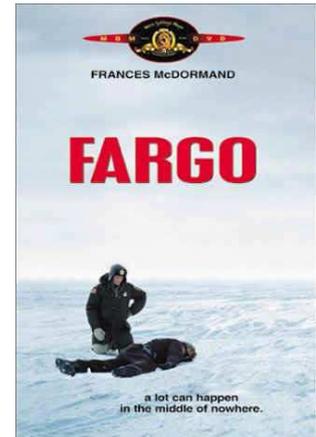


# Fargo

**Director: Joel Coen**  
**1996 (100')**



Jerry Lundegaard, a car salesman from Minneapolis, Minnesota, has a plan to get himself out of his financial difficulties. The plan involves a kidnapping and a ransom of \$1,000,000. Jerry enlists the aid of two criminals and with their help the whole thing goes horribly wrong. Soon there are dead bodies littering the cold Midwestern landscape and a determined cop on the trail, albeit a heavily pregnant one. Fargo is a thriller, a crime film and a black comedy. And it is arguably the best film the Coen brothers have made.

## Vocabulary and expressions:

Note: The language and accents in Fargo are typical of the Midwest USA where the film is set.

**Yah:** Yes

**Yep:** Yes

**Nope:** No

**Gonna:** Going to

**Gotta:** Have got to; have to

**Wanna:** Want to

**To kidnap:** Hold a person against their will in order to receive money for their release

**Ransom:** The money asked for or given to release someone who has been kidnapped

**You bet:** Of course; absolutely

*Ya got the car?*

*Yah, you bet. It's in the lot there.*

**Lot:** Parking lot; car park

**To vouch for somebody or something:** To guarantee or give assurance for  
*Shep vouched for you and all.*

**Well off:** Rich; wealthy

*Her dad, he's real well off.*

**No dice:** No; no way; absolutely not

*Well, you know Stan'll say no dice.*

**A bald-faced liar:** Said to or of someone who lies unashamedly

*You're a bald-faced liar!*

**Tag:** Number plate/Registration plate on a car, truck etc.

**To slip somebody's mind:** To forget something

*It, uh ... must have slipped my mind.*

**In a jiffy; in a jiff:** Very quickly; very soon

*Okay. There in a jiff...*

**To shove off:** To go; to leave (e.g. for work)

*Thanks, hon. Time to shove off.*

**The deal:** The situation

*So what's the deal, now?*

**To barf:** To vomit

*Uh – I just, I think I'm gonna barf.*

**Morning sickness:** Nausea and/or vomiting experienced by pregnant women

**For Pete's sake!:** For god's sake! Come on! I don't believe it!

**To bite the bullet:** To accept that something unpleasant but necessary has to be done

*We just gotta bite the bullet on this thing.*

**Bull:** Rubbish; nonsense

**To call the shots:** To be in a position of power

*Maybe it's all bull, but, like you said, Stan, they're callin' the shots.*

**To play ball:** To do as you are told

*We gotta play ball with these guys.*

**Funny-looking:** Having a strange physical appearance

*Well, the little guy, he was kinda funny-looking.*

**To shed blood:** To kill people in a violent way

*Blood has been shed, Jerry.*

**To muck something up:** To mismanage a situation; to make a mess of something

*I don't want you – with all due respect, Jerry – I don't want you mucking this up.*

**To run a tight ship:** To follow the rules closely; to be strict

*We run a pretty tight ship here.*

**To pass away:** To die

*She passed away.*

**Back-up:** Support; extra help or assistance  
*Don't go in! Wait for back-up!*

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