

WTBBL Recommended Reads: Page to Film



Let's revisit some of the books that have made it to the big screen! You may not have known that some of your favorite movies were inspired by these staff-recommended books. So grab some popcorn, pop the cap off a cold bottled beverage, and let's see if the movies do these books justice!

Atonement by Ian McEwan, 2001 ([BR014059](#), [DB054023](#))

It's 1935 and the hottest summer England has experienced in modern memory. Cecilia Tallis and Robbie Turner return to the Tallis family estate, having just completed their education at Cambridge. Robbie, the son of the Tallis' housekeeper, has been friends with Cecilia and her 13-year-old sister Briony since childhood, but this summer exposes burgeoning amorous feelings for Cecilia. Separated by class, their necessarily quiet affair is witnessed by Briony, whose creative imagination betrays them and whose actions haunt her the remainder of her life as she seeks atonement. – From a WTBBL Librarian

Close Range: Wyoming Stories by Annie Proulx, 1999. ([BR024280](#), [DB048276](#))

This collection of stories contains the famous "Brokeback Mountain" which inspired the award-winning film - Proulx's masterful language and fierce love of Wyoming are evident in this collection about loneliness, quick violence, and wrong kinds of love.

These are stories of desperation, hard times, and unlikely elation set in a landscape both brutal and magnificent. Enlivened by folktales, flights of fancy, and details of ranch and rural work, they juxtapose Wyoming's traditional character and attitudes, confrontation of tough problems, prejudice, persistence in the face of difficulty, with the more benign values of the new west.

Cloud Atlas by David Mitchell, 2004. ([BR020995](#), [DB064339](#))

Cloud Atlas begins in 1850 with Adam Ewing, an American notary voyaging from the Chatham Isles to his home in California. Along the way, Ewing is befriended by a physician, Dr. Goose, who begins to treat him for a rare species of brain parasite.... Abruptly, the action jumps to Belgium in 1931, where Robert Frobisher, a disinherited bisexual composer, contrives his way into the household of an infirm maestro who has a beguiling wife and a nubile daughter.... From there we jump to the West Coast in the 1970s and a troubled reporter named Luisa Rey, who stumbles upon a web of corporate greed and murder that threatens to claim her life.... And onward, with dazzling virtuosity, to an inglorious present-day England; to a Korean superstate of the near future where neo-capitalism has run amok; and, finally, to a post-apocalyptic Iron Age Hawaii in the last days of history.

But the story doesn't end even there. The narrative then boomerangs back through centuries and space, returning by the same route, in reverse, to its starting point. Along the way, Mitchell reveals how his disparate characters connect, how their fates intertwine, and how their souls drift across time like clouds across the sky. – From the Publisher

Crazy Rich Asians by Kevin Kwan, 2013. ([DB077099](#))

When Rachel Chu agrees to spend the summer in Singapore with her boyfriend, Nicholas Young, she envisions a humble family home, long drives to explore the island, and quality time with the man she might one

day marry. What she doesn't know is that Nick's family home happens to look like a palace, that she'll ride in more private planes than cars, and that with one of Asia's most eligible bachelors on her arm, Rachel might as well have a target on her back. Initiated into a world of dynastic splendor beyond imagination, Rachel meets Astrid, the It Girl of Singapore society; Eddie, whose family practically lives in the pages of the Hong Kong socialite magazines; and Eleanor, Nick's formidable mother, a woman who has very strong feelings about who her son should--and should not--marry. – From the Publisher

Daisy Jones & The Six by Taylor Jenkins Reid, 2019.
([BR022912](#), [DB094175](#))

Daisy is a girl coming of age in LA in the late '60s, sneaking into clubs on the Sunset Strip, sleeping with rock stars, and dreaming of singing at the Whisky a Go Go. The sex and drugs are thrilling, but it's the rock 'n' roll she loves most. By the time she's 20, her voice is getting noticed, and she has the kind of heedless beauty that makes people do crazy things. Also getting noticed is The Six, a band led by the brooding Billy Dunne. On the eve of their first tour, his girlfriend Camila finds out she's pregnant, and with the pressure of impending fatherhood and fame, Billy goes a little wild on the road. Daisy and Billy cross paths when a producer realizes that the key to supercharged success is to put the two together. What happens next will become the stuff of legend. – From the Publisher

Everything is Illuminated: A Novel by Jonathan Safran Foer, 2003. ([DB054448](#))

With only a yellowing photograph in hand, Jonathan sets out to find the woman who might, or might not have, saved his grandfather from the Nazis. Accompanied by an old man haunted by memories of the war, an amorous dog named Sammy Davis, Junior, Junior, and the unforgettable Alex - a young Ukrainian translator who speaks in a sublimely butchered English - Jonathan is led on a quixotic journey over a devastated landscape and into an unexpected past. As their adventure unfolds, Jonathan imagines the history of his grandfather's village, conjuring a magical fable of startling symmetries that unite generations across time. As his search moves back in time, the fantastical history moves forward, until reality collides with fiction in a heart-stopping scene of extraordinary power. – From the Publisher

The Godfather by Mario Puzo, 1969. ([BR001865](#), [DB025677](#), Spanish [DB011773](#))

With its brilliant and brutal portrayal of the Corleone family, *The Godfather* burned its way into our national consciousness. This unforgettable saga of crime and corruption, passion and loyalty continues to stand the test of time, as the definitive novel of the Mafia underworld. A #1 New York Times bestseller in 1969, Mario Puzo's epic was turned into the incomparable film of the same name, directed by Francis Ford Coppola, which won the Academy Award for Best Picture. It is the original classic that has been often imitated, but never matched. A tale of family

and society, law and order, obedience and rebellion, it reveals the dark passions of human nature played out against a backdrop of the American dream. – From the Publisher

The Green Mile by Stephen King, 1996 ([DB104301](#), Spanish [DBG18021](#))

Welcome to Cold Mountain Penitentiary, home to the Depression-worn men of E Block. Convicted killers all, each awaits his turn to walk the Green Mile, keeping a date with "Old Sparky," Cold Mountain's electric chair. Prison guard Paul Edgecombe has seen his share of oddities in his years working the Mile. But he's never seen anyone like John Coffey, a man with the body of a giant and the mind of a child, condemned for a crime terrifying in its violence and shocking in its depravity. In this place of ultimate retribution, Edgecombe is about to discover the terrible, wondrous truth about Coffey, a truth that will challenge his most cherished beliefs...and yours.

