

Best. Christmas. Ever!

Best. Christmas. Ever! is a 2023 American Christmas romantic comedy film directed by Mary Lambert and written by Todd Gallicano and Charles Shyer. The film stars Heather Graham, Brandy Norwood, Matt Cedeño, and Jason Biggs.

Plot

Charlotte and Rob Sanders, living a modest life in a small apartment, feel overshadowed by the seemingly perfect life of Charlotte's college friend, Jackie Jennings. Jackie's annual Christmas letter, detailing her family's extraordinary achievements, incites envy and skepticism in Charlotte.

Charlotte, feeling her own family is unremarkable, describes her daughter Dora's obsession with Marvel comics, her son Grant's attachment to a stuffed monkey, Rob's impractical dream of house flipping, and her own abandoned inventor dreams. When Grant, misunderstanding his mother's sarcasm, navigates the family to the Jennings' home for Christmas, they find themselves snowed in and forced to stay.

Charlotte suspects Jackie's family, especially after meeting Jackie's fit, Latino husband, Valentino. Her distrust leads her to snoop around their house. Meanwhile, the children, influenced by Beatrix's skepticism, embark on a misguided mission to expose a mall Santa, culminating in a confrontational scene.

Charlotte accuses Jackie and Rob of having a secret affair, based on misinterpreted correspondence. This leads to a revelation of Rob's harmless tradition of sharing Jackie's Christmas letters with their family, kept secret due to Charlotte's known disdain for them.

The film's climax involves an elaborate solar-powered hot air balloon, a tribute to Jackie's late son, Daniel. A series of events results in a Christmas pageant spectacle, where Santa's sleigh is accidentally attached to the balloon.

Best. Christmas. Ever!



Release poster

Directed by	Mary Lambert
Screenplay by	Todd Calgi Gallicano <div></div> Charles Shyer
Story by	Todd Calgi Gallicano
Produced by	Brad Krevoy
Starring	<div>Heather Graham</div> <div>Brandy Norwood</div> <div>Matt Cedeño</div> <div>Jason Biggs</div>
Cinematography	Graham Robbins
Edited by	Jeffrey Wolf
Music by	Jeff Rona
Production companies	<div>Motion Picture Corporation of America</div> <div>Brad Krevoy Productions</div>
Distributed by	Netflix

In the film's epilogue, the Sanders and Jennings families collaborate on a joint Christmas letter. Charlotte boasts about her new invention, while the Jennings promote their non-governmental organization (NGO) through solar-powered hot air balloon travel.

Release date	November 16, 2023
Running time	81 minutes
Country	United States
Language	English

Cast

- Heather Graham as Charlotte Sanders^[1]
- Brandy Norwood as Jackie Jennings^[1]
- Jason Biggs as Rob Sanders^[1]
- Matt Cedeño as Valentino^[1]
- Wyatt Hunt as Grant Sanders
- Abby Villasmil as Dora Sanders
- Madison Skye Validum as Beatrix Jennings
- Nadia Sine as Rose McCaffrey
- Janet Lo as Keiko

Release

Best. Christmas. Ever. was released by Netflix on November 16, 2023.^[2] *Best. Christmas. Ever.* was a hit on Netflix. It debuted at number 1 on the streaming service and number 2 globally with 22.3 million hours for a total of 16.3 million views. This ranks second in the Global Top 10 behind David Fincher's *The Killer*.^[3]

Reception

On the review aggregator website Rotten Tomatoes, 42% of 19 critics' reviews are positive, with an average rating of 4.6/10.^[4] Metacritic, which uses a weighted average, assigned the film a score of 34 out of 100, based on 6 critics, indicating "generally unfavorable" reviews.^[5]

Variety wrote "Its absurdist lunacy acts as a Trojan Horse containing genuinely meaningful sentiments on forgiveness, happiness and bittersweet sorrows — universalities people tend to reflect on as their year comes to a close".^[6]

References

1. Rowan, Iona (September 1, 2023). "First look at Brandy and Heather Graham's Netflix Christmas movie" (<https://www.digitalspy.com/movies/a44973393/best-christmas-ever-netflix-brandy/>). *Digital Spy*. Archived (<https://web.archive.org/web/20231106144243/https://www.digitalspy.com/movies/a44973393/best-christmas-ever-netflix-brandy/>) from the original on November 6, 2023. Retrieved November 6, 2023.
2. Gajewski, Ryan (October 24, 2023). "Brandy Norwood, Heather Graham Butt Heads Over the Holidays in Netflix's 'Best. Christmas. Ever! Trailer'" (<https://www.hollywoodreporter.com/movies/movie-news/best-christmas-ever-trailer-brandy-norwood-heather-graham-netflix-1235626249/>). *The Hollywood Reporter*. Archived (<https://web.archive.org/web/20231106144241/https://www.hollywoodreporter.com/movies/movie-news/best-christmas-ever-trailer-brandy->

[norwood-heather-graham-netflix-1235626249/](#) from the original on November 6, 2023. Retrieved November 6, 2023.

3. Bentz, Adam (November 22, 2023). "Netflix's New Christmas Rom-Com Hits Streamer's Top 10 (Despite Bad Reviews)" (<https://screenrant.com/best-christmas-ever-movie-netflix-viewer-ship-numbers-chart-ranking/>). *ScreenRant*. Retrieved November 22, 2023.
4. "*Best. Christmas. Ever!*" (https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/best_christmas_ever). *Rotten Tomatoes*. Fandango Media. Retrieved December 1, 2023.
5. "*Best. Christmas. Ever!*" (<https://www.metacritic.com/movie/best-christmas-ever>). *Metacritic*. Fandom, Inc. Retrieved December 1, 2023.
6. Howard, Courtney (November 16, 2023). "*Best. Christmas. Ever!* Review: Heather Graham and Brandy Norwood's Netflix-mas Movie Is Bubbly, Bright and Bonkers" (<https://variety.com/2023/film/reviews/best-christmas-ever-review-1235791173/>). *Variety*. Archived (<https://web.archive.org/web/20231116085303/https://variety.com/2023/film/reviews/best-christmas-ever-review-1235791173/>) from the original on November 16, 2023. Retrieved November 17, 2023.

External links

- *Best. Christmas. Ever!* (<https://www.netflix.com/title/81416268>) on Netflix
 - *Best. Christmas. Ever!* (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt7038762/>) at IMDb
-

Retrieved from "https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Best._Christmas._Ever!&oldid=1224914491"

▪