

# Films Based on Novels

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The Racine Public Library has an excellent selection of DVDs and videocassettes of films based on novels. Read the book and then watch the movie!

**All the King's Men** based on the novel  
by Robert Penn Warren

A political demagogue, governor of a Southern state, believes that every man has his price and that the end justifies the means. Based on the life of Huey Pierce Long, governor of Louisiana and senator.

**Arrowsmith** based on the novel by Sinclair Lewis  
An idealistic small town doctor and research scientist relocates to the West Indies, where his determination to end a bubonic plague epidemic sets off a tragic series of events.

**Be cool** based on the novel by Elmore Leonard  
Chili Palmer is tired of the producing movies after being forced to make a useless sequel. When a music producer friend is gunned down, he offers to help his widow run the business, which puts him at odds with her sleazy music manager, his gay bodyguard and his equally sleazy partner, members of the Russian mafia and a suburban rap-mogul producer & his thugs.

**Bee season** based on the novel by Myla Goldberg  
Eliza demonstrates such an amazing gift for spelling any word given to her that her father Saul insists on coaching her himself. As Eliza's success continues, Saul's newfound devotion grows...causing huge changes for the entire family.

**Ben-Hur** based on the novel by Lew Wallace  
A peace-loving prince of Judea leads his nation against the wrath of the conquering Romans. His self-imposed destiny brings tragedy to himself, and his people, as he learns to fight, to love, to hate and, finally, to forgive.

**Breakfast on Pluto** based on the book  
by Patrick McCabe.

As foster kid Patrick 'Kitten' Braden grows up, he leaves behind his small-town life in Ireland for London, where he's reborn as a transvestite cabaret singer in the 1960s and 70s.

**Brideshead** revisited based on the novel  
by Evelyn Waugh

Chronicles a young man's haunting relationship in an irretrievably aristocratic world. The story spans three decades from the early twenties to World War II in Charles Ryder's relationship with the wild and eccentric Sebastian Flyte and the aristocratic Marchmain family.

**Brokeback Mountain** Based on the short story  
by Annie Proulx.

It's 1963, a time in the United States when life was simple, straightforward and the lines between the sexes and sex roles were crisply drawn and severely delineated. Ennis Del Mar and Jack Twist are thrown together when they are hired to tend sheep in the remote area of Brokeback Mountain, Wyoming. Their loneliness and the shared lack of tenderness and emotion in their lives leads them to bond emotionally, physically and psychically.

**Cabaret** based on the novel Berlin Stories  
by Christopher Isherwood

An egocentric American girl dreams of becoming a star while working in a third-rate Berlin cabaret. Capote based on the book by Gerald Clarke. This recounting of Capote's research for his greatest work, "In Cold Blood," explores the conflict between his feelings of compassion for murderer Perry Smith and the need for closure for his book which only an execution can provide. That conflict and the mixed motives for both interviewer and subject make for a troubling experience that would produce a literary account that would redefine modern non-fiction.

**The Constant Gardener** based on the novel  
by John Le Carré.

When his activist wife is found brutally murdered in a remote area of Northern Kenya, Justin Quayle embarks on a personal odyssey that will take him across three continents. Using his privileged access to diplomatic secrets, Justin risks his own life and will stop at nothing to expose the truth—a conspiracy more far-reaching and deadly than he could ever have imagined.

Continued on the other side

**Constantine** based on characters from the DC/Vertigo comic book *Hellblazer*.

Supernatural detective John Constantine and policewoman Angela Dodson travel to the world of demons and angels.

**Dark water** based on the novel "Honoguri mizu no soko kara" by Kōji Suzuki and the film adaptation. When her strained separation turns into a bitter custody battle, and her new apartment seems to have a life of its own, with mysterious noises, persistent leaks of dark water, and strange happenings, Dahlia embarks on a puzzling and mystifying pursuit to find out who is behind the endless mind games.

