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## Love in The Dark: Seeking Alternative Models of Romance in American Cinema

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My research is a critique of how heterosexual love is constructed in film as painless, easy, and universal. This construction neglects to explain the power relations of heterosexual romance, or the messy experience of real love. I will examine films that provide alternative models of love, movies that emphasize sisterhood, or explore love in less pleasant terms. Some of the films I wish to examine include *The Witches of Eastwick* (Miller, 1987), *Practical Magic* (Dunne, 1998), *Corpse bride* (Burton, 2005), and *Dark Shadows* (Burton, 2012). These movies are all largely mainstream and, in some cases, capitulate to the wider narrative about heterosexual love, but also provide transgressive moments wherein sisterhood is valued over romance, or love is acknowledged as bittersweet if not outright destructive. I hope that by examining these films I can critique the mainstream model of heterosexual love and evaluate the alternative models of these films.