

FROM  
COMPILERS

@TSHIRT3000  
AND  
@SHRIMPCHIPSSS

SO YOU'VE WATCHED  
THE

# HANDMAIDEN

Inclusion does not imply endorsement of themes or content contained therein.

# REVOLUTIONARY GIRL UTENA

fatesteeltaylor



Revolutionary Girl Utena!!! I think there's a lot of parallels between it and the handmaiden from how Utena is manipulated by Akio, how Anthy is the rose bride who is to be promised by anyone who wins the duel, and ultimately how they are both able to find freedom. It's a classic and a beautiful and heartbreaking but in the end, hopeful!

[https://media.tenor.com/dfaXym\\_nefwAAAAC/utena-tenjou.gif](https://media.tenor.com/dfaXym_nefwAAAAC/utena-tenjou.gif)

# AI NU (1972)

tshirt

response: my rec is ai nu (1972) aka intimate confessions of a chinese courtesan dir chor yuen. this is an old school hong kong exploitation film. *it is NOT feminist OR tasteful*. however it IS about lesbians killing people and i love it. basically ai nu is this girl who's um sold into prostitution to this madam, chun yi, who has the "yin yang ghost hands" which literally just means that she can do the killua hxxh thing where she reaches into your chest and grabs your heart. god i fucking love wuxia. anyway the two fall into a tempestuous affair but not before chun yi has ai nu whipped and then licks the blood off her back. this movie has everything. anyway the plot of the movie is ai nu killing a bunch of men in revenge but like hurting them in symbolically appropriate ways, like getting them to agree to bondage and then lighting them on fire. chun yi, as her lover, defends her, but WILL ai nu stay by her side to the end???.... like it's basically the handmaiden if feminism hadn't been invented yet and also if one of them was a milf and also they kinda hated each other. it's trashy it's camp it's drama it's everything.



FOOTNOTE

# ARRIVAL (2016), THE LIMEHOUSE GOLEM (2016), CRUEL INTENTIONS (1999)

catrin

On a basic and constant level I am always recommending Park Chan-wook's other films. All of them. As soon as you can. But to be a bit more specific, I would recommend trying: *Stoker* if you liked *The Handmaidens*' crime and mystery stuff; *Thirst* if you liked the twisty romance stuff; and *Joint Security Area*, just full stop, because I think it's deeply underrated and so good.

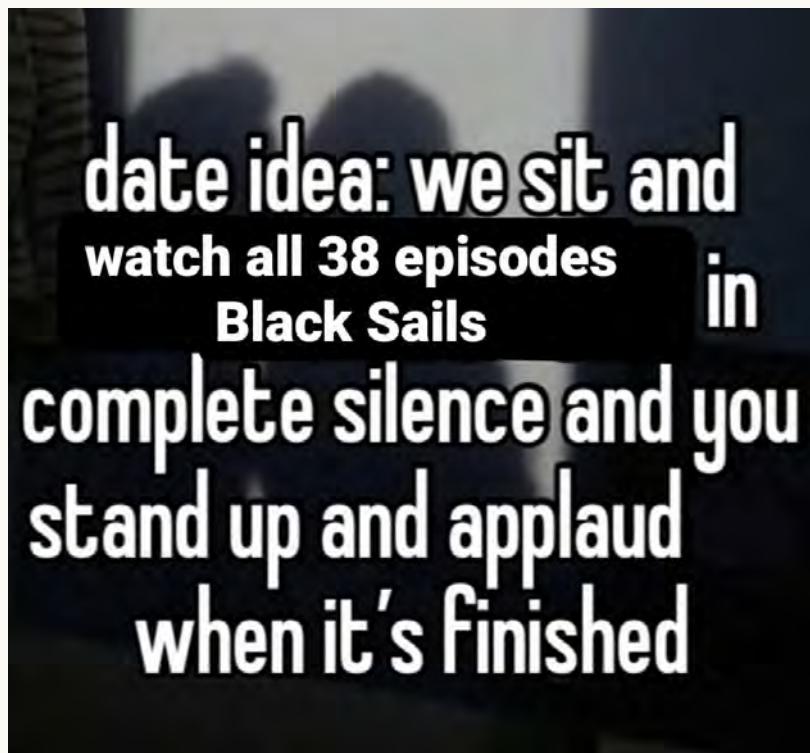
If you're into *The Handmaidens* then you can't go very wrong with Sarah Waters, who wrote the novel *The Handmaidens* is based on, but I'd like to particularly recommend *Affinity*. Saying more would be a spoiler, so I won't.