**Deliverance** based on the novel by James Dickey. Four ordinary men, in two canoes, descending a river they've only seen as a squiggly line on a map, determined to test themselves against a wilderness they only think they understand, must fight for their lives against some sadistic mountain men.

**Elmer Gantry** based on the novel by Sinclair Lewis. One man's fervent pursuit of wealth and power leads him to religion for profit in the evangelist tents of the 1920s Midwestern Corn Belt.

**Derailed** based on the novel by James Siegel. Charles, a financially successful Chicago advertising director with a sick daughter and a slightly troubled marriage, has a chance encounter with Lucinda, a lovely and quick-witted financial advisor who is also stuck in marital rut. Their chemistry is instant, but their eventual one-night-stand is interrupted by a mugger, who is out to milk Charles for every dollar he's got.

**The End of the Affair** based on the novel by Graham Greene. In England during World War II, an American writer and the bored wife of a British civil servant fall in love. Then she mysteriously ends the affair.

**The English Patient** based on the novel by Michael Ondaatje. During World War II, a mysterious stranger is rescued from a fiery plane crash. The American allies care for him and the dangerous secrets from his past come to light.

**Everything is illuminated** based on the novel by Jonathan Safran Foer. With the help of a local who speaks weirdly broken English, a young American man journeys to find the woman who saved his grandfather during World War II in a Ukrainian village that was ultimately razed by the Nazis.

**Exodus** based on the novel by Leon Uris. Chronicles the story of the postwar Jewish struggle for independence and their fight to establish a homeland in Israel, beginning with the exodus from a Cypriot detention camp of a shipload of courageous European Jews headed toward Israel aboard a weathered freighter.

**Fahrenheit 451** based on the novel by Ray Bradbury. Montag, a regimented fireman in charge of burning forbidden books, meets a revolutionary school teacher who dares to read. Suddenly he finds himself a hunted fugitive, forced to choose not only between two women, but between personal safety and intellectual freedom.

**From Here to Eternity** based on the novel by James Jones. A portrait of a military camp stationed in Hawaii just before the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

**Frank Miller's Sin City** based on the graphic novels by Frank Miller. Welcome to Sin City, the town that beckons to the tough, the corrupt, and the brokenhearted. A universe of unlikely and reluctant heroes still try to do the right thing in a city that refuses to care.

**Giant** based on the novel by Edna Ferber. Bick Benedict, his society-gilded wife and three generations of land-rich Texas sons and daughters love, swagger, connive and clash in a monumental drama of family strife, racial bigotry and conflict between cattle barons and newly-rich oil tycoons.

**The House of Mirth** based on the novel by Edith Wharton. The glittering yet treacherous world of New York high society comes to life in the heartbreaking story of Lily Bart, a renowned beauty of exquisite charm who seeks a wealthy husband but winds up disgraced and discarded.

**Howard's End** based on the novel by E. M. Forster. The story of the idealistic, independent and highly educated Schlegel sisters and their tangled relationships with a rich businessman and his family, and with an unhappily married young bank clerk.

**The Ice Harvest** based on the novel by Scott Phillips. It's Christmas Eve and Charlie, an attorney for the sleazy businesses of Wichita, and his unsavory associate have successfully embezzled \$2 million from Kansas City boss Bill Guerrard. But as daylight fades and an ice storm whirls, everyone begins to wonder just what exactly is in Charlie's Christmas stocking.

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### 3—Films Based on Novels

**In Her Shoes** based on the novel by Jennifer Weiner. Free-wheeling irresponsible Maggie gets through life thanks to her remarkable looks, her complete lack of scruples and the financial help of her straight-laced, plain-Jane successful lawyer sister Rose. About more than the sisters' latest sibling rivalry, this story shows how Maggie and Rose sort out the childhood vulnerabilities and family mysteries that still linger two decades after their mother's death.

**Jane Eyre** based on the novel by Charlotte Bronte. A Hollywood production of the Bronte novel in which a harshly treated orphan girl becomes a governess in a mysterious Yorkshire mansion with a brooding master.

