In the text below, either a/ choose from the options given with slashes, or b/ provide the correct form of the verb in brackets, finite or non-finite.

Best Christmas Horror Movies

When the weather outside is frightful, it's time to have **you / yourself** a scary little Christmas with these seasonal films, from the truly horrific in "Better Watch Out" to fun for the whole family in "The Nightmare Before Christmas."

If you're in the mood for a not-so-silent night at home, then let the slay bells **ring / to ring** and enjoy a stocking _____ **(stuff)** with this naughty list of 15 movies _____ **(range)** from our favorite haunting ho-ho-horror ("**Krampus**") to classic Christmas creeps ("**Gremlins**") the whole family can enjoy.

Black Christmas (1974)

Inspired by the "babysitter and man inside the house" urban legend (and of extreme influence to John Carpenter's 1978 subgenre-defining "**Halloween**"), Bob Clark's '70s classic takes place in a sorority house over the Christmas break. A group of young women _____ **(terrorize)** by an unknown caller who keeps harassing them with foul hysterics and lurid threats. While tension simmers in a way only the best horror films can pull **on / off**, Black Christmas also shines a light on society's penchant for not taking women seriously when they **raise / rise** concerns. It's considered one of the earliest examples of a slasher film and went on **to inspire / inspiring** two lesser remakes in 2006 and 2019, respectively.



The Thing (1982)



While it doesn't technically take **part / place** during Christmas, this John Carpenter masterpiece is **set / setting** in the dead of winter on a remote research 6outpost in the South Pole, so it counts. That winter wonderland _____ **(become)** a claustrophobic nightmare when an extraterrestrial shapeshifter infiltrates the base camp. The temperature is low, but tensions are high as everyone grows more suspicious and paranoid **of / in** each other as they try to flesh out the imposter. “The Thing” is one of those rare sci-fi horrors that **stands / stays** the test of time due to its suspenseful pacing and its groundbreaking practical effects, leaving you both frozen and scared stiff.

Silent Night, Deadly Night (1984)



"Christmas Eve is the scariest damn night of the year," according to young Billy's **supposed / supposedly** senile grandfather, who warns the 5-year-old that Santa doesn't just **reward / award** good little children — he punishes the bad ones. That premonition rings true when his parents _____ **(slaughter)** by a carjacker dressed as Old Saint Nick himself just hours later, _____ **(condemn)** the toddler to further moral compass trauma at an orphanage **running / run** by a domineering Mother Superior nun from Hell. But once a now-grown Billy is forced into the red suit by his retail job, his Santa snaps, becoming the judge, jury, and executioner of the naughty or nice list. Between ominous animatronics and irresistibly exaggerated '80s acting, “**Silent Night, Deadly Night**”'s yuletide kills do not disappoint, **feature / featuring** a hanging by holiday lights, decapitation via sleigh ride, and impalement by a reindeer (okay, a taxidermied stag, but still).

Jack Frost (1997)

Your nose **won't / wouldn't** be the only thing he's nipping at. No, this isn't the family-friendly Michael Keaton movie of the same name, though some unsuspecting '90s kids **may have been / should have been** traumatized after renting the wrong video. This cult classic _____ **(tell)** the tale of a serial killer who is transformed into a murderous snowman when his prison transport collides with a genetics truck full of experimental lab acid. Complete with frozen performances and witty one-liners, it's the exact kind of **ridiculousness / ridicule** you'd expect from a low-budget '90s holiday horror film. It's flawed and thawed, but an abominable film that's worth _____ **(defrost)** .



Inside (2007)



New-wave French horror films are not for the **weak / faint** of heart. Movies like "**High Tension**" (2003) and "**Martyrs**" (2008) would _____ **(have)** even Eli Roth wetting his knickers, and "Inside" is no exception. Brutal, savage, and gory, this movie follows a home invasion on Christmas Eve where a mysterious woman tries **to steal / stealing** an unborn baby right out from another woman's pregnant belly. With more twists than a candy cane, "**Inside**" is a gut-wrenching nightmare — if you have the **nerve / stomach** for it.

Rare Exports: A Christmas Tale (2010)



This Finnish horror-action comedy is **a / an** unique breed _____ **(walk)** the line between various genres. The artful and twisted tale explores the mythos of Santa Claus when an archeological dig **deep / deeply** in a frozen mountain **uproots / unearths** what they believe to be the original Santa. It's a dark fantasy that has slayed reindeer, missing children, and a grimly funny **view / take** on the legend you thought you knew.

Krampus (2015)



Fans of Michael Dougherty's "**Trick 'r Treat**" (2007) _____ **(feel)** right at home for the holidays with this twisted tale, which goes to show that there are **true / authentic** terrors in this world that are more frightening than **forceful / forced** family gatherings. Everyone knows the rules of when Santa Claus is coming to town, but this film is keen on _____ **(explore)** the lure of the lesser-known anti-Santa, the Krampus. During a terrible winter storm, a family is stalked by the beast and his evil elves. They **could / may** struggle to break the curse, but the true torture remains _____ **(be)** stuck with your in-laws.

