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## Holiday "Home" Movies!



### **Cold Comfort Farm**

Recently orphaned, Flora ignores the sage advice of Mrs. Smiley and moves to the country to live on a decrepit farm with her eccentric relatives, where she finds ample material for the novel she wishes to write.

### **Little Miss Sunshine**

Olive is a little girl who dreams of winning the Little Miss Sunshine contest. Her family wants her dream to come true, but they are so dysfunctional that they can barely make it through a day without some disaster befalling them.

### **Margot at the Wedding**

When Margot and her son, Claude, come to attend the wedding of her sister, Pauline, it seems as if a family rift is being mended. Despite their best efforts, Margot and Pauline revert to their most dysfunctional selves.

### **Meet the Parents**

Greg Focker will be proposing to his girlfriend Pam while they are visiting her parents. But he must ask her father first.

### **National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation**

Christmas is the perfect season for Clark Griswold and his family. Clark's a disaster waiting to happen. You have to see it to believe it. There are 25,000 lights on the Griswold rooftop. An exploding turkey. And a house full of relatives.

### **Rachel Getting Married**

In and out of rehab for the past 10 years, Kym Buchman returns to the family home for the wedding of her sister Rachel. She brings with her a long history of personal crisis and family conflict. The wedding party, friends and relatives have gathered for an idyllic weekend of feasting, music and love, but Kym's passion for the dramatic incites tension in the family.

### **The Ref**

An unfortunate cat burglar becomes trapped in a fate worse than jail when he takes a bickering couple and their annoying relatives hostage.

### **The Royal Tenenbaums**

Three grown prodigies, all with a unique genius of some kind, and their mother are staying at the family household. Their father, Royal, had left them long ago, but now returns to make things right with his family.

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## Think YOUR Family is Crazy?!?



*Check out some of these fictional (yet fascinating) dysfunctional families and brace yourself for the holiday season!*

### **Tewksbury Public Library**

300 Chandler St., Tewksbury, Ma 01876

[www.tewksburypl.org](http://www.tewksburypl.org) 978-640-4490 [mte@mvlc.org](mailto:mte@mvlc.org)

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**Beattie, Ann. *Falling in Place***

High-school student John Joel and a group of sophisticated friends learn about love, friendship, and life as they grow up in the 70s.

**Bechdel, Alison. *Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic***

This autobiography by the author of the long-running strip, *Dykes to Watch Out For*, deals with her childhood with a closeted gay father, who was an English teacher and proprietor of the local funeral parlor.

**Berg, Elizabeth. *The Art of Mending***

Returning home for a family reunion, Laura Bartone and her brother, Steve, are stunned by their sister's allegations of shocking behavior on the part of their mother, and must come to terms with the truth and lies within their family.

**Berne, Suzanne. *The Ghost at the Table***

Thanksgiving at the New England home of the second of three sisters marks a reunion between the three Fiske sisters and their long estranged father, in a portrait of the unraveling of a family.

**Burroughs, Augusten. *Running With Scissors (and others)***

The true story of a boy whose mother gave him away to be raised by her unorthodox psychiatrist who bore a striking resemblance to Santa Claus.

**Coupland, Douglas. *All Families are Psychotic***

Members of the Drummond family descend upon Florida to watch the launch into space of their beloved daughter and sister, Sarah, but their trip is turned upside down by a series of mishaps, coincidences, and bizarre events.

**Doiron, Paul. *Poacher's Son***

Desperate and alone, game warden Mike Bowditch strikes up an uneasy alliance with a retired warden pilot, and together the two men journey deep into the Maine wilderness in search of a runaway fugitive--Mike's father.



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**Wallace, David Foster. *Infinite Jest***

The story of an intelligent but zany dysfunctional family is set in a drug-and-alcohol addicts' halfway house and a tennis academy and follows such themes as heartbreak, philosophy, and advertising.

**Walls, Jeannette. *The Glass Castle: A Memoir***

Jeannette Walls has written a stunning and life-affirming memoir about surviving a willfully impoverished, eccentric and severely misguided family.

**Weiner, Jennifer. *In Her Shoes***

Rose Feller is a 30 year-old, high-powered attorney with a secret passion for romance novels. She dreams of a man who will slide off her glasses, gaze into her eyes, and tell her that she's beautiful. She also dreams of getting her fantastically screwed-up little sister to get her life together.

**Wells, Rebecca. *The Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood***

When Siddi inadvertently reveals some revealing things about her Southern childhood in a newspaper interview, her mother, Vivi, virtually disowns her. Vivi's lifelong friends, the Ya-Ya's, set in motion a plan to bring the mother and daughter back together using a scrapbook of childhood memories that they ask Vivi to put together.

**Wilson, Kevin. *The Family Fang***

Performance artists Caleb and Camille Fang dedicated themselves to making great art. But when an artist's work lies in subverting normality, it can be difficult to raise well-adjusted children. Just ask Buster and Annie Fang.

**Woodrell, Daniel. *The Death of Sweet Mister***

Peels the lid back on a dysfunctional Missouri family as infidelity threatens to consume their world in violence and terror. See Also: *Winter's Bone*

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**Smiley, Jane. A Thousand Acres**

Larry Cook, an Iowan farmer who has worked a thousand acre plot owned by his family for generations, abruptly decides to leave his farm to his three daughters and retire. His two eldest daughters are pleased with the decision but his youngest daughter has been cut out by her father and is angry. As the daughters' activity on the land progresses, they notice a change in their father. Events begin to unfold that will threaten and destroy the family and their farm.