**Jarhead** based on the book by Anthony Swofford. Follows "Swoff," a third-generation Marine enlistee, from a sobering stint in boot camp to active duty, sporting a sniper's rifle and a hundred-pound rucksack on his back through the Middle East deserts. With no cover from intolerable heat or from the Iraqi soldiers, who are always potentially just over the next horizon, Swoff and his fellow Marines sustain themselves with sardonic humanity and wicked comedy on blazing desert fields in a country they don't understand, against an enemy they can't see, for a cause they don't fully understand.

**Just like Heaven** based on the novel *If only it were true* by Marc Levy. Elizabeth, a dedicated, workaholic doctor who is much too busy to have a life, dies in a terrible car accident. She becomes a spirit stuck between heaven and earth, not realizing she is dead, until she meets David, a lonely architect, who has rented her old apartment.

**Left behind II: Tribulation Force** based on the novel *Tribulation Force: The Continuing Drama of Those Left Behind* by Tim F. LaHaye and Jerry B. Jenkins. A week after the Rapture, millions have vanished into thin air, and a desperate world turns to the United Nations president. Basking in the adoration and trust of the people, he seems to have the entire planet at his command. But a small group, the Tribulation Force, is aware of his true and sinister identity, and must embark on a dangerous mission to open the eyes of the world.

**Little Women** based on the novel by Louisa May Alcott. Chronicles the humorous and sentimental fortunes of the four March sisters as they grow into young ladies during the harsh times of the Civil war.

**Lolita** based on the novel by Vladimir Nabokov. A middle-aged man marries an oppressive widow in order to be near and carry on an affair with her nymphet daughter.

**Lust for Life** based on the novel by Irving Stone. The life of the tormented Dutch painter, Vincent Van Gogh, is chronicled from his ill-fated stint as a preacher to Belgian miners in 1878, to his Impressionist-inspired artistic awakening and psychological descent to suicide in 1890.

**Maltese Falcon** based on the novel by Dashiell Hammett. After the death of his partner, private eye Sam Spade is dragged into a quest for a priceless statuette. *Map of the World* based on the novel by Jane Hamilton. After her neighbor's child dies while she's watching her, Alice must fight to find forgiveness not only from her friend but from within herself.

**Memoirs of a geisha** based on the novel by Arthur Golden. In 1929, an impoverished nine-year-old named Chiyo is sold to a geisha house in Kyoto's Gion district and subjected to cruel treatment from the owners and the head geisha Hatsumomo. Rescued by Hatsumomo's bitter rival, Mameha, Chiyo becomes a renowned geisha, named Sayuri, and enters a society of wealth, privilege, and political intrigue.

**Midnight Clear** based on the novel by William Wharton. A small army intelligence platoon on a dangerous mission to the German front discovers a small band of frightened soldiers in a Nazi camp.

**Mrs. Dalloway** based on the novel by Virginia Woolf. As Clarissa Dalloway prepares for an elaborate party, she remembers another summer in the past, when she was a beautiful young woman. Her preparations are interrupted by the unexpected arrival of a former suitor from that long-ago summer. As the day of the party unfolds, Mrs. Dalloway's life also becomes strangely intertwined with a young man she never meets, but whose tragic fate strikes a chord of truth, deep in her soul, that she cannot deny.

**Munich** based on the book "Vengeance: the true story of an Israeli Counter-Terrorist team" by George Jonas. It's the 1972 Olympics and PLO terrorists have just kidnapped and murdered 11 Israeli athletes. After the tragic incident is over and several of the terrorists have gone free, the Israeli government of Golda Meir recruits Avner as the leader of a team of undercover agents who hunt down those responsible throughout Europe, and eliminate them one-by-one.

*Continued on the other side*

**Must love dogs** based on the book by Claire Cook. Sarah Nolan is divorced, demoralized and dateless—until her sister posts her profile on perfectmatch.com. After dates with weirdos, weepers, lechers and jocks, she meets Jake, who is attractive, smart and maybe a bit too intense for Sarah, so she passes him by. Is she passing up a real chance for love?

**North Country** based on the book “Class action: the story of Lois Jensen and the landmark case that changed sexual harassment law”  
by Clara Bingham and Laura Leedy.  
A fictionalized account of the first major successful sexual harassment case in the U.S., where a woman who endured a range of abuse while working as a miner filed and won a landmark 1984 lawsuit.

**Ordinary People** based on the novel by Judith Guest  
The “ordinary” existence of an upper middle class family is shattered with the death of the older son and the struggle of the younger son against guilt and suicide.

**Ox-bow Incident** based on the novel  
by Walter Van Tilburg Clark  
A cowboy is unable to prevent three wandering travelers from being unjustly lynched for murder.

**A Passage to India** based on the novel  
by E. M. Forster  
On a trip in 1928 to visit her son, Mrs. Moore, accompanied by her son’s fiancée, is appalled at the treatment of the Indians by the ruling British government. They befriend a native Indian who, over-stepping the accepted norms of his culture, invites the two ladies on an excursion, which has serious unintended consequences.

**Peyton Place** based on the novel by Grace Metalious  
The coming of age story set in a small New England village whose peaceful facade hides love and passion, scandal and hypocrisy.

**A Place in the Sun** based on the novel An American Tragedy by Theodore Dreiser  
A poor young man is determined to win a place in respectable society and the heart of a beautiful socialite. Consumed with fear and desire, he is ultimately driven to a desperate act of passion that unravels his world forever.

**The Portrait of a Lady** based on the novel  
by Henry James  
Isabel Archer is a young woman of daring independence and equally fierce desires. But her head-strong innocence is no match for the manipulations of her duplicitous friend Madame Merle and the devious Gilbert Osmond.

**Raintree County** based on the novel by Ross Lockridge  
A beautiful young woman, who believes she is the daughter of an adulterous affair between her father and a mulatto slave, is married to an idealistic young man in this drama set in the Civil War era South.

**A Room With a View** based on the novel by E. M. Forster  
Set in the early 1900’s, this is the story of the coming of age of Lucy Honeychurch, who longs to burst free from the repression of British upper class manners and mores, and must wrestle with her inner romantic longings to choose between the passionate George and the priggish but socially suitable Cecil.

**Sahara** based on the by Clive Cussler.  
Three intrepid adventurers set out to claim a massive treasure and foil the efforts of a cadre intent on world destruction.

**Sense and Sensibility** based on the novel  
by Jane Austen  
The Dashwood sisters, sensible Eleanor and passionate Marianne, find their chances at marriage seemingly doomed by their family’s sudden loss of fortune.  
**Shane** based on the novel by Jack Schaefer  
A drifter and retired gunfighter assists a homestead family terrorized by an aging cattleman and his hired gun.

**Ship of Fools** based on the novel by Katherine Anne Porter  
In 1933, on a German luxury liner sailing from Mexico to Germany, the separate but interlocking stories of the various passengers begins to unfold. Among the many passengers is a divorcee desperate for love and lost youth, a Spanish noblewoman being deported as a political prisoner, an aging alcoholic ballplayer, and a budding Nazi whose brutishness foreshadows the holocaust to come.

**Shopgirl** based on the novella by Steve Martin.  
Ray Porter is a buttoned-down 50-something executive who reaches out to 20-something Mirabelle, as his Los Angeles playmate. Ray thinks of Mirabella as a precious outlet for sex, while Mirabelle, very mistakenly, sees Ray as a potential lifelong mate.

**Show Boat** based on the novel by Edna Ferber  
A musical extravaganza which celebrates the loves and heartbreaks of a Mississippi riverboat troupe, starting with a young girl whose heart is stolen by a dashing gambler.