A Christmas Horror Story (2015)



What do the Krampus, a horde of undead elves, bloodthirsty changelings, and William Shatner have in common? They're all part of this horror anthology, **connecting / connected** loosely through a framework _____ **(feature)** Shatner as a radio showhost. Each story _____ **(interweave)** throughout the movie, telling tales of teen terror, frosty family feuds, and flesh-eating elves. It's got something for everyone under the tree — including the ultimate **show-off / showdown** between Santa Claus and the Krampus.

Better Watch Out (2016)



If you've ever wondered what “Home Alone” would be like with an R rating, then **look /search** no further than “**Better Watch Out**”. It's one of those movies **where / which** the less you know, the better, because this wild sleigh ride will keep you on your toes, _____ **(blend)** dark comedy with some truly horrific moments. It's a complex and psychotic game of mousetrap when a boy and his babysitter encounter an uninvited visitor. So **hang up / onto** the stockings and the paint cans — and don't forget to lock the doors.

Anna and the Apocalypse (2017)

A feel-good Scottish Christmas zombie musical? It **shouldn't / doesn’t have to** work, but it does — and boy, does it have some bite. Splicing “**Shaun of the Dead**” (2004) with “**High School Musical**” (2006), a group of teens fight for survival when they get separated from their loved ones during a zombie **breakout / outbreak**. Navigating the apocalypse and puberty is no easy task, but these teens are slashing and singing their way through herds of undead _____ **(make)** it to safety. Featuring some pretty poignant moments and infectious melodies, you'll find that it's a Christmas movie you **can / may** really sink your teeth into.



The Lodge (2019)



This superb slow-melting psychological horror film about an unnerved woman who spends **few / a few days** alone with her new fiancé's children sees “**The Shining**”'s cabin fever with an added dose of modern surrealism. “**The Lodge**” spends some viewer time _____ **(build)** a tense atmosphere of suspense and delirium set in a remote winter cabin just days before Christmas. The **sole / soul** survivor of a suicide cult she was **raised / brought** in, Grace trades PTSD for the PTA as the movie **arises / raises** the question, "Is she losing her mind, or are children just terrible?"

Silent Night (2021)



In "**Silent Night**", Keira Knightley and Matthew Goode are **throwing / making** a killer Christmas party — quite literally. In the wake of a global catastrophe where a poisonous cloud is killing everything alive, a group of family and friends _____ **(gather)** for one last night of revelry. The merriment _____ **(interrupt)** when debate arises over whether or not to take government-provided "exit pills" for a painless death just before the gas _____ **(arrive)**. Selfishness, suicide, and Scrabble are fair game before all becomes calm and, uh, not so bright.

Gremlins (1984)



When _____ **(get)** into the holiday spirit, nothing says Christmas more than cute and cuddly Mogwai, right? Don't let the PG rating on the poster fool you, this classic creature feature _____ **(lead)** to the creation of the PG-13 distinction.

During / Upon its release in June 1984, this Steven Spielberg-produced creature feature about mischievous gremlins that wreak havoc on a town on Christmas Eve _____ **(criticize)** for exposing children to violence — a refrain Spielberg was familiar **with / of** after the debut of "**Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom**" a month **ago / earlier**. In response, the industry titan suggested that the Motion Picture Association of America _____ **(add)** a new level to its rating system, and you don't ignore Spielberg. Whatever its rating, "**Gremlins**" features impressive practical effects and some delightful dark comedy, _____ **(make)** for a well-rounded classic that defied genres and defined a generation.

A Christmas Carol (2019)



The ghost story that started it all scared the dickens out of people when Charles Dickens released it in 1843. With so many film adaptations in the years since, it can be hard _____ **(choose)** a favorite, but there are a few cinematic interpretations of this ghastly tale worth _____ **(mention)**. "**Scrooged**" (1988) puts a new twist on the timeless tale, starring Bill Murray as a detestable television executive who _____ **(visit)** by three spirits, and is an excellent black comedy about a white Christmas.

And Robert Zemeckis' 2009 take featuring Jim Carrey is noteworthy **owing / for** a few reasons: **Not only are the ghosts / Not only the ghosts are** downright terrifying, but the animation style is also unsettling, and may scare you for all the wrong reasons. Then there's the 2019 BBC version starring Guy Pearce, a **three-part / three-parts** series _____ **(lean)** into a darker, more adult take **of / on** the source material. If you're looking for lighter **fear / fare**, there's always the 1992 Muppets version with a Ghost of Christmas Present resembling egg drop soup, and the most frightening thing of all: Michael Caine dancing in his pajamas.