the ladies, and one near-death case. Consider this engaging, entertaining and suspenseful film well worth watching. IMDB: Dr. Christian Meets the Women

Melody for Three (1940) Jean Hersholt, Fay Wray, Walter Woolf King
A divorced music teacher pushes her talented son to master the violin. When Dr. Christian realizes an internationally famous conductor is the young prodigy's father, he works to reunite the family. This engaging, well-acted film features humor and pathos. Consider this film worth watching. IMDB: Melody for Three

Bright Lights [Adventures in Africa] (1930) Dorothy Mackaill, Frank Fay, Noah Beery, Frank McHugh, Louise Beavers, John Carradine, Tom Dugan
Broadway star, Louanne, plans to retire and marry, but the press digs into her questionable past and risks tarnishing her reputation. This film consists mostly of singing and dancing acts with a whisper-thin plot. The dancing is bad, the singing slightly better, and the acting amateurish. Consider this film one worth skipping unless you're a passionate fan of early talkies. IMDB: Bright Lights

The Reckless Hour (1931) Dorothy Mackaill, Conrad Nagel, H.B. Warner, Joan Blondell
While helping her employer at a fashion show, a poor, working model, Margie, falls for the advances of a wealthy young man. Her adoring father worries about her when he sees her expensive jewelry and when she doesn't come home at night. Over time when her father realizes that she expects to marry her lover but has never met his parents, he confronts the boy's father to find out he knows nothing about the young lady and confesses he's had trouble with his wayward son. When Margie realizes her lover is a cad, she confesses to her father that she's pregnant but won't tell her lover. Although this Pre-Code film feature uneven acting, Dorothy Mackaill shines in the lead role, and Joan Blondell lightens the drama with her spunky humor. The engaging plot and emotional heartbreak make this film **Must-See viewing**. IMDB: The Reckless Hour

Love is News (1937) Loretta Young, Tyrone Power, Don Ameche, Slim Summerville, Stepin Fetchit, George Sanders
Reporter, Steve Leyton, outwits his colleagues to score an exclusive interview with an heiress while misrepresenting his identity to her. She soon catches on, and, impressed with his ingenuity and perseverance, falls in love with him. Their adversarial relationship results in competitive bickering throughout the film. Although the bickering becomes annoying, the laughs in this film and Loretta Young's portrayal make this film worth watching. IMDB: Love is News

He Stayed for Breakfast (1940) Loretta Young, Melvyn Douglas, Alan Marshal, Eugene Pallette
A famous and powerful politician dines daily at a local cafe. A worker at the cafe, Paul Boliet, detests the way the political hold his coffee cup and shoots the cup from his hand. Paul, a radical communist, flees the police, invades the apartment of a wealthy socialite [coincidentally, the estranged wife of the politician], and refuses to leave. Although they verbally battle, the wife falls in love with her intruder. Despite the improbable plot, the irritating verbal sparing, and some Douglas overacting, consider this film worth watching. IMDB: He Stayed for Breakfast

Kiss and Tell (1945) Shirley Temple, Jerome Courtland, Walter Abel, Robert Benchley, Virginia Welles, Darryl Hickman
Corliss Archer and her friend host a booth at the fair selling decorative towels. Since they make no sales, they decide to sell kisses. Sales explode with long lines of service men waiting to pay for kisses—until the girls' mothers stop by to put a stop to their daughters' 'outrageous' behavior. In addition to the humor in this light comedy, the film deals with themes of underage pregnancy, secretive marriage, and deception. Corliss finds herself in the midst of all the film's shenanigans and catastrophes. Consider this film **Must-See viewing** for the plot complications, the fun, and the chance to see Shirley Temple in her role as a teenager. IMDB: Kiss and Tell

Hold That Woman (1940) James Dunn, Frances Gifford, George Douglas
Repo-man, Jimmy Parker, faces dismissal unless he repossess a radio from a lady who hasn't paid. She's connected to gangsters and has hidden diamonds in the radio—so she won't give up the radio. Jimmy persists in the midst of many complications, all the while trying to impress his girlfriend's father—who hates him. Consider this 'B' movie worth watching for the comedy, action, and drama. IMDB: Hold That Woman

They Never Come Back (1932) Regis Toomey, Dorothy Sebastian, Edward Woods, Greta Granstedt, Earle Foxe, Gertrude Astor
Injured as a prize fighter, Jimmy Nolan takes a job as a bouncer in an upscale night club. He's enchanted by the star entertainer and tries to date her despite the fact that he knows the club's owner considers her 'his girl.' This 'B' movie weaves an interesting tale with plot twists, conflict, and action. Consider this film worth watching.
IMDB: They Never Come Back

Whispering City (1947) Helmut Dantine, Mary Anderson, Paul Lukas
Paula becomes embroiled in a mysterious crime while on vacation. After Paula arrives in Montreal, she learns about the mysterious death of a

woman named Rita. As Paula digs deeper into the case, she becomes a target herself and uncovers a web of secrets and betrayal that leads her to question everyone around her. Overall, Whispering City is a competent and enjoyable noir thriller. Consider this film a worthy watch for fans of classic noir cinema. IMDB: Whispering City

Young Man of Manhattan (1930) Claudette Colbert, Norman Foster, Ginger Rogers, Charles Ruggles, Jack Dempsey, Gene Tunney
A naive, young newspaper columnist falls in love and marries a sports columnist. After a blissful courtship, he enters into an affair with a schoolgirl and engage in heavy drinking. Her boss, on the other hand, falls in love with her, romances her, and pushes her to marry him. Decent acting and and engaging plot make this film well worth watching. IMDB: Young Man of Manhattan

Monsieur Beaucaire (1946) Bob Hope, Joan Caulfield, Patric Knowles, Marjorie Reynolds, Reginald Owen
This historical comedy unfolds in the court of King Louis XV of France, where a bumbling barber adopts the persona of a dashing nobleman to navigate the complexities of court life. He becomes entangled in a plot involving the Princess of Spain, leading to a series of comedic misadventures filled with mistaken identities and romantic entanglements. The beautiful costumes and sets in this film transport viewers to the opulent world of 18th-century France. Bob Hope's comedic timing and charm make this movie worth watching. IMDB: Monsieur Beaucaire