**Sophie's Choice** based on the novel by William Styron  
A drama set in post-World War II Brooklyn revolves around Sophie, a Polish Catholic beauty who survived Auschwitz, her lover, Nathan, and Stingo, a would-be writer. As the three grow closer, Stingo discovers the captivating and moving truths that each harbors.

**Strangers on a Train** based on the novel by Patricia Highsmith  
A tennis star is harassed on a train by a psychotic who wants to swap murders, and who then proceeds to carry out his part of the unconfirmed bargain.

**The Sweet Hereafter** based on the novel by Russell Banks  
Following a tragic schoolbus accident, high-profile lawyer Mitchell Stephens descends upon a small town. With promises of retribution and a class-action lawsuit filed on behalf of the grieving community, Stephens begins his investigation into the details of the crash. But beneath the town's calm, he uncovers a tangled web of lies, deceit and forbidden desires that mirrors his own troubled personal life.

**A Tale of Two Cities** based on the novel by Charles Dickens  
A doctor, unjustly imprisoned in Paris before the French Revolution, is rescued and reunited with his daughter in London. She is loved by two men: she marries one and the other saves her husband from the guillotine.

**The Talented Mr. Ripley** based on the novel by Patricia Highsmith  
Tom Ripley is a calculating young man who believes it's better to be a fake somebody than a real nobody. Hired to bring back the playboy son of a millionaire from Italy, he is plunged into a daring scheme of duplicity, lies and murder.

**The Thin Man** based on the novel by Dashiell Hammett  
A crime/comedy thriller featuring Nick Charles, private eye, and his wife Nora. The plot unfolds at Christmas when an eccentric inventor disappears after threatening his mistress with a lawsuit for embezzlement.

**The Thin Red Line** based on the novel by James Jones  
The story of the World War II battle between the Japanese and the American military forces for control of the strategic island of Guadalcanal.

**A Thousand Acres** based on the novel by Jane Smiley  
The saga of the Cook family, whose fertile farm spans 1,000 acres, but the seeds of its destruction are sown when the patriarch, Larry Cook, impulsively decides to distribute it among his three daughters.

**Tom Jones** based on the novel by Henry Fielding  
Birthed by a local woman but raised by the village squire, Tom Jones grows up to be a handsome young man with a way with women. He loves the daughter of a neighboring landowner, and falls into many adventures in pursuit of her, including duels, bedroom romps and prison.

**To Have and Have Not** based on the novel by Ernest Hemingway  
A charter boat operator in the Caribbean breaks his policy of neutrality and takes a job transporting a resistance member to Martinique.

**A Tree Grows in Brooklyn** based on the novel by Betty Smith  
The story of a young girl in turn of the century Brooklyn who adores her charming but irresponsible father and resents her mother who tries to hold the family together.

**Under the Volcano** based on the novel by Malcolm Lowry  
Shot on location in Mexico, a tormented trio heads toward a grim meeting with fate on the eerie holiday known as Day of the Dead.

**The Virgin Suicides** based on the novel by Jeffrey Eugenides  
When school hunk Trip Fontain convinces the beautiful but sheltered Lisbon sisters to go to the prom, the romantic fantasies of a group of neighborhood boys threaten to come true until all are engulfed in a stunning chain of events that will change their lives forever.

**The visitation** based on the novel by Frank E. Peretti  
Miracles are happening in the sleepy town of Antioch, and everyone is talking about the mysterious drifter with incredible powers. Who is this mysterious stranger—the true messiah, a false prophet, or something far more sinister?"

**Wuthering Heights** based on the novel by Emily Bronte  
A tortured love affair ends between Heathcliff and Cathy when Cathy marries the wealthy Edgar. Heathcliff's savage retaliation upon the woman he loves explodes in a stunning climax.

**The Yearling** based on the novel by Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings  
A young boy, Jody, living with his family on the Florida frontier shortly after the Civil War, must sacrifice his pet fawn for his family's survival.