

101 Reasons to Marry Your Favourite Movie Character

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To my amazing sister, Mélanie.

Dear Readers,

Who among you has never fangirled over Captain Wentworth's crow's feet, screamed at Mr Darcy's hand, or skipped a heartbeat when hearing Anthony Bridgerton whisper?

My sister and I are “filmnatics” (film-fanatics), obsessed with movies for as long as I can remember. Especially period dramas, though any kind of romantic comedy is welcome! One day, we were watching one, when suddenly we jumped to our feet when the main character opened their heart to their loved one : “We should write this one down!”. My sister joked : “Actually, we should write all of these quotes down, so whenever we're feeling depressed or if we need to regain faith in Love, it will always be at hand.”. Little did she know this didn't fall on deaf ears. As a matter of fact, I thought it was a great idea. And so, movie after movie, I started to compile the best declarations of love, the ones that moved me the most.

But what makes a declaration of love better than the other? What makes it so special? Is it the actors and actresses? The sexual tension between the characters? The story itself or behind the scenes? Would I like the declaration from *Star Wars* as much if I didn't know it wasn't scripted?

I'm not sure I have an answer to that. But I was certain we couldn't possibly be the only “filmnatics” who feel like this. So here's for you, for all of us, 101 reasons to marry our favourite movie character.

There's a little flame between us. It's always burning. And I've come to believe that tending a fire like that is purpose enough for any life.

Oliver, *Lady Chatterley's Lover* (2022)

I love you Jack.

— Don't you do that. Don't you say your goodbyes. Not yet, do you understand me?

— I'm so cold.

— Listen Rose, you're gonna get out of here. You're gonna go on, and you're gonna make lots of babies, and you will watch them grow. You're gonna die an old, an old lady, warm in her bed. Not here. Not this night. Not like this, do you understand me?

— Can't feel my body.

— Meeting you Rose was the best thing that ever happened to me. And I'm thankful for that Rose, I'm thankful. You must, you must do me this honour, you must promise me that you'll survive, that you won't give up, no matter what happens, no matter how hopeless. Promise me now, Rose. And never let go of that promise.

— I promise.

— Never let go.

— I will never let go Jack. I'll never let go.

Rose and Jack, *Titanic* (1997)

I am so sorry for ever making you feel less than the most important person in my life.

Lee, *The kissing booth 2* (2020)

I used to think my aunt's profession was somewhat grotesque, but the truth is that I enjoyed stepping into history. The idea of a simpler world where love is straightforward and lasting. I believe we have that in common. But all of this is secondary to the fact that I am completely mad about you.

— All right. Well you may have been mad about Mrs Erstwhile, but... you don't even know me. I...

— You are Mrs Erstwhile. I saw you in the theatrical. You were horrifying.

— Wow, wait a minute. You were horrifying. I was... I wasn't great.

— My point exactly. Neither one of us is capable of pretending.

— Nobley, I just don't think this is a...

— The night of the ball, you said you wanted something real. I'd like to believe that I am real. Is it possible that someone like me can make you happy? Will you let me try?

— No. See, people don't do this. I mean this is my fantasy. This isn't...

— Have you stopped to consider that you might have this all backward? Jane... You are my fantasy.

Henry and Jane, *Austenland* (2013)

Last night when we were fighting, I thought this was over. And I was gonna leave you alone, just take off, but... then I realized. I'd rather fight with you than make love with anyone else.

Nick, *The Wedding Date* (2005)