



# Finding a Good Read

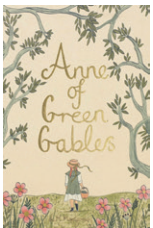
A column to help you find intriguing books

Erin

## Turned into TV

Ever read a book and cast it in your head? Or seen a book you love on screen and been furious that it's not how you pictured it? You're not alone. With tons of material and ready-made audiences, adapting book series for TV has been popular for decades.

From BBC classics to Netflix's new investments, some are amazing and some less memorable. But the books are always interesting enough to have attracted attention, making them more than worth a read.



### Young Adult

Building on the film success of franchises like the *Hunger Games*, *Twilight* and *Divergent*, TV adaptations of Young Adult book series have become huge on streaming platforms.

*Anne of Green Gables* (L.M. Montgomery) has been brought to life multiple times, and *Gossip Girl* (Cecily von Ziegesar) got a recent reboot.

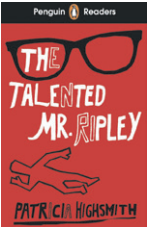
*The Power* (Naomi Alderman), *13 Reasons Why* (Jay Asher), *You* (Caroline Kepnes), *Heartstopper* (Alice Oseman), *My Life with the Walter Boys* (Ali Novak), the *One of Us* series (Karen M McManus), *Noughts + Crosses* (Malorie Blackman) and *Normal People* (Sally Rooney) cover love, loss, politics, mental health and relationships with sensitivity and fun.

*Friday Night Lights: A Town, a Team, and a Dream* (H. G. Bissinger) and *One Day* (David Nicholls) both inspired films before dazzling on the smaller screen.

### Bloody fun

Popular with all ages, vampire literature offers hundreds of years of storytelling for every world created. Bram Stoker's *Dracula* is one of the most popular and inspirational.

*Interview with the Vampire* (Anne Rice), *The Vampire Diaries* (L. J. Smith), and *The Southern Vampire Mysteries / The True Blood Novels* (Charlaine Harris) all have unique takes on the mythology.



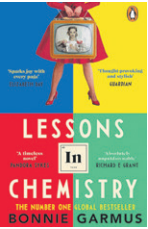
### Indulgent Period

Few TV programmes were more discussed than *Game of Thrones*, based on George R. R. Martin's epic series *A Song of Ice and Fire*. Gorgeous and gossipy *Bridgerton* (Julia Quinn) has no dragons but plenty of family politics.

*The Talented Mr Ripley* (Patricia Highsmith) spins a web of lies across Italy, while *A Gentleman in Moscow* (Amor Towles) builds an entire life inside a luxury Russian hotel.

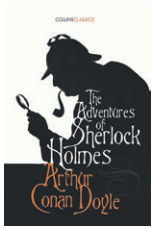
### Dashing chaps

These one-named series excite readers and viewers with their military flair, good-looking leads and thousands of pages of entertainment. *Sharpe* (Bernard Cornwell), *Hornblower* (C. S. Forester), *Poldark* (Winston Graham) and *Outlander* (Diana Gabaldon) have legions of fans worldwide.



### Powerful women

Showing the complexity of women's lives that stereotypical 'chick-lit' can sometimes miss, *Olive Kitteridge* (Elizabeth Strout), *Lessons in Chemistry* (Bonnie Garmus), *Sharp Objects* (Gillian Flynn), *Big Little Lies* (Lianne Moriarty), *Daisy Jones and the Six* (Taylor Jenkins Reid), and *My Brilliant Friend* [first of the *Neapolitan Novels*] (Elena Ferrante) are all much-loved books that became prestige TV shows. Famous for *The Handmaid's Tale*, Margaret Atwood's *Alias Grace* is also a compelling read.



### Famous British crime creations

Arthur Conan Doyle's *Sherlock Holmes* and Agatha Christie's *Miss Marple* and *Hercule Poirot*, some of literature's most famous characters, solve all kinds of crimes all around the world. *The Night Manager* (John Le Carré) made a stunning series from a great novel.



### Personal experiences

Memoir writers often aim for films, but hilarious and touching TV has been made from *All Creatures Great and Small* (James Herriot), *This is Going to Hurt* (Adam Kay), and *Orange is the New Black* (Piper Kerman).

### Enduring Popular Classics

While Colin Firth's wet shirt changed lives in the BBC's *Pride and Prejudice* miniseries, all Jane Austen's books make phenomenal, funny reads. With relatable drama, romance and great outfits *Jane Eyre* (Charlotte Brontë), *Wuthering Heights* (Emily Brontë), and *War and Peace* (Leo Tolstoy) offer sweeping epics on page and screen.

**Have you read a good book recently?**

Send a review in (no more than 100 words) to the usual Inside Time address and mark it 'Finding a Good Read'. We'll print the best ones.

With thanks to PRG and Give a Book volunteer, Erin.

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