

LOCKDOWN

Oh ok so this one is a film about a space expedition with thousands of passengers, a kind of colonizing cruise ship. The passengers aboard are captive, but act like they're at leisure. There's a psychedelic antechamber where they go and trip so hard they think they're back on earth. Then there is a disastrous malfunction with the ship, everybody is totally fucked, and at the end of the film they jump ahead like ten thousand years and we see that we have basically wasted our time investing in the characters because they are just space compost.

And this one, well, it's a romantic comedy of a kind with Winona Ryder and Ethan Hawke and during the movie Alli guessed that Ethan Hawke was a Scorpio and I guessed that Winona Ryder was a Scorpio and we were both right.

This one was a murder mystery set amidst a quarreling family after the rich patriarch has died. It's a little like reading *Middlemarch* in a way, a will-reading melodrama. The rich patriarch was some kind of writer, maybe of murder mysteries. That sounds right.

Right, this one! This one was terrific. It's a film starring Winona Ryder and Christian Slater and Slater plays a sociopathic high school murderer who is very sexy and insane and Winona Ryder a discontent elite whose peers all have the same name.

Ugh, this one is about a global pandemic that sweeps across the world and kills untold numbers of people and the enforced quarantines last months, then years, and everything is fucking horrible.

I made Alli watch this one after reading that it was "Joaquin Phoenix's finest performance." He plays a comic artist who used to be a slobbering alcoholic and then was in an accident and became disabled and narrates his quirks and follies in adjusting to a new life. Jonah Hill plays a rich gay Dennis Wilson AA guru type.

Um...this one I barely remember. In fact I am disturbed to realize that I remember nothing about it...at all.

This one was great. It's a romantic comedy set in London starring Julia Roberts, who essentially plays herself but even more beautiful famous and important, and Hugh Grant plays a dodgy paste-faced small bookstore owner. They fall in love, it's a huge mess because she's obviously so famous and he's just a fuckboy with a funny Welsh (?) housemate. But they make it work in the end.

So this one is about a mermaid who falls in love with a human adolescent boy, somehow stalks his movements on earth from the middle of the ocean, then kidnaps him and forces him into an erotic relationship, hiding the fact that she's half fish, until circumstances become such that she can no longer pretend, and then she's incarcerated in a research laboratory. Animal rights activists burst in and free her into the ocean, which gives Tom Hanks two choices. Go back to

work with your shithead brother for the rest of your life, or live forever under the ocean with a hot mermaid.

In this one, a tween plays a vintage, Orientalist mechanized game that purports to grant wishes. The tween wishes he were grown up, which is then granted by the machine. And then there are many, many hijinks. Once again Tom Hanks is given a choice: stay at his job designing toys and having sex with Elizabeth Perkins or go back to junior high school.

OK this one is another film with Tom Hanks about work. In this one, Hanks works in a miserable unlit dungeon. He's diagnosed with a rare and fatal brain disease, so he reevaluates his priorities. He's informed that a remote island with a very active volcano is looking for someone to sacrifice to the god of the volcano so the island can continue to thrive. Hanks agrees to be this sacrifice, goes to the island, and immolates himself.

This one is about a group of women during World War...2? who form a baseball team to fill in for the major leaguers who are overseas dying in the sand and forests of Bavaria. Tom Hanks is their alcoholic manager who gives not one shit. He's over it. There's a scene where he pees for several minutes. But finally the pure love of the game of baseball transforms him and he leads them to a national title. Oh, hugely important to this one is the fact that Madonna is in it and she smokes!

In this one, Tom Hanks plays a broken man whose wife dies and leaves him listless and unprepared for life, with a young son to make things worse. One night his son calls a radio show and talks about how his dad is ruined and that he has no hope for life. Meg Ryan, several states away, hears the show, which I guess was nationally syndicated, develops a crush from afar and essentially stalks Hanks until he agrees to meet her at the top of the Empire State Building. They miss each other however and the film ends in tragedy.

Tom Hanks plays a magical creature who is constantly running. He runs away from bullies, he runs on football fields, he runs through the jungles of Vietnam and sees his best friend brutally murdered, later he runs around the whole United States like three times. After that he stops running and mostly sits around on bus stop benches constantly talking to strangers about the really pretty unbelievable story of his life.

Ugh, this one is so stressful. Tom Hanks plays an astronaut who flies with two other astronauts to the moon. In the middle of space, like right in the middle of motherfucking outer space, their shuttle is essentially demolished, meaning these guys have to get into their lunar landing pod and somehow fly it back to earth.

In this one, Tom Hanks is a fucking asshole, kind of a soft Jeff Bezos who owns a chain bookstore. He's in a relationship with Parker Posey, but cheating on her through an e-mail flirtation with Meg Ryan, who owns a small children's bookstore nearby where the chain store will go in. He's a dick to her the whole movie, manipulating, gaslighting, and stalking her, and

eventually they meet somewhere I can't remember, maybe just the Empire State Building again, and when he appears she's all "I wanted it to be you." Sigh.

This one is a documentary about a famous summer camp in upstate New York for disabled youth. The camp seemed to have been crucial for these kids, typically the recipients of deep resistance and violence on the part of typical society. They fell in love, flirted, fucked, swam, ate together, talked together. Then some of them became the activists responsible for the ADA and made the world better, not great, but much better.

Oh god, this one was rough. It's a documentary about a scientist at Columbia who kidnapped a baby chimpanzee from its mother and tried to teach it sign language. It lived with a hippie psychoanalyst who is sort of like, "It's not that I wanted to *fuck* Nim (the chimp's name is "Nim Chomsky" or something like that) but there was definitely some *sensuality*." Ugh. Then a series of women caretakers step in to teach Nim sign language and have sex with the scientist, until he grows up and starts violently attacking them. The movie does not end well. It's grim. Pairs horribly with strong weed.

This one was bad. I barely remember anything about it except that Hugh Grant plays an immature doughy fuckboy who accidentally impregnates his girlfriend, a deeply settling Julianne Moore. Even as he clearly overachieves, he can't commit to her. There's definitely a scene where Julianne Moore has a baby, and I think they end up together in some way, which is too bad for her, and I definitely do not think it will last.

In this one, Tom Hanks plays the leader of a small group of soldiers in World War 2 who survive an absolutely fucking terrifying horrible massacre on the beach, only to learn that they have now been ordered to go deep behind Nazi lines to rescue one person, Matt Damon, whose brothers have all been killed in the war. The film is relentless bloody carnage for two and a half hours and at the end Tom Hanks gets shot and dies on the street and Matt Damon, who is now old, remembers him quite fondly.

Barbara Stanwyck plays a criminal in this one. She opens the film by flirting with a security guard to get into the bank early, and then lets her boyfriend and his friends in to rob the place. Unfortunately for Barbara Stanwyck, and all of life, she is apprehended and sent to San Quentin. A local politician is in love with her and she manipulates him into helping her boyfriend and friends escape. Eventually she gets out and lives a reformed life. It's fucking great.

Oh god, this one. This one was a catastrophe. Tom Hanks works for FedEx and his job takes him all over the world in airplanes so that he can yell at FedEx slaves around the world and tell them how slow they are. On his way to yet another session of harassing and haranguing these slaves, his plane crashes in the middle of the ocean and Hanks winds up on a deserted rock with hardly anything at all except for a pocketwatch with a photo of his fiancée Helen Hunt. Years go by and everything is horrible and then eventually Hanks and his only friend (a

volleyball) escape the island and are rescued. He goes back home and looks up Hunt, but she's married and has a kid and is like sorry, no.

In this one, Barbara Stanwyck's abusive, alcoholic father burns himself up in a whiskey still. She sells his bar and takes a job, quickly moving up in the organization as she seduces and dispenses with ascending levels of dipshits. She's empowered to do this, by the way, thanks to a drunk old man who liked to drink at her dad's bar and lecture her about Nietzsche. Everything goes well and by the end Barbara Stanwyck herself is the *Urbemensch*.

This one was a documentary about the famous boxing match between Muhammad Ali and George Foreman in Zaire, which had already been the subject of a documentary film in the 1970's. George Foreman found it hard to find any fans fighting Ali in Africa.

Ugh, this is another one where Tom Hanks has a really bad day at work. He's a captain of a ship carrying goods along the coast of Africa. The ship is raided by charming Somali pirates who you definitely root for. In the end, the Somali pirates put Tom Hanks on a raft and push him out into the middle of the sea, where he is quickly devoured by famished sharks. The end.

So this one is a documentary about a mine strike in Kentucky in the 1970's. I don't mean to be condescending at all, but I was surprised at the language, vigilance, and intensity of the strike. In some respects Harlan County Kentucky reminded me of Clay County Missouri where I grew up, and nobody I knew was talking about "killing the boss." At one point I turned to Alli and said these are the real fucking communists. AI was just being goofy, but Marxist Twitter it was not. The strikebreakers were ruthless, working class, and armed. The strike doesn't end until one of the strikers is murdered. It ends with a win, I guess, if you can call going back to work in a fucking mine a win. The soundtrack was magnificent.

Oh this one! This was one of the best. Barbara Stanwyck plays a con person on a cruise ship. A bumbling scientist played by Henry Fonda, who happens to be wildly rich, gets on the ship after a snakefinding expedition in Africa. He's sitting in the lounge reading a book called *Are Snakes Necessary?* He gets up for a drink and Stanwyck trips him, then seduces him in about three minutes. Her comrades are card sharks and they swiftly relieve Fonda of much money. They fall in love, and Stanwyck is ready to come clean, when Fonda learns her true identity. A few months later she reappears in the town where he lives, pretending to be a minor British noble. She seduces him *again*, and they are married. As they go into the bedroom on their wedding night to have sex for the first time, Stanwyck delivers a long list of all the guys she's already fucked. Fonda is perturbed, turned on, and finally just bummed. Stanwyck leaves to go on a truly epic shopping spree and Fonda is devoured by a snake.