**Smith, Zadie. White Teeth**

Set in post-war London, this novel of the racial, political, and social upheaval of the last half-century follows two families--the Joneses and the Iqbals, both outsiders from within the former British empire--as they make their way in modern England.

**Swick, Marly A. The Evening News**

After nine-year-old Teddy accidentally shoots his two-year-old half-sister while playing with a gun, Teddy's stepfather finds himself unable to forgive him and even Teddy's mother begins to wonder why she cannot love her son unconditionally.

High-school student John Joel and a group of sophisticated friends learn about love, friendship, and life as they grow up in the 70s.

**Tropper, Jonathan. This is Where I Leave You**

Judd Foxman is thrown together with his dysfunctional family when his father dies, while at the same time coping with his wife's infidelity and the end of his marriage.

**Tyler, Anne. Dinner at the Homesick Restaurant**

Eighty-five-year-old Pearl Tull recalls the desertion of her husband and her attempts to raise three children, who must come to terms with themselves and their father after their mother's death.



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**Erdrich, Louise. Shadow Tag**

After she discovers that her husband has been reading her diary, Irene America turns it into a manipulative farce, while secretly keeping a second diary that includes her true thoughts about her shaky marriage, its affect on her children, and her struggles with alcohol.

**Eugenides, Jeffrey. The Virgin Suicides**

The narrator and his friends piece together the events that led up to suicides of the Lisbon girls, brainy Therese, fastidious Mary, ascetic Bonnie, libertine Lux, and saintly Cecilia.

**Fitch, Janet. White Oleander**

At the age of 12, Astrid has her world blown away when her mother is sentenced to life in prison for murdering her lover. Sharpened by harsh foster home environments, Astrid remakes herself as a survivor, and ultimately, an artist.

**Franzen, Jonathan. The Corrections**

Enid Lambert begins to worry about her husband when he begins to withdraw and lose himself in negativity and depression as he faces Parkinson's disease.

**Haigh, Jennifer. The Condition**

Unaware of the long-standing grievances harbored by their divorced parents, three adult siblings embark on a tumultuous summer when the oldest, a successful Manhattan doctor, investigates his sister's chromosomal disorder against his mother's wishes.

**Halpern, Justin. Sh\*t My Dad Says**

Hilarious coming-of-age book about a son's relationship with his foul-mouthed father by the 29-year-old comedy writer who created the massively popular Twitter feed of the same name.

**Heller, Zoe. The Believers**

After civil rights attorney Joel Litvinoff suffers a stroke, his contentious family struggles with the consolations of faith and the trials of doubt as they battle their own demons and each other, as every member is called upon to decide what, if anything, they still believe in.

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**Hoffman, Alice. Local Girls**

An anthology of interconnected short stories captures the lives and destinies of the Samuelsons, a family struggling with tragedy and divorce, in a series of portraits that chronicle Gretel Samuelson's journey through betrayal, grief, conflicting loyalties, friendship, and loss.

**King, Stephen. Full Dark, No Stars**

In four previously unpublished short works, a man explores his dark nature, a writer confronts a stranger, a cancer patient makes a deal with the devil, and a woman makes a horrifying discovery about her husband.

**Lamb, Wally. I Know This Much Is True**

Dominick Birdsey, a forty-year-old housepainter living in Three Rivers, Connecticut, finds his subdued life greatly disturbed when his identical twin brother Thomas, a paranoid schizophrenic, commits a shocking act of self-mutilation.

**Meyers, Randy Susan. The Murderer's Daughter**

After the murder of their mother by their father, Lulu and Merry grow up living tenuous lives where Lulu denies he ever existed and Merry dutifully visits him in prison, only to find their lives on the brink of collapse when they learn that their unrepentant and manipulative father is about to be paroled.

**Muller, Marcia. Burn Out**

A chance encounter with a troubled, highly secretive Native American woman begins to haunt her dreams, and even though she is determined

not to investigate anything during her stay--and perhaps not ever again--McCone is drawn into the plight of the young woman and her dysfunctional family.



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**Patchett, Ann. The Magician's Assistant**

After the death of a homosexual magician, his female assistant journeys from Los Angeles to Nebraska in search of the man's hidden past and discovers his estranged family, as well as the love she has always been denied.

**Perotta, Tom. Little Children**

A group of young suburban parents, including a stay-at-home dad, a former feminist, and an over-structured mom, finds its sleepy existence shattered when a convicted child molester moves back into town and two of the parents have an affair.

**Plain, Belva. Homecoming**

Three weeks after an elderly woman sends letters to her troubled relatives, two estranged and hostile brothers, a young couple on the verge of divorce, and a loving couple whose parents despise one another come together at the home of the family matriarch, in a story of familial conflict and reconciliation.

**Poliner, Elizabeth. Mutual Life & Casualty**

Sisters Hannah and Carolyn Kahn quietly inhabit a fragile home and suffer their parents' loveless marriage, an unhappy union that poisons their adolescence and haunts them as adults.

**Sedaris, David. Me Talk Pretty One Day**

The undisputed champion of the self-conscious and the self-deprecating returns with yet more autobiographical gems from his apparently inexhaustible cache.

**Setterfield, Diane. The Thirteenth Tale**

When her health begins failing, the mysterious author Vida Winter decides to let Margaret Lea, a biographer, write the truth about her life, but Margaret needs to verify the facts since Vida has a history of telling outlandish tales.