

Five Movie Moments That Made Me Ugly Cry

In what has developed into a series of sorts, I have previously written about [Five TV Moments That Made Me Ugly Cry](#) and [Five TV Moments That Made Me Literally ROTFL](#).

Today I tackle movies with scenes that brought the tears, and I don't mean a single tear falling down the cheek. Being Christmastime I felt it would be an appropriate topic. Even though I feature no Christmas movies below, there are many of those that fit this category for many people, especially the Hallmark movies I keep hearing about on Facebook! Please feel free to share your moments below. On to my list...

Armageddon

The Moment: The Wedding During The Closing Credits

This movie is a landmine of cry moments. One of my family members that shall remain nameless told me he bawled when Chick's ex-wife told their son, "That's not a salesman, that's your father." Many people in my theater openly sobbed during Harry's goodbye to Grace. But I made it all the way through the actual movie, just to completely lose it during the closing credits. As Grace's real-life father and his band sing "I Don't Want to Miss A Thing," we get a glimpse of her wedding to AJ and the camera pans to the front row where you see Bear, Chick, Rockhound and rest, along with huge blown up pictures of Harry and the others who died. Just emotional torture.

I have heard scathing critiques of this movie for nearly 20 years now but they don't bother me. It's a superb blend of action, drama, comedy, suspense, and romance to me. And it

closes with an unforgettable heart-wrenching moment.



Rocky III

The Moment: Rocky's Reaction to Mick Dying

I wasn't old enough to see this movie in the theater and I will never forget the first time watching it with the family in Tookeydoo, SC when I was around six years old. Watching Rocky come to the realization that Mick was gone, his loud crying and tears in response moved me so deeply I got up and left the room, and had a good, long, sympathetic cry myself. I put on sunglasses and came back as though I were fooling everyone else about what just happened.

This film is a perfect installment of the *Rocky* canon. From the first note of "Eye of the Tiger" in the opening credits to the stunning twist with Apollo training Rocky to Eye of the Tiger reprising at the end with Rocky giving Apollo his "favor," it continues the Rocky narrative exceptionally. The tragic loss of Rocky's manager in the first act is a masterpiece stroke of plot development, complete with A-level acting by Stallone and Talia Shire and an exceptional musical

arrangement by Bill Conti (appropriately titled "Mick"). A poignant moment in a movie series filled with them.



Return of the King

The Moment: "My Friends...You bow to no one."

I love these books but here is one of several film moments that elicits deep emotion in a way the books do not, at least to me (while the reverse is often true also). Tolkien told a story of a fantasy Hobbit race that conveyed biblical ideas like "The last will be first" and "The humble will be exalted". And at this moment Peter Jackson brought it to life in a powerful way. A heartwarming, joy-filled, tear-jerking way. These halflings were not warriors like Gimli or Legolas or royalty like Aragorn or magically powerful like Gandalf. Yet they destroyed the ring, saved Faramir and helped overthrow Saruman, and braved all manner of hell on earth to do so. And in a moment where all was right in the world (albeit a complex fantasy world), they appropriately attempted to show honor. But were given it instead.

Storytelling does not get better than this. The first time I saw it I could do nothing other than bow my head and shamelessly weep. They were tears that expressed a

satisfaction and pleasure I long for in real life but rarely experience.



Bruce Almighty

The Moment: Bruce Prays for Grace

Even though it is a bit irreverent at times, there are moments in this movie where I think they capture what God is like. And in this moment they capture what it means to truly love someone, to the point that you want what is best for them even if it means losing them. Bruce asked God for someone to see Grace always, as he sees her now, "through Your eyes". What a moment. What a prayer. Tears on top of tears for me. If there was any doubt that Jim Carrey could act, The Truman Show ended it and this moment obliterated it.

I'll be honest, before I met Kayla and when I met Kayla I prayed this prayer for every girl I went out with or wanted to go out with. It is a hard prayer to pray. When you're 35 and single, it's perhaps the hardest. I even downloaded the soundtrack with the music that plays behind this scene and listened to it regularly. It had that big an impact on me.

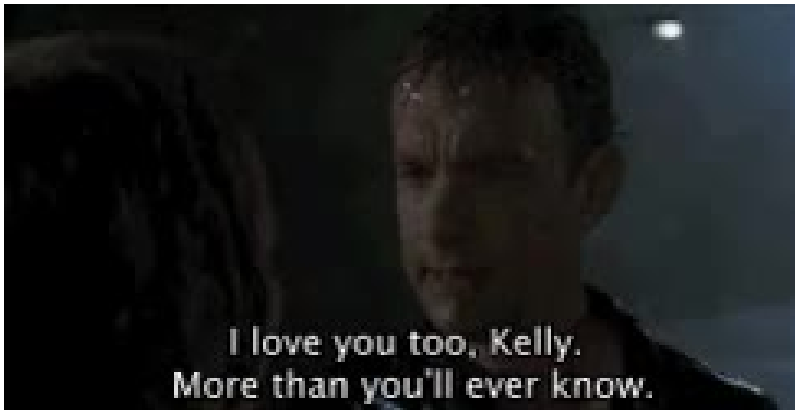


Cast Away

The Moment: Kelly Has to Go Home Now

It had a lot to do with my life circumstances at the time and not just the plot development of the movie, but I have no doubt that when I watched this scene in March of 2003 that I cried longer and harder than at any other on this list or any list.

I was struggling in real life with personal loss. My roommate and de facto psychiatrist Josh Crowe encouraged me with “Who knows what the tide could bring?” from this movie. So I rented it and watched it that night. Kelly had given up on Chuck being alive. She was married to another man. And when Chuck visits and goes to leave and she runs after him in the rain they have the following exchange: “I love you Chuck! You’re the love of my life!” “I love you, too, Kelly. More than you’ll ever know” And then after a moment in the car he tells her, “You have to go home now.” That destroyed me. It was too real. But the mourning was therapeutic. And Josh and I relive this series of events often even to this day.



So that's my list, at least for today. I should mention that, [as I said when I reviewed *Finding Dory*](#), that *Finding Nemo* would be on this list but it made me cry like twelve times so it wouldn't fit.

Please comment on moments you feel similarly about if you wish!