How Stella Got Her Groove Back by Terry McMillan, 1996. ([DB042803](#))

Stella Payne is 42, divorced, a high-powered investment analyst, mother of 11-year-old Quincy, and she does it all. In fact, if she doesn't do it, it doesn't get done. She does it all well too, if her chic house, personal trainer, BMW, and her loving son are any indication. So what if there's been no one to share her bed with lately, let alone rock her world? Stella doesn't mind it too much; she probably wouldn't have the energy for love - and all of love's nasty fallout - anyway.

But when Stella takes a spur-of-the-moment vacation to Jamaica, her world gets rocked to the core - not just by the relaxing effects of the sun and sea and an island full of attractive men, but by one man in particular. He's tall, lean, soft-spoken, Jamaican, smells of citrus and the ocean - and is half her age. The tropics have cast their spell and Stella soon realizes she has come to a cataclysmic juncture: not only must she confront her hopes and fears about love, she must question all of her expectations, passions, and ideas about life and the way she has lived it. – From the Publisher

The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins, 2008.

([BR018488](#), [DB068384](#), [LP024976](#))

Winning means fame and fortune. Losing means certain death. The Hunger Games have begun. . . . In the ruins of a place once known as North America lies the nation of Panem, a shining Capitol surrounded by twelve outlying districts. The Capitol is harsh and cruel and keeps the districts in line by forcing them all to send one boy and one girl between the ages of twelve and eighteen to participate in the annual Hunger Games, a fight to the death on live TV. Sixteen-year-old Katniss Everdeen regards it as a death sentence when she steps forward to take her sister's place in the Games. But Katniss has been close to dead before-and survival, for her, is second nature. Without really meaning to, she becomes a contender. But if she is to win, she will have to start making choices that weigh survival against humanity and life against love. – From the Publisher

The Mambo Kings Play Songs of Love by Oscar Hijuelos, 1989. ([DB030259](#), Spanish [DB046979](#))

It's 1949 and two young Cuban musicians make their way from Havana to the grand stage of New York City. It's the era of mambo, and the Castillo brothers become stars of the dance halls by night, where their orchestra plays the lush, sensuous, pulsing music that earns them the title of the Mambo Kings. This is their moment of youth, exuberance, love, and freedom—a golden time that decades later is remembered with nostalgia and deep affection. Adapted to a major motion picture in 1992, *The Mambo Kings*, it remains a perennial bestseller with the story's themes of cultural fusion and identity as relevant today as they were 25 years ago, proving Hijuelos's novel to be a genuine and timeless classic. – From the Publisher

The Power of the Dog by Thomas Savage, 1967. ([DB054111](#))

Set in the wide-open spaces of the American West, *The Power of the Dog* is a stunning story of domestic tyranny, brutal masculinity, and thrilling defiance from one of the most powerful and distinctive voices in American literature. The novel tells the story of two brothers—one magnetic but cruel, the other gentle and quiet—and of the mother and son whose arrival on the brothers' ranch shatters an already tenuous peace. From the novel's startling first paragraph to its very last word, Thomas Savage's voice—and the intense passion of his characters—holds listeners in thrall. – From the Publisher

The Price of Salt or "Carol" by Patricia Highsmith, 1952. ([BR021440](#), [DB083805](#))

This instant cult classic which inspired the award-winning film "Carol," and based on a true story in the author's life, focuses on the necessity of being true to one's nature. Carol, an alluring suburban housewife embroiled in a bitter divorce, shatters Therese's stifled, struggling, salesgirl existence when she appears in her life. Abandoning their oppressive daily routines for the freedom of the open road, where their love can blossom, their newly discovered bliss is jeopardized with the revelation that Carol must choose between her lover, or her child. – Compiled by WTBBL Staff

Slumdog Millionaire by Vikas Swarup, 2005. ([BR018105](#), [DB068427](#))

Originally released under the title "Q and A," and later re-named after the Academy Award-winning film, *Slumdog Millionaire* opens in a jail cell in Mumbai, where Ram Mohammad Thomas is being held after correctly answering all 12 questions on India's biggest quiz show, Who Will Win a Billion? It is hard to believe that a poor orphan who has never read a newspaper or gone to school could win such a contest. But through a series of exhilarating tales, Ram explains to his lawyer how episodes in his life gave him the answer to each question. In his warm-hearted tale lies all the comedy, tragedy, joy, and pathos of modern India. – From the Publisher

Stardust by Neil Gaiman, 1999. ([BR020931](#), [DB049777](#))

In the sleepy English countryside of decades past, there is a town that has stood on a jut of granite for 600 years. And immediately to the east stands a high stone wall, for which the village is named. Here in the town of Wall, Tristran Thorn has lost his heart to the hauntingly beautiful Victoria Forester. One crisp October night, as they watch, a star falls from the sky, and Victoria promises to marry Tristran if he'll retrieve the star and bring it back for her. It is this promise that sends Tristran through the only gap in the wall, across the meadow, and into the most unforgettable adventure of his life. – From the Publisher