Where There's Life (1947) Bob Hope, Signe Hasso, William Bendix, Harry von Zell
Chuck, an American journalist in a South American country to cover a boxing match, finds himself in the midst of a revolution. He's mistaken for a revolutionary leader and thrust into the heart of the political upheaval. The witty banter, slapstick humor, and romantic entanglements make this typical Hope film worth watching. IMDB: Where There's Life

Cheaters, The (1947) Joseph Schildkraut, Billie Burke, Eugene Pallette

The wealthy but financially troubled Pidgeon family invite an eccentric, down-on-his-luck actor to their home for Christmas in order to use him as a charitable gesture to impress a wealthy uncle who might leave them his fortune. Through a series of humorous and touching events, the family members reevaluate their selfish ways and confront their greed. This holiday gem blends humor, warmth, and social commentary to make it worth watching as a great alternative to more traditional Christmas films. IMDB: Cheaters, The

The Courageous Dr. Christian (1940) Jean Hersholt, Dorothy Lovett, Robert Baldwin
When an epidemic breaks out in the impoverished community of Squatterstown, Dr. Christian takes it upon himself to fight for the health and well-being of the residents. He's met with resistance from the town's more affluent citizens, who are reluctant to help. This film makes a great choice for family viewing, with valuable life lessons woven throughout the narrative. IMDB: The Courageous Dr. Christian

The Restless Years (1958) John Saxon, Sandra Dee, Teresa Wright, James Whitmore, Virginia Grey
Shy, reclusive, and overprotected high school girl, Melinda, develops a relationship with Will, a friendless young man looking for a meaningful relationship. Will's father pressures him not to date Melinda for her lack of social status and a, supposedly, crazy mother. Then the mean girl spreads ugly rumors that shake the community, the school, and the couple's relationship. This film provides a compelling story with exemplary acting, realistic conflicts, and a strong character-driven narrative, which makes the film well worth watching. IMDB:The Restless Years

Remedy for Riches (1940) Jean Hersholt, Dorothy Lovett, Edgar Kennedy
This screwball comedy/romance centers around the arrival of Tom Stewart, a city slicker and old college friend of Roy Davis, the local soda jerk. Tom intends to find suitable land for a resort, unknowingly stepping into a web of deceit involving a potential oil swindle. Dr. Christian suspects foul play and sets out to uncover the truth. (No medical issues in this film—just intrigue, comedy, and romance). The

film offers a nostalgic glimpse into small-town America in the 1940s, and is a pleasant and enjoyable watch, especially for fans of classic films of the Dr. Christian series. IMDB: Remedy for Riches

Lady for a Night (1942) Joan Blondell, John Wayne, Philip Merivale, Hattie Noel, Blanche Yurka
Entertainer and owner of the local gambling casino, Jenny yearns for respectability and a normal home life. Although she loves the wealthy and influential gambler, Jackson, who pursues her, she chooses to marry a drunken gambler whose plantation is about to be repossessed. Unfortunately, the plantation also houses her new husband's relatives, who despise Jenny. Oh, and there is also a murder that Jenny goes on trial for as the prime suspect. Despite this film featuring racial stereotypes that may offend contemporary sensibilities, Blondells's strong performance and the compelling plot make this film **Must-See Viewing**. IMDB: Lady for a Night

The Bride Came C.O.D. (1941) James Cagney, Bette Davis, Stuart Erwin, Eugene Pallette, Jack Carson, William Frawley
This romantic comedy features a mix of humor, romance, and a bit of adventure.
Jane Winfield, the spirited daughter of a wealthy oil tycoon, decides to elope with a band leader named Eddie. Her father hires a financially-strapped charter pilot, Steve, to kidnap Jane and bring her back home. Things take a comedic turn when Steve and Jane find themselves in a series of misadventures while trying to navigate their feelings for each other. Because of the witty banter, charming moments, and the classic battle of wills between the headstrong heiress and the rugged pilot, consider this film well worth watching. IMDB: The Bride Came C.O.D.

The Single Standard (1929) Greta Garbo, Nils Asther, Johnny Mack Brown, Joel McCrea, Robert Montgomery
Arden Stuart witnesses the the double standard of her wealthy, married male friends partying with flappers while their wives stay at home. She longs for the freedom of a single life and spurns the repeated marriage proposals from Tommy. She carries on a love affair with her driver and later falls in love with an artist, Packy, who sails the South Seas with her on his yacht. When he ends the relationship, she reluctantly

marries Tommy, but fears that Packy will some day come back for her. He does. Garbo shines in this film, as she usually does, and the intriguing plot, sexuality, and moral dilemmas make this silent film **Must-See viewing**. IMDB: The Single Standard

Uptown New York (1932) Jack Oakie, Shirley Grey, Leon Ames
Passionate lovers, Patricia and Max, plan to marry until Max breaks off the relationship to marry a girl he doesn't love because her wealth and influence can further his budding career as a surgeon. When poor, working-class Eddie proposes, Patricia hesitates because she still loves Max and worries about Eddie rejecting her because of her tarnished past. Because of Shirley Grey's outstanding performance and Jack Oakie's heartfelt contribution as well as the emotion-packed plot, consider this film **Must-See viewing**. IMDB: Uptown New York

Turnabout (1940) Carol Landis, Adolphe Menjou, John Hubbard, Mary Astor, Donald Meek, Joyce Compton, Franklin Pangborn, Marjorie Main
A wealthy but bickering couple, Tim and Sally Willows, find themselves constantly frustrated with each other's lifestyles—Tim believes Sally's days are filled with trivialities, while Sally thinks Tim's work in advertising is far more stressful than it needs to be. One evening, after a particularly heated argument, they jokingly wish they could switch places to prove their point. Thanks to the intervention of a mischievous Hindu statue named Mr. Ram, their wish magically comes true—they wake up the next morning inhabiting each other's bodies!
This breezy, lighthearted screwball comedy offers a playful take on gender roles and marriage in 1940s America. The body-swap premise feels surprisingly modern, influencing countless later movies. Landis nails her role in this film, but Hubbard delivers an often cringe-worthy performance. Watch this only if you're a fan of light fantasy or interested in early body-swap comedies. IMDB: Turnabout

Seven Brides for Seven Brothers (1954) Jane Powell, Howard Keel, Jeff Richards, Julie Newmar, Ruta Lee
In the Oregon Territory of 1850, Adam Pontipee, a rugged mountain man, marries a charming and resourceful young woman named Milly. Adam then decides his six rowdy brothers need wives of their own. The

brothers, initially reluctant to settle down, kidnap six women from a neighboring town. The ensuing events involve misunderstandings, escapes, and a series of comical situations as the brothers attempt to win over their brides-to-be. Seven Brides for Seven Brothers is a delightful and energetic musical that entertains. It features incredible choreography, stunning cinematography, but forgettable songs. Consider this classic Hollywood musical well worth watching. IMDB: Seven Brides for Seven Brothers

Back Street (1941) Margaret Sullavan, Charles Boyer, Richard Carlson, Frank McHugh, Tim Holt, Frank Jenks
This romantic drama tells the poignant story of enduring love and heartbreaking sacrifice. Ray Smith, a spirited and independent shop girl, and Walter Saxel, a wealthy and charming banker, fall passionately in love, but their happiness is tragically short-lived. Even though engaged to another woman, Walter invites Ray on a trip on which he plans to marry her aboard the ship. Ray rushes to meet him at the port, but is hijacked by an annoying suitor and misses the boat. Ray meets Walter five years later to find him married with a child. Ray now faces a heart-wrenching choice: a life of quiet desperation as Walter's secret mistress or a life without him. Back Street, a beautifully crafted melodrama, features stellar performances from Sullavan and Boyer. Consider this film with nuanced characters and a melancholic undertone **Must-See viewing**. IMDB: Back Street

The Sea Ghost [Phantom Submarine U67] (1931) Alan Hale, Laura La Plante, Clarence Wilson
Greg Winters is a naval officer wrongly court-martialed for prioritizing the rescue of survivors from a U-boat attack over pursuing the enemy submarine. Disgraced, Winters becomes the captain of a salvage ship in New Orleans. His life takes an unexpected turn when he encounters Evelyn Inchcape, a young woman whose inheritance is threatened by a crooked lawyer. This lawyer attempts to manipulate Winters into assisting him in defrauding Evelyn. The plot thickens as Winters finds himself entangled in a web of deceit and intrigue. This is truly a horrible film with

amateurish acting, terrible fake fight scenes (more like slapstick comedy), and a jumbled, ridiculous plot. Worst movie ever? I watched it so you wouldn't have to. IMDB: The Sea Ghost

Public Stenographer (1934) Lola Lane, William Collier Jr., Esther Muir, Jason Robards Sr., Duncan Renaldo
Stella, fiercely independent and determined to make her own way, works as a public stenographer in a big city hotel. She becomes entangled in a murder case, and she navigates a world of blackmail, intrigue, and potential danger, all the while fending off the advances of her male clients. The film blends elements of mystery, suspense, and romance as Stella fights for justice and looks for love along the way. This classic Pre-Code Hollywood film provides enough entertainment to warrant a view. IMDB: Public Stenographer

The Constant Woman [Auction in Souls] [Hell in a Circus] (1933) Conrad Nagel, Leila Hyams, Tommy Conlon, Stanley Fields, Lionel Belmore, Mickey Daniels
Marlene receives a telegram offering her a Broadway role. This opportunity leads to marital discord with her husband, Walt, who grapples with alcoholism after discovering his son isn't his biological child. The film portrays infidelity, violent deaths, family conflicts, and the struggles of performers in a demanding industry. Although the plot of this Pre-Code film takes multiple turns, the performances are generally strong, and the film's unflinching look at the darker sides of human relationships and the struggles of its characters offer a refreshing change from typical Hollywood fare of the time. Consider this film worth watching. IMDB: The Constant Woman

The Hatchet Man (1932) Edward G. Robinson, Loretta Young, Dudley Digges, Tully Marshall, J. Carrol Naish, Ralph Ince
Set in San Francisco's Chinatown, Wong Low Get serves as a local gang's hatchet man—responsible for carrying out the murders of rivals. He loves the toddler daughter of his best friend, and actually marries her when she comes of age. Prior to his marriage, he's ordered to murder his best friend. When his young wife leaves him with her lover, he seeks revenge. This Pre-Code drama features a cringy plot with sex and violence. All the characters are Chinese, but white actors play the

parts, and the only thing Chinese about them are their made-up eyes. Skip this film unless you're morbidly curious and can overlook the stereotypes.
IMDB: The Hatchet Man

The King Murder (1932) Conway Tearle, Natalie Moorhead, Marceline Day
This Pre-Code thriller draws inspiration from the real-life, unsolved murder of Dorothy King, a model and nightclub hostess in 1923 Manhattan. The film centers on a captivating blonde who expertly seduces wealthy married men, subsequently blackmailing them for significant sums of money. Her life takes a dark turn when she demands a $5,000 payoff from her latest victim, only to be found murdered. While the film may not boast high production values, its intriguing plot, compelling characters, and atmospheric portrayal of 1930s society make it a worthwhile watch. Just be prepared for a slower pace and a slightly dated aesthetic. IMDB: The King Murder

The Senator was Indiscreet (1947) William Powell, Ella Raines, Peter Lind Hayes, Allen Jenkins, Hans Conried
A charming, but crooked Southern senator's presidential campaign is thrown into chaos when his scandalous diary, filled with compromising secrets and indiscretions, goes missing. A sharp newspaper reporter, Ella Raines, suspects a connection between the missing diary and Arleen Whelan, a woman with her own political ambitions. Ashton's attempts to retrieve the diary and maintain his political standing lead to a series of comedic mishaps and near-disasters. This film offers a blend of political satire and screwball comedy. While not a high-brow, cinematic masterpiece, it provides an entertaining glimpse into the political machinations of mid-20th century America. Consider the film worth watching.
IMDB: The Senator was Indiscreet

They Meet Again (1941) Jean Hersholt, Dorothy Lovett, Robert Baldwin, Imogene Coca
Bob Webster's life takes a dramatic turn when he's accused of embezzling $3,000 from the bank, where he works as a teller. This devastating accusation throws his family into turmoil and threatens to

shatter their lives. Dr. Christian steps in to investigate. He navigates a web of suspicion and uncovers hidden motives within the seemingly peaceful town. Dr. Christian's investigation reveals a complex plot, challenging him to not only clear Bob's name but also to expose the real culprit and protect the innocent. Consider this classic whodunit with a heartwarming core worth watching. IMDB: They Meet Again

This is My Affair (1937) Robert Taylor, Barbara Stanwyck, Victor McLaglen, Brian Donlevy, John Carradine
Set in 1901, President McKinley handpicks Navy Lieutenant Richard Perry for a clandestine mission to infiltrate a dangerous gang of wealthy and influential criminals operating a sophisticated bank robbery ring in Wyoming. Perry, going undercover, must navigate the treacherous world of high-stakes heists, corrupt officials, and beautiful but dangerous women. He faces constant danger as he uncovers the gang's intricate operations and seeks to bring them to justice. While some may find the pacing slow, the film's historical setting, compelling characters, and suspenseful narrative make it worth watching.
IMDB: This is My Affair

Unholy Love (1932) H. B. Warner, Lila Lee, Beryl Mercer, Joyce Compton, Lyle Talbot, Jason Robards Sr.
Adapted from Gustave Flaubert's Madame Bovary, the story is transposed to 1930s New York. The film follows Sheila, a restless and ambitious young woman married to the well-meaning but somewhat dull Jerry. Dissatisfied with her marriage and yearning for a more exciting life, Sheila engages in a series of extramarital affairs, pursuing wealth and status. Her pursuit of romantic excitement and social climbing leads her into a spiral of debt and emotional turmoil. This film's historical significance and exploration of complex themes make it potentially interesting for viewers interested in classic cinema and Pre-Code Hollywood. IMDB: Unholy Love

Trouble in Store (1953) Norman Wisdom, Margaret Rutherford, Moira Lister, Derek Bond, Lana Morris
This British comedy, follows the misadventures of Norman, a charmingly inept stockroom assistant at Burridge's department store in London. Norman, harbors a secret ambition: to become a

window dresser. His clumsy nature and penchant for creating chaos leads to his accidental involvement in a robbery plot. Filled with slapstick comedy and Norman's attempts at professional advancement and romantic success, one should consider this film only adequately amusing. IMDB: Trouble in Store

When Johnny Comes Marching Home (1942) Allan Jones, Jane Frazee, Gloria Jean, Donald O'Connor, The Four Steps, Phil Spitalny's All-Girl Orchestra
Johnny Kovacs, a war hero returns home for a 30-day leave. Overwhelmed by the constant attention and adulation heaped upon him, Johnny longs for peace and anonymity. He adopts a false identity and checks into a theatrical boarding house. There, he encounters a colorful cast of characters, including fellow boarders and a persistent woman who believes herself to be his fiancée. This film's thin plot showcases the musical talents of the stars as well as a dance ensemble and an all-girl orchestra. Consider this film interesting enough to watch. IMDB: When Johnny Comes Marching Home

Riders of the Purple Sage (1925) Tom Mix, Beatrice Burnham, Arthur Morrison, Warner Oland, Marian Nixon, Anne Shirley, Gary Cooper
This silent film adaptation of Zane Grey's popular novel follows Lassiter, a former Texas Ranger, as he searches for his kidnapped sister and niece. Lassiter also confronts a local gang who seeks to seize control of the valuable land owned by the strong-willed widow, Jane Withersteen. This 1925 version, while a silent film, captures the spirit of the novel's action and drama. It doesn't deliver the polished production values of modern films, but its historical significance and thrilling story make it a worthwhile watch. (Read Zane Grey's masterpiece for an exceptionally satisfying experience.)
IMDB: Riders of the Purple Sage

JULY-DECEMBER 2025 POST

Strange Interlude (1932) Norma Shearer, Clark Gable, Alexander Kirkland, Ralph Morgan, Robert Young, Maureen O'Sullivan
This film, based on the Pulitzer Prize-winning play by Eugene O'Neill, follows Nina Leeds, a woman haunted by her fiancé's death in World War I. Seeking love and stability, she marries a kind but emotionally limited man. Her mother-in-law frankly tells her she can't have children because insanity runs in the family. To prove it, she leads Nina to the attic where she keeps her mad husband. Morally confused, Nina ultimately decides to secretly have a child with her doctor and raise the child as her husband's. She and her doctor fall in love, and a family friend, who is always around and aware of the goings-on, loves Nina as well. Daring for its time, viewers should find this film fascinating and **Must-See viewing**. IMDB: Strange Interlude

Riders of the Purple Sage (1931) George O'Brien, Marguerite Churchill, Noah Beery, Stanley Fields
Jane Withersteen, a strong-willed widow, manages her ranch amidst the harsh Utah landscape. Her peaceful existence is threatened by a local gang leader and his henchmen, who employ intimidation, violence, and manipulation to force Jane off her property. Jim Lassiter, a mysterious and skilled gunslinger, arrives, searching for his kidnapped sister, and finds himself drawn into the fight to protect Jane and her ranch. Although this film captures the atmosphere of the American West, it changes many aspects of the novel and presents a truncated, hacked-up plot. Read Zane Grey's excellent novel to fully appreciate this story and watch another version of this film. Skip this one.
IMDB: Riders of the Purple Sage

Up the River (1930) Spencer Tracy, Claire Luce, Warren Hymer, Humphrey Bogart, Ward Bond
This Pre-Code film follows the comedic and romantic escapades of two escaped convicts. They encounter a recently paroled convict, who is being blackmailed. They find themselves unexpectedly protecting the innocent man. A romantic subplot adds another layer of complexity to the film. The performances of Spencer Tracy and Warren

Hymer highlight their comedic timing and acting prowess, while the inclusion of Humphrey Bogart in an early role adds another layer of interest for film buffs. This film provides only average entertainment value but consider it worth a watch. IMDB: Up the River

Where the Sidewalk Ends (1950) Dana Andrews, Gene Tierney, Gary Merrill, Tom Tully
Detective Dixon, in trouble with his boss for roughing up suspects, investigates a murder. His investigation entangles him with Morgan, a woman with secrets. They fall in love, but as Dixon confronts a suspect, the suspect drunkenly attacks him, and Dixon defends himself but kills the suspect in the fight. Thereafter, he tries to cover up the murder while pursuing his love for Morgan. This film noir boasts superb performances from Andrews and Tierney, a gripping narrative filled with suspense and twists, and a stark, atmospheric portrayal of post-war urban decay. Because of its cinematic merit and compelling storyline consider this film a worthwhile watch.
IMDB: Where the Sidewalk Ends

Laughing Sinners [Complete Surrender] (1931) Joan Crawford, Neil Hamilton, Clark Gable, Guy Kibbee
This film follows Ivy, a glamorous chorus girl, who struggles with love, ambition, and temptation in 1930s New York. She falls for a wealthy playboy, only to face heartbreak and moral challenges that test her character. With strong performances and Pre-Code daring, classic film enthusiasts will find the Pre-Code storytelling, complex female leads, and the era's bold approach to romance and morality an interesting view. IMDB: Laughing Sinners

Term of Trial (1962) Laurence Olivier, Simone Signoret, Roland Culver, Sarah Miles, Terence Stamp
Graham Weir, a pacifist and alcoholic schoolteacher, struggles with professional stagnation and personal isolation. His refusal to fight in WWII has left him marginalized. When he encourages his troubled student, Shirley Taylor, to pursue her potential, she mistakes his compassion for romantic interest. When rebuffed, she falsely accuses Weir of assault and destroys his reputation and career. In this British drama Olivier delivers a deeply moving, restrained performance, while

Sarah Miles impresses in her debut role. The film's slow-burning tension and ethical complexity make it a worthwhile watch.
IMDB: Term of Trial

Blonde Crazy (1931) James Cagney, Joan Blondell, Louis Calhern, Noel Francis, Ray Milland, Guy Kibbee, Polly Walters
This fast-paced Pre-Code comedy centers on, Bert, an ambitious bellboy who teams up with chambermaid Anne Roberts to run clever hotel scams. What begins as small-time hustling escalates into bigger con games, fueled by Bert's charm and overconfidence. As their schemes grow riskier, Anne falls in love with Bert and urges him to go straight, but his appetite for easy money leads to trouble with both the law and dangerous criminals. Ultimately, Bert must choose between fast living and a future with Anne. With snappy, witty dialogue and energy created by Cagney and Blondell's chemistry, viewers should find this Pre-Code crime comedy **Must-See viewing**.
IMDB: Blonde Crazy

Good Morning, Miss Dove (1955) Jennifer Jones, Robert Stack, Kipp Hamilton, Chuck Connors, Jerry Paris, Richard Deacon
A stern yet beloved schoolteacher collapses during class and is hospitalized. As Miss Dove reflects on her life, a parade of former students—now adults shaped by her discipline and compassion—visit her bedside. Their stories reveal how her unwavering principles and quiet sacrifices profoundly influenced generations.
The slow pace of this film may prevent viewers from appreciating its worth. A similar film, Goodbye, Mr. Chips, would, honestly, be a better viewing choice. IMDB: Good Morning, Miss Dove

13 Women (1932) Irene Dunne, Ricardo Cortez, Jill Esmond, Myrna Loy
This film follows a group of former schoolmates who receive ominous astrological predictions from a manipulative swami under the influence of a vengeful woman, Ursula Georgi. As the prophecies begin to come true, the women are driven to fear and tragedy, and one of them races to stop Ursula before more lives are destroyed. At just over an hour, the film is a brisk, atmospheric thriller with early Pre-Code intensity.

While dated in places, it's an intriguing snapshot of early Hollywood suspense worth watching for classic-film fans. IMDB: 13 Women

George Washington Slept Here (1942) Jack Benny, Ann Sheridan, Charles Coburn, Percy Kilbride, Hattie McDaniel, Franklin Pangborn
This film follows a New York couple who buy a dilapidated country house supposedly visited by Washington. Ann is enchanted, but Bill is exasperated as the place collapses around them. Financial woes, eccentric neighbors, and escalating disasters push the pair to the edge—until an unexpected discovery changes everything. This light, fast-paced comedy offers warm, old-Hollywood fun but few laughs or classic screwball energy. You won't miss much if you avoid this film.
IMDB: George Washington Slept Here

The Miracle Kid (1941) Tom Neal, Carol Hughes, Betty Blythe
A small-time boxer, Jimmy Connley, rises to unexpected fame when a publicity agent dubs him "The Miracle Kid." Meanwhile, Jimmy's sweetheart, Pat, begs him to quit fighting so they can marry, but his manager rigs his matches for profit. When Pat learns of the deception, their romance crumbles—until Jimmy risks everything in a final honest fight. This comedy-drama charms as a B-movie with a classic boxing-underdog story, light romance, and old-school showbiz antics. Viewers will enjoy this vintage sports film with 1940s melodrama.
IMDB: The Miracle Kid

Ten Cents a Dance (1931) Barbara Stanwyck, Ricardo Cortez, Monroe Owsley, Sally Blane
This film follows Barbara, a sympathetic taxi dancer who supports her irresponsible husband, Eddie. As Eddie gambles away their money and drifts into crime, Barbara grows close to a wealthy, kindhearted patron who genuinely cares for her. Torn between loyalty and survival, she must choose whether to stay in a destructive marriage or reach for a better life. This Pre-Code film offers gritty romance, difficult moral decisions, and a classic story of a woman fighting for independence. Well worth watching. IMDB: Ten Cents a Dance

Double Harness (1933) Ann Harding, William Powell, Lucile Browne, Lilian Bond, George Meeker

Joan Colby, a determined young woman wants stability, not romance. She strategically maneuvers charming but commitment-averse millionaire John Fletcher into marriage, hoping love will follow. But when John discovers her scheme, their fragile union threatens to collapse—until a family crisis forces both to confront what they truly mean to each other. Smart, brisk, and unmistakably Pre-Code, this film comes highly recommended. IMDB: Double Harness