I've been thinking hard to try and come up with some films that make me /feel/ like *The Handmaidens* does. None of these are a particularly good fit, because *The Handmaidens* is a thing of its, so I'll keep it whistlestop:

- *Arrival* (incredible midpoint reveal. Otherwise deeply unrelated)
- *The Limehouse Golem* (like if *The Handmaidens* was British, not very good, and fundamentally silly. I love this film btw)
- *Cruel Intentions* (this is sort of a joke but also, it's got passion, it's got using people, it's got complicated/messed up relationships, it's got revenge, all of which is very *The Handmaidens* core. A slightly more serious take on this recommendation is the 2012 '*Dangerous Liaisons*' film adaptation)

# BLACK SAILS

shrimpchipsss



If you're into backstabbing and double crossing and murder and mysteries and the way patriarchal violence fucks everyone up and lesbian retreat from patriarchal violence and also Stories you gotta watch Black Sails. Unfortunately I will turn anything into a chance to recommend Black Sails which has buffeted my psyche around for the past year and completely unmoored me. It's funny that people know of it as part of the bucket of gay pirate media because it's not gay in a yay love wins! kind of way; it is about how love is not enough. But we've got a fantastic ensemble cast and there is some nice gay subtext and also gay myth and also gay reality and some of my favorite scheming lesbian characters of all time hello MAX (there's a lot more of it all after the first season which leans more oOoOo pirate themed male power fantasy so we can get the game of thrones viewers, you'll get it if you decide to watch). But yeah if you're into The Handmaiden for the way it's about history and race and empire and power. Also lesbian bath scenes. Black Sails has it.

<https://blacksailsgf.tumblr.com/post/701723706920189953>

note: if no one recs saving face as "so you watched the handmaiden and want something comforting?" i was considering that too

# BOUND (1996)

k milfjingu



bound (1996)!!! because it's a thriller where two women have a love affair before collaborating to save the woman who's in a terrible situation and to fuck over abusive men. and they look Very sexy while doing it

<https://encrypted-tbn0.gstatic.com/images?q=tbn:ANd9GcSKOhvvicMo3FkjZLsrdTX9lM7lInn5tSk1g&usqp=CAU>

# UMINEKO

CEL



<https://64.media.tumblr.com/090ceb0928224aac29a0467ae0823149/e72a0cc64f235470-0b/s500x750/586de95c9b82c37a0b9e851b04d71e6e2c0006b9.pnj>

# DOROHEDORO

spec hydrochaeris3

dorohedoro, self explanatory.



# FRIED GREEN TOMATOES AT THE WHISTLE STOP CAFE

spec ! @hydrochaeris3

pls imagine image of fried green tomato

OK ik i already submitted one but i canNOT believe i forgot FRIED GREEN TOMATOES AT THE WHISTLE STOP CAFE. seminal piece of lesbian revenge fiction. ive only read the book btw so i cannot vouch for the movie. if you watched the handmaiden (2016) because you dont enjoy looking at white women i must tell you in the movie there will be white women to see. consider this your warning. anyway i read this book when i was like 7 bc it was in my grandparents' house probably bc oprah recommended it and it Changed Me. also explains a lot about who i am as a person in general.

# BACARAU (2019)

lila



ok so i'm sure danielle knows what i will recc but i'm here to say that you guys need to watch "bacurau (2019)". it's a brazilian movie that mixes surrealism, suspense, sci-fi, western movies element and a looooot of social criticism. it's a whole fruit salad! but to summarize it: the film talks about the city "bacurau", located in the northeastern hinterland of the country (our poorest region). since it's as it is a very poor and isolated place, it is absolutely difficult to get anything (food, clean water, basic sanitation, etc) and this creates an union between the villagers giving them a sense of proudness. until, one day, a teacher shows the children where bacurau should be located on the map... there's nothing there! one day, bacurau stopped existing to the rest of the country, and we'll slowly find the reason why 🙄

my phone is being a bitch and not letting me link anything BUT!! if you guys google "sonia braga bacurau" you'll find an iconic scene where domingas (sonia braga's character, who's a docter) is covered in blood. that's the mood we're going for here

