



PATRICK MELROSE

PHOTO BY GEORGE KRAYCHYK/HULU

## TELEVISION

### Benedict Cumberbatch as a Tortured Upper Class Brit

If there's one show that characterizes the fact that money doesn't buy happiness, this is it. Benedict Cumberbatch plays the title character in Showtime's **Patrick Melrose**, a mini-series based on semi-autobiographical novels by English writer Edward St. Aubyn. The five-episode series follows the life of Patrick Melrose, a member of the British upper class riddled by trauma from his childhood and substance abuse issues. The series follows Melrose's ups and downs for a span of about 20 years, tackling bouts of infidelity, abuse, strained parental relationships and recovery. Due to its content, *Patrick Melrose* is less entertaining than it is harrowing. That said, it's not an entirely depressing show. It takes a realistic look about how trauma is passed on from generation to generation, and the lengths to which one must go to break that pattern. Cumberbatch, as always, does a wonderful job, truly encapsulating his character's anger, sadness, cunning and determination to not let the past dictate the future. All of *Patrick Melrose* is available on Hulu. — *Meerah Powell*

### What's Grandpa Up to This Week in Canada?

I'm eight seasons into the Canadian television show **Heartland** on Netflix. Episode after episode, the heartwarming adventures of horse trainer Amy, her hot boyfriend Ty and the whole Heartland ranch family somehow fail to grow old. And trust me, there are a lot of episodes — about 18 a season.

In a nutshell, Amy and older sister Lou's mom dies and the girls and grandpa are left shattered, with a ranch full of horses to train and juvenile delinquent (Ty) ranch hand as help. Luckily, with minor exceptions, nothing truly bad ever happens in *Heartland*, which is set somewhere around Alberta near the Canadian Rockies with a surprisingly not all-white cast (sorry Canada, I stereotyped you).

Adorable characters, adorable animals, adorable small children. *Heartland* is a light, fluffy Canadian antidote to a U.S. reality that makes me crabby most days of the week. Season 12 starts in winter 2019. — *Camilla Mortensen*

### A Dazzling Interpretation of the Classic Dystopian Novel

As a voracious reader and aficionado of the dystopian fiction genre, I have to admit that I was nervous when I learned that Hulu would be releasing a television adaption of the classic Margaret Atwood novel. Having read **The Handmaid's Tale** several times, I was unsure how the emotion and terror of living in Gilead could truly be translated on screen, and how the storyline would work as a series.

Season one came out on Hulu in 2017. I was instantly hooked. The adaptation is incredible, not losing a single molecule of the intense sentiments found in the book. Nine times out of 10, I will tell you the book is better when a story is presented in film, but with *The Handmaid's Tale*, I confidently say they are both equally harrowing and downright amazing.

The first season followed the book scene by scene and, given the current state of our nation, the parallels were scary at times. With the season finale, the show ends exactly how the book did. This is where things got really interesting for me — where would they go from here?



THE HANDMAID'S TALE

PHOTO BY GEORGE KRAYCHYK/HULU