Rage of Paris (1938) Danielle Darrieux, Douglas Fairbanks Jr., Mischa Auer
Nicole, a glamorous Parisian model, is flat broke until a scheming friend plots to land her a wealthy husband. Disguises, misunderstandings, and romantic setups ensue as Nicole targets a rich bachelor—only to find herself genuinely falling for his suspicious best friend, who's determined to expose her. This lively romantic comedy sparkles with Danielle Darrieux's charm and a light, screwball touch. Viewers will enjoy the stylish 1930s escapism and witty, fast-paced romance of this film. [Fun fact: Danielle Darrieux's film career spanned 79 years—one of the longest in history.] IMDB: Rage of Paris

Payment on Demand (1951) Bette Davis, Barry Sullivan, Jane Cowl
In this melodrama, self-made fashion magazine executive Joyce Ramsey's ambition and emotional distance strain her marriage to architect David. When David leaves her for a younger woman, Joyce is forced to confront the personal cost of her success and the rigid gender expectations shaping her life. Watch this film for Bette Davis's layered performance and its surprisingly modern critique of work, marriage, and female independence. Well worth watching IMDB: Payment on Demand

Forgotten (1933) Lee Kohlmar, June Clyde, William Collier Jr., Leon Ames
This Pre-Code family drama features Papa Strauss, a once-successful dye manufacturer who, now retired, is shuffled between his sons' homes until they eventually place him in a nursing home and ignore him. Viewers will find this early drama on aging, family duty, and redemption interesting enough to watch—barely.
IMDB: Forgotten

The Moon is Blue (1953) William Holden, David Niven, Maggie McNamara, Tom Tully
This breezy romantic comedy stirred controversy for its frank talk about sex and relationships. Patty O'Neill, a witty young woman, meets architect, Don Gresham, and unexpectedly spends the evening sparring verbally with him and his cynical older friend, David Slater. Patty insists on honesty, independence, and self-respect, challenging the men's casual attitudes toward romance while refusing to be shamed by social expectations. Pre–sexual revolution boldness, a playful push against 1950s moral censorship, and amusing, witty dialogue make this film well worth watching.
IMDB: The Moon is Blue

Dark Waters (1944) Merle Oberon, Franchot Tone, Thomas Mitchell
This psychological mystery features Leslie Calvin, a traumatized widow, who travels to a remote Southern plantation hoping to recover from wartime grief. As strange accidents and unsettling behavior mount, Leslie begins to suspect that someone is trying to drive her mad —or kill her. This film provides average viewing interest, but may be worth seeing for Merle Oberon's performance and the film's blend of Southern Gothic suspense and psychological tension.
IMDB: Dark Waters

There Goes the Bride (1932) Jessie Matthews, Owen Nares, Carol Goodner
This light romantic comedy centers on Ann Martin, a wealthy young woman whose impulsive nature disrupts her carefully arranged society wedding. On the eve of the ceremony, she falls for a charming but socially inappropriate suitor, sparking a flurry of misunderstandings, family objections, and social satire. As Ann weighs love against convention, the film pokes fun at class expectations and the chaos of romance. Viewers will love this breezy Pre-Code diversion for its snappy pace, playful tone, and early-1930s take on choosing personal happiness over social obligation. Considered the "It" girl of British film during the early 30s, Jessie Matthews' talent, charm and antics make this film **Must-See viewing**. IMDB: There Goes the Bride

Kongo (1932) Walter Huston, Lupe Velez, Conrad Nagel, Virginia Bruce
This brutal Pre-Code melodrama is set in an African trading post ruled by the sadistic, wheelchair-bound Flint Rutledge. Years earlier, Rutledge was maimed and betrayed by his wife, who fled with another man. When their daughter unknowingly arrives at the post, Rutledge plots cruel revenge, manipulating her innocence amid disease, exploitation, and moral decay. The film's shocking cruelty and bleak atmosphere push early Hollywood boundaries. Not an easy watch, this Pre-Code film offers a ferocious performance by Walter Huston and startlingly dark themes. Cringy throughout.
IMDB: Kongo

Secret Beyond the Door (1947) Joan Bennett, Michael Redgrave, Anne Revere
This gothic psychological thriller follows Celia Lamphere, who impulsively marries wealthy architect Mark Lamphere and moves into his eerie mansion. There, she discovers Mark's obsession with recreating famous murder rooms—and a sealed chamber that may conceal a deadly secret. As Celia uncovers her husband's traumatic past, she must confront whether love can overcome obsession and violence. This stylish, dreamlike noir is best seen for Fritz Lang's unsettling direction, and lush visuals, but while viewers may find the film entertaining enough to watch, there's too much talk and not enough action. IMDB: Secret Beyond the Door

The Burglar (1957) Dan Duryea, Jayne Mansfield, Martha Vickers, Wendell K. Phillips
This gritty film noir follows Nat Harbin, a professional thief planning one last job: stealing a cache of pearls while protecting the young woman entrusted to his care. His tight-knit crew begins to unravel under pressure, betrayal, and greed, leading to a tense chase through shadowy streets and seaside boardwalks. Viewers will find this hard-edged noir well worth watching for Dan Duryea's restrained performance, striking visuals, and the film's bleak, suspenseful tone.
IMDB: The Burglar

It's a Wonderful World (1939) Claudette Colbert, James Stewart, Guy Kibbee, Edgar Kennedy, Andy Clyde, Grady Sutton, Sidney Blackmer
This screwball comedy follows a private detective who is trying to clear the name of a woman accused of murder. The pair find themselves in a series of hilarious and chaotic situations, while uncovering a conspiracy. With witty dialogue, charming performances, and a lighthearted tone, it's a perfect mix of romance and mystery and well worth watching.
IMDB: It's a Wonderful World

Miracle of the Bells, The (1948) Fred MacMurray, Alida Valli, Frank Sinatra, Lee J. Cobb
This heartwarming drama follows a studio publicist tasked with promoting a film starring a beloved actress who dies unexpectedly before the film's release. The producer wants to scrap the film, but the publicist pushes forward with the film's promotion, convinced that her spirit will bring the movie success. Watchable and mildly interesting, but Sinatra as the priest??? IMDB: Miracle of the Bells, The

Safe in Hell (1931) Dorothy Mackaill, Donald Cook, Ralf Harolde
Gladys is forced to flee the country after being falsely accused of murder. She finds refuge on a Caribbean island, but soon learns that the criminals and shady characters she sought to escape are also there. As she navigates a web of danger and temptation, Gladys struggles to find safety while confronting her past.
This intense, noir-style film is a gripping watch for fans of early crime dramas and Pre-Code Hollywood, with its mix of suspense, romance, and moral ambiguity. Safe in Hell is well worth watching
IMDB: Safe in Hell

