

AC Journalism



Love Actually: Ranking every storyline from best to worst

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Love Actually, everyone's favourite Christmas rom-com. I love how all the characters' lives intertwine to create this perfect Christmas storyline that is both hilarious and relatable. I believe it must be a universal experience to rank each Love Actually storyline every time you watch it and of course there is no right or wrong answers but I thought I would share my list, starting from my favourite all the way down to my least favourite.

1. Prime Minister and Natalie

My rankings are slightly based on who has the best love story and I do think this one tops them all. It may be controversial, but I find the story between Hugh Grant and Martine McCutcheon to be incredibly endearing. Essentially, the prime minister falls in love with his tea lady as she is unapologetically herself. There are some ups and downs as he dismisses her after her interaction with the US president, but in the end they get to experience their happy ever after. Their first kiss is also perfect comedic timing as the curtains fall during the nativity to witness the pair kissing backstage, something we would never expect to happen in the real world.

2. Jamie and Aurelia

After walking in on his brother and his wife having an affair, Jamie (played by Colin Firth) flees to France. Here he falls in love with his Portuguese housemaid, Aurelia, despite the language barrier preventing the couple from communicating with one another. The pair play multiple wholesome scenes throughout the movie, for example Aurelia accidentally causes the pages of Jamie's book to fly into the lake, prompting her to jump in and save them, Jamie then feels for Aurelia so he jumps in after her. Towards the end, Jamie learns Portuguese for Aurelia and surprises her at work with her entire family and proposes. Personally, this love story is adorable as it shows love has no limits.

3. Harry, Karen and Mia

The most tragic and heart-breaking scenes in love actually are depicted by Harry (Alan Rickman) and Karen (Emma Thompson), if you've seen this Christmas film then you know just how gut wrenching the bedroom breakdown scene is. For me, this storyline deserves the top 3 because even though it is not the perfect love story, it is extremely realistic and relatable to many people. This storyline depicts an affair between Harry (Alan Rickman) and his secretary Mia (Heike Makatsch). Harry ends up purchasing Mia a beautiful gold necklace, which we see in a very tense and awkward scene between Rickman and Roman Atkinson. Thompson then ends up finding the necklace and come Christmas eve begs to open this gift, however it turns out to be a Joni Mitchell CD. Ouch.

4. Billy Mack

This storyline offers huge comedic value to the movie as Billy Nighy's character, Billy Mack, is wonderfully hilarious when performing his Christmas twist on 'love is all around us' by the Troggs. His feature on the radio and his interactions with Ant and Dec are also very entertaining as he is unapologetically himself. In the end, Billy finds platonic love with

his manager and he even neglects Elton John's party to spend time with him instead. This storyline, like the one above, offers relatability to the audience as not everyone is in search of finding this 'fairy-tale' ending, sometimes spending time with your best friend is all you need.

5.Sarah and Karl

Sarah, played by Laura Linney, admits to her boss ,Harry, that she has been in love with her co-worker, Karl (Rodrigo Santoro's) since forever. This storyline can often be frustrating at times because as soon as the pair finally progress, ending up at Sarah's place, she receives a phone call from her mentally ill brother. Inevitably, she chooses to cut this situation-ship short to go see her brother and by the end of the movie this is who she ends up spending Christmas with. This is another story that many people can relate to if they have a family member who is dependent on them, it shows the hardships yet unconditional love for family. And Karl deserves no more comment, loser.

6.Colins journey to USA

This may be the storyline with the least air time during the movie, it depicts Colin Frissel (Kris Marshall) travelling all the way to America in the hope of finding love. It seems he has lost hope in British girls and believes an American is bound to fall for his sexy British accent. Honestly, I did not expect Colin to be lucky in love during his trip, however I was proven wrong when he walked into the bar to find 3 potential lovers. He ends up returning back to London with an American girl for him AND his friend. This storyline isn't everyone's favourite and it's understandable as Colin is presented as fairly naïve, emphasising this stereotype that all Americans are obsessed with the British accent. However, I think the silliness of his character is what makes it an easy, entertaining watch.

7.Daniel and Sam

To place this storyline at 7th is probably quite controversial but it just doesn't do it for me like the others. I find the airport scene a hard watch and learning an instrument for a girl he believes would never even recognise him, while probably quite relatable, is silly. I understand the wholesomeness of this story as Daniel (Liam Neeson) is left a widow and he must fulfil this role of step dad by himself to Sam (Thomas Brodie Sangster), it is also quite sweet that Joanna(Olivia Olson) shares the same name as his late mother but overall it is a random storyline to me. Nevertheless, I do appreciate the variety of Curtis' storylines as it conveys this idea that love is limitless and really is 'all around'.

8.Juliet, Peter and Mark

Regardless of how many times I watch Love Actually, I will never understand this storyline. I just cannot comprehend how Mark(Andrew Lincoln) falls in love with Juliet (Kiera Knightley) after NEVER speaking to her, and in fact in Juliet's' words 'You don't like me'. Essentially, Mark films Juliet and Peter's(Chiwetel Ejiofor) wedding on his personal camera, and although the audience is initially presented with this idea that Mark may be gay, as it seems he is filming a lot of Peter, it instead turns out, in a scene where Juliet comes round to view the footage, that he was actually filming only her the entire time. Juliet does not confront Mark or tell her new husband about this encounter which personally is bizarre and another aspect of this storyline that I can't comprehend. In an iconic scene where Mark pretends to be a carol singer and admits his love for Juliet she ends up chasing after him in the snow to kiss him! Was one cheating storyline in this movie not enough...

9. John and Judy

In last place is John and Judy, this storyline between Martin freeman and Joanne Page, two stunt doubles who are immediately depicted in sex scenes, is fairly dull in my opinion. We don't see much of their story unfolding as it goes from them working to them kissing on Judy's front porch. I think Curtis recognised this storyline wasn't going to be an audience favourite from the start so excluded them from most of the movie and I am also fairly disappointed that this role was given to Martin Freeman as I have seen him play much better characters.