This one was rough. It's a documentary film about one of the last wild beekeepers in Europe, centering on a Turkish woman living in Macedonia. She raises bees in intentionally-designed holes in the rocks. The honey looks incredible. She carts it into "town" to sell it at farmer's markets. Meanwhile, a family moves into the empty lot next to where she lives. The dad is a real

prick—and greedy. He decides he's going to start raising bees for money, but fucks up and they end up killing all the woman's bees, effectively ruining her life. Then they leave.

Fuck, this one is amazing. Fred MacMurray plays a horny insurance agent. Barbara Stanwyck plays a rich man's wife who has a plan to kill her husband, work the insurance system, become fabulously rich. MacMurray falls for it, ruins his life, ends up dead. Pretty much everybody ends up dead.

Hm, this one. Melanie Griffith plays an administrative assistant in a stockbroker firm in Manhattan. She's got a temper and can't suffer fools, which nearly all of her colleagues indeed turn out to be. She loses one job after another. Finally she gets a job in a new stockbroker firm and Sigourney Weaver is her boss. Griffith comes up with some cool business plan or whatever, which Weaver intends to steal from her, but then breaks both her legs in a skiing accident. Griffith decides to "become" Weaver, even to the extent that she steals her boyfriend Harrison Ford. The rest of it is a sexist work melodrama, but you'll be relieved to hear that Griffith wins out in the end. Her best friend is played by Joan Cusack, and between the two of them, they have some of the most outrageous hair of the 20th century.

This one was tough. Barbara Stanwyck plays the daughter of a mean and ruthless ranchowner in the American Southwest. The rancher has expropriated land from an indigenous family, who remain on the property in a state of almost constant guard and battle with the ranchers. Finally, the ranchers kill the oldest son, who had been Stanwyck's friend from youth. In the end, the family get revenge by killing the rancher, all his friends, Stanwyck, moving into the house, and transforming the ranch into a commune which harbored other indigenous families whose land had been expropriated by white settlers and this commune eventually incites a revolution which destroys the United States and makes everything much better.

This one is a story about an undocumented worker in the 1970's who crosses the border and picks up farming work. From the moment he crosses the border, he is incessantly hounded, trailed, chased, and beaten by border pigs. For a while he has a relationship with a waitress with a son, but when the pigs finally catch up with him, she can't do anything to help. So he bails, goes back to Mexico, reunites with his wife and kid. It's a good one, but everything is bad.

In this one, John Cusack plays a really sweet ambitionless guy who graduates high school and has only two passions: kickboxing, and Ione Skye. Skye is the valedictorian, also hot, also pretty vanilla. Cusack almost forgets about kickboxing. He is totally obsessed with Skye, but again in a pretty fucking sweet way! It's practically sci-fi. Their actual fucking is the least believable thing. Skye's dad doesn't think his daughter should settle for a kickboxer with nice cheekbones and forbids her from seeing him. Unfortunately, for him, he's just about to go to jail for tax fraud, leaving Cusack and Skye to their own devices. And they have pretty terrific devices.

Chantal Akerman made this one. It's a series of beautiful and sometimes menacing shots of New York City in the 1970's, each lingering on their respective scenes, while Akerman

occasionally reads out loud letters she received from her mother in Belgium. She doesn't seem to have been very good at getting back to her mother. So the film is the response. It's beautiful and sad.

This one was just a mess. Kevin Cline plays a high school English teacher who's about to be married to another teacher, played by Joan Cusack. They've been together for three years and they haven't fucked. One of Cline's former students, Matt Dillon, has become a massively famous actor who wins the Oscar for Best Actor. In his speech, he dedicates the award to his old high school English teacher, Cline, and then adds, "He's gay!" This causes an upheaval in the shitty small homophobic town where Cline lives, and for a couple of days he spends all his time protesting that he's straight as a goddamn Norwegian's hair. Meanwhile, Tom Selleck comes to town to cover the story. When he finds Cline out in a field by himself, Selleck's like, dude, you *are* gay. Cline protests again, and Selleck shuts him up with a passionate kiss. This clearly gets the wheels turning in Cline's mind. Maybe...I mean possibly.... The day of the wedding arrives. Cusack looks beautiful. When it's time for Cline to say "I do" he says, instead, "I'm gay." The final minutes of the film show Cusack going to a bar, getting hammered, then fucking Matt Dillon in a hotel room. When she comes, all of Indiana quivers and moans. Cline ends up in LA with Selleck where they live the good life forever after. Indiana still sucks.