A**partment for Peggy (1948)** Jeanne Crain, William Holden, Edmund Gwenn, Gene Lockhart
A young, pregnant couple, Peggy and her war veteran husband are struggling to find a place to live in post-war America. They stumble upon an elderly professor who rents them his apartment, and together they form an unlikely but supportive bond. This film offers a positive, uplifting message and endearing performances. Viewers will find this

sweet and emotional film well worth watching IMDB: Apartment for Peggy

Private Lives (1931) Norma Shearer, Robert Montgomery, Reginald Denny, Una Merkel, Jean Hersholt
This sophisticated romantic comedy features a divorced couple who unexpectedly reunite while on honeymoon with their new spouses. Their fiery, unpredictable chemistry reignites, leading to a series of humorous and chaotic events as they rekindle their tumultuous relationship. Viewers will find this clever, screwball comedy well worth watching. IMDB: Private Lives

T**he Crowd Roars (1938)** Robert Taylor, Edward Arnold, Frank Morgan, Maureen O'Sullivan, Lionel Stander, Jane Wyman
A rising boxer, Tommy McCoy, is pushed into the fight game by his manipulative father and soon becomes entangled with a crime boss—complicating his romance with the boss's unsuspecting daughter. The film blends gritty boxing drama with family tension and moral conflict. Consider this brisk, engaging MGM sports melodrama **Must-See viewing**.
IMDB: The Crowd Roars

Johnny O'Clock (1947) Dick Powell, Evelyn Keyes, Lee J. Cobb, Ellen Drew, Nina Foch
This noir thriller stars Dick Powell as Johnny, a slick casino owner with a mysterious past. He becomes embroiled in a complex web of crime, betrayal, and murder when a woman gets involved with him and his shady dealings. As the investigation unravels, Johnny must confront his own dark secrets while trying to stay one step ahead of both the law and the criminals he's entangled with.
This classic film noir provides sharp dialogue, moody atmosphere, and a morally ambiguous protagonist. The slow-moving and complicated plot make this film only watchable.
IMDB: Johnny O'Clock

The Unguarded Moment (1956) Esther Williams, George Nader, John Saxon, Jack Albertson
A high school teacher becomes the target of a student's obsessive crush.

After she reports his inappropriate behavior, the student spins a story that threatens to ruin her career and reputation. As the teacher faces the fallout, she must navigate the complexities of truth, reputation, and her own moral convictions. This psychological thriller explores societal issues with tension and drama, making the film worth watching. IMDB: The Unguarded Moment

Mister Cory (1957) Tony Curtis, Martha Hyer, Charles Bickford, Kathryn Grant
A charming and ambitious con man, Mr. Cory, uses his good looks and smooth talk to worm his way into wealthy circles, eventually duping a rich widow into falling for him. However, as he gets deeper into the world of high society, he begins to develop real feelings for her daughter, complicating his plans. Viewers probably need to be devoted fans of Tony Curtis to enjoy this film but, overall, viewers will find it worth watching. IMDB: Mister Cory

That Funny Feeling (1965) Sandra Dee, Bobby Darin, Donald O'Connor, Nita Talbot, Larry Storch, Leo G. Carroll, Arte Johnson
A shy, quirky young woman works as a maid for wealthy New Yorkers. She meets a charming and handsome millionaire who is secretly living in the same building under an alias. When she discovers his true identity, both struggle to keep their budding romance secret while navigating the awkwardness of their differing social classes. Fans of Sandra Dee or Bobby Darin will enjoy this film. Others will find it entertaining enough to view. IMDB: That Funny Feeling

The Captive City (1952) John Forsythe, Joan Camden, Harold J. Kennedy, Martin Milner
A determined journalist uncovers a massive organized crime syndicate operating in a small American city. As he investigates, he risks his career, personal safety, and relationships to expose the criminals behind the city's illegal operations. The film highlights the corrupting influence of organized crime on both individuals and institutions. Viewers will find this classic crime drama with a mix of suspense and social commentary interesting enough to watch. IMDB: The Captive City

The Magic Box (1951) Robert Donat, Maria Schell, Renée Asherson, Richard Attenborough
This historical drama about the life of British inventor William Friese-Greene portrays Friese-Greene's struggles and triumphs in developing the motion picture camera, focusing on his determination to invent and bring his revolutionary technology to life despite the challenges he faced with patents, financial troubles, and skepticism from others in the field. Something about Donat's performance seems off-putting, and the film itself bores. IMDB: The Magic Box

Adorable (1933) Janet Gaynor, Henri Garat, C. Aubrey Smith, Sterling Holloway
Janet Gaynor truly represents the definition of 'adorable' in this delightful romantic comedy, which includes musical numbers. A spirited princess disguises herself to escape royal pressures and enjoy ordinary life. While incognito, she falls for a charming commoner, creating a romantic tangle when duty demands she marry a dull, politically convenient prince. The film blends light musical comedy with Gaynor's trademark warmth and energy. The breezy Pre-Code romance, mistaken-identity plot, and Gaynor's luminous screen presence make this film a feel-good, **Must-See view**. IMDB: Adorable

Doctor Bull (1933) Will Rogers, Marian Nixon, Vera Allen, Louise Dresser, Andy Devine, Rochelle Hudson
This comedy-drama set in a small New England town features Dr. George Bull as a plainspoken, compassionate physician who treats both the illnesses and the gossip-fueled troubles of his neighbors. Widely trusted by ordinary townsfolk but criticized by self-important elites, Bull navigates romantic misunderstandings, a scandal involving a young woman, and his own quiet loneliness. This film showcases Rogers' homespun charm and understated humor, but viewers may find the movie only moderately entertaining.
IMDB: Doctor Bull

Behind Stone Walls (1932) Edward J. Nugent, Priscilla Dean, Ann Christy
Esther Clay, wife of District Attorney John Clay, is having an affair with Jack Keene. When Jack rejects her, Esther kills him. Her

stepson, Bob Clay takes the blame for the murder and faces prosecution by his own father. This gripping Pre-Code drama offers suspense, moral conflict, and vintage courtroom intrigue. The plot itself makes this film well worth watching.
IMDB: Behind Stone Walls