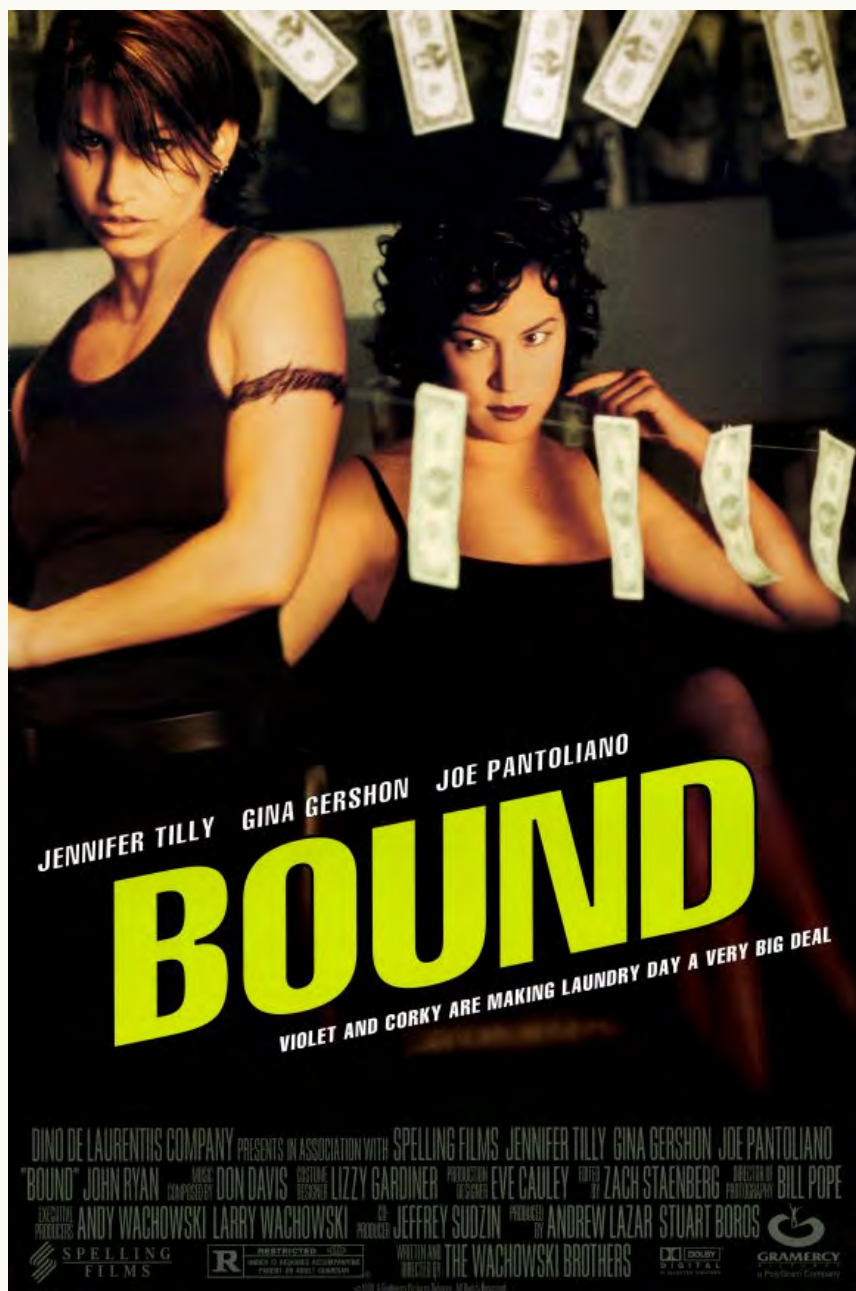
# REVOLUTIONARY GIRL UTENA

anthypilled

revolutionary girl utena. if u like narrative deconstructions, sapphic subterfuge, mutual betrayal, complex female relationships, breaking out of cycles of incestual abuse, and messages about finding solace and freedom in lesbian love, and medias with a lot of rewatch value like the handmaiden, then oh boy do i hav a cult classic for u

# BOUND (1996)

lindsay @yamabato



BOUND (1996) is the lesbian neo-noir heist film ever. scamming the mafia out of millions of dollars. joey pants at his sweaty and unhinged best. gina gershon swilling beer in a white tank top. a complex connection between two women built upon their flaws and differences where the probably more obvious conclusion to their union would be mutual destruction but love and trust develops there instead. did i mention the white tank top bc gina gershon's arms are insane in this

<https://imgur.com/a/B1qu6zm>

# LIGAW-TINGIN: KALIPUNANG KOMIX NG PAGMAMAHALANG MARILAG (2018) KOMIX ANTHOLOGY

pinya

"LIGAW-TINGIN: Kalipunang Komix ng Pagmamahalang Marilag  
(2018)

komix anthology

published by Gantala Press

<https://gantalapress.org/portfolio/ligaw-tingin/>

so the most striking thing to me about the handmