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## Read and watch – book series that wind up on television

Netflix, Hulu, Acorn, Amazon Prime – we watch television differently than we used to. With the magic of WIFI in our homes, we can circumvent the cable throttle and stream limitless shows to our TV's. We pay for our chosen subscriptions (but don't need cable for this) and walla! From the five buck Acorn to tons of shows that come with our Amazon Prime memberships, TV suddenly works on our schedule.

I'm an on and off again cozy mystery reader but have enjoyed at least ten M.C. Beaton Hamish Macbeth books from our library shelves. The Scottish highland setting, authentic dialect, and quirky characters are appealing.

However, I had no idea that M.C. Beaton's books were available as TV shows on Acorn until a week ago. Since I've been doing a lot of knitting, this was ideal. I forked over the \$5.00 membership and am on Season 3. (Acorn, as it happens, specializes in British shows, light to dark.) Beaton follows a pretty strict formula for her books, which at some point lose character development but are still light fun.

The writing on the television version is quite good. I started caring about the tiny village of Lochdubh (pronounced lock-doo) like I did Cicely, Alaska, in the days of Northern Exposure or Three Pines now from the Louise Penny Gamache series. Having been to Scotland, I was prepared to not understand 25% (or more) of what I heard and wasn't disappointed. But you get used to it.

The TV show maintains the humor of the books with lines like Macbeth's assistant, TV Bob, telling everyone in the Stag Bar that he fixed Macbeth "up like a tailor's dummy," to make his boss look more professional.

However, the show takes Beaton's stories to darker less cozy levels. It makes them nicely unpredictable. So far, they've knocked off a dog (a dog! Who does that?), a girlfriend who certainly survives all the books, and in what I thought for sure was going to be a typical ending of hurrying up and saving someone's life, they arrived too late. In Beaton's books, no one ever dies that you like.

Acorn also carries a series based on Beaton's even more popular Agatha Raisin books. The library has those, too. I can't speak to the quality of the shows, but it's possible they also do well by Beaton.

Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries (not cozy but definitely witty) is based on author Kerry Greenwood's books set in Melbourne. And yes, you can get some of them at our library (in e-book and paper) and all of them through MeL which we are happy to help you with. But wowzer, this is one you want to watch. The Australian Public Broadcast productions of Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries are elegant, smart, and gorgeous. We have the collection on DVD. Plus, it's normally streaming somewhere, either Netflix or Amazon Prime.

Apparently the 1920's were roaring in Australia, too, and Miss Fisher's flapper style along with the period music are great. The private investigator's smoldering, understated romance with the equally good-looking police detective is hotter than the shows that bare all. You'll need an old-fashioned fan like your granny took from the funeral home to cool off.

Both of these series are fun cross-overs from print to television, and the library can help you as always. If you have a favorite series, it's worth looking to see if those have been filmed. Browse through our CD's and see what else you can find that brings the printed page and filmed works together. Our CD's are on the second floor.

See you at the Library!

**Upcoming Events:** **Coffee and Crafts** begins this Friday from 10 – 12 and runs until Christmas. **Our Living Constitution Series** has one more scheduled, Wed. Sept. 25, at 6:30. **Luke Strider Jordan** is guest author Thursday, Oct. 3, at 6:30. He wrote **Thru and Back Again**, about hiking the entire North Country Trail, the longest scenic trail in the country. Don't miss this event. Keep track of us on FB and our website Calendar.