The Royal Bed (1931) Lowell Sherman, Mary Astor, Anthony Bushell, Hugh Trevor, J. Carrol Naish, Mischa Auer, Francis X. Bushman Jr.
A timid King of the tiny European kingdom of Euphrania struggles to assert authority while his domineering Queen schemes to control the marriage of their daughter, Princess Anne. When Anne falls in love with a man her mother deems unsuitable, palace intrigue and political maneuvering follow. This charming and gently satirical film pokes fun at monarchy and manners. Viewers may find this early 1930s romantic comedy entertaining enough to watch.
IMDB: The Royal Bed

Forever Amber (1947) Linda Darnell, Cornel Wilde, Richard Greene, George Sanders, Jessica Tandy, Leo G. Carroll
In this lavish historical drama set in Restoration England orphaned Amber St. Clare grows from a naïve country girl into a cunning beauty who ascends society through a series of powerful lovers, eventually becoming a favorite of King Charles II. Yet her true love, Bruce Carlton, a principled soldier, refuses to compromise his honor. Amber's ambition brings wealth and status but costs her lasting happiness. Sumptuous costumes and sweeping romance make this an engaging period spectacle. Linda Darnell shines in her role as Amber, but modern viewers may not appreciate this popular classic that delivers more talk than action.
IMDB: Forever Amber

Grand Slam (1933) Paul Lukas, Loretta Young, Frank McHugh, Glenda Farrell
A young couple, Marcia and Peter, impulsively marry and enter the competitive world of contract bridge to win prize money and social standing. They study the game intensely and rise through the ranks, challenging the snobbish elite who look down on them. As tournament pressure mounts, misunderstandings and pride strain their

relationship, forcing them to decide whether love or ambition matters more. Reflective of the 1930s bridge craze, this film blends romance with social satire, and viewers may find it a charming underdog story. IMDB: Grand Slam

Don't Bet on Love (1933) Lew Ayres, Ginger Rogers, Charley Grapewin, Shirley Grey
A plumber's life is upended by a gambling addiction. He experiences a dramatic win at the racetrack, which alienates his girlfriend, Molly, and jeopardizes his family business. Despite warnings and Molly's ultimatum, Bill continues to chase his luck, leading to complications. [Fun fact: Lew Ayres and Ginger Rogers actually met and married during this film's production.] Viewers should find this film well worth watching IMDB: Don't Bet on Love

By Appointment Only (1933) Lew Cody, Aileen Pringle, Sally O'Neil, Marceline Day
Dr. Michael Travers feels guilty after failing to save a patient, and takes her orphaned child, Judy, under his wing. As Judy grows into a young woman, Dr. Travers finds himself increasingly disturbed when she becomes engaged to his fiancée's brother. (He's apparently fallen in love with Judy himself.) Although there's a bit of an ick factor here, and despite the film's sub-par acting (except for Sally O'Neil,) viewers should find the film worth watching. IMDB: By Appointment Only

Viennese Nights (1930) Vivienne Segal, Alexander Gray, Jean Hersholt, Walter Pidgeon, Alice Day, Bela Lugosi
This musical operetta, set in 1890 Vienna, follows three childhood friends—Otto, Franz, and Gus—who join the Austrian Army. Gus falls in love with Elsa Hofner, a poor girl, but she's more interested in the wealthier officer Franz von Renner. Romantic complications ensue. Although modern viewers may find this film tedious, that fact that it was filmed in technicolor with imaginative camera techniques may make it a worthwhile watch for film buffs. IMDB: Viennese Nights

Curtain at Eight (1933) C. Aubrey Smith, Dorothy Mackaill, Paul Cavanagh, Walter Brennan, Marion Shilling

When a wealthy and manipulative theatrical producer is found murdered, a determined police inspector investigates a circle of suspects drawn from the theater elite—actors, investors, and socialites—each with secrets and motives. As alibis unravel and rivalries surface, the story exposes ambition, jealousy, and corruption behind the curtain, building to a tense, clever resolution. Viewers should find this Pre-Code mystery worth watching. IMDB: Curtain at Eight

One Year Later (1933) Mary Brian, Russell Hopton, Don Dillaway, Walter Brennan, Pauline Garon
This romantic drama follows a young married couple whose relationship begins to unravel under financial strain and misunderstandings. The man's boss romantically pursues his wife and even propositions her to help the husband out financially. Although the wife considers the offer for the love of her husband, the husband intervenes, and in a fight with the boss, accidentally kills him. The wife tries desperately to reconnect with her husband even though he wants to spare her by not seeing her while in prison and on the way to his execution. Fate and a kindly stranger step in to create an incredible conclusion. Emotionally driven storytelling make this film **Must-See viewing.** IMDB: One Year Later

Malay Nights (1932) Johnny Mack Brown, Dorothy Burgess, Ralph Ince
A sailor in town for a good time takes a young woman standing in her doorway upstairs, but when she hears her baby cry in the next room, she can't go through with her desperate attempt to make money to feed her baby. The kind-hearted sailor gives her money and a valuable black pearl to help her out. After he leaves to return to his ship, her brutal boyfriend and father of her child abuses her and steals her money and pearl. She runs after him when he leaves, but is hit by a car and spends weeks in the hospital. Her neighbors think she left with her boyfriend abandoned her baby, and get the baby to the sailor, who ships out with the child to the South Seas. When the young woman recovers, she spends years in search of her child. Viewers should find this Pre-Code adventure-romance an intriguing curio. Fans of early 1930s exotic dramas and morally ambiguous characters will enjoy this film.
IMDB: Malay Nights

Half Angel (1951) Loretta Young, Joseph Cotten, Cecil Kellaway, Jim Backus, Irene Ryan
Prim and proper nurse Nora Gilpin is engaged but secretly admires the dashing lawyer who frequents the hospital. At night she dresses provocatively, sleepwalks, and shamelessly pursues the handsome lawyer at his home. Awake during the day, she refuses the lawyer's advances—confusing and confounding him. Young's beauty and playfulness make this lightweight romantic comedy entertaining enough to watch. IMDB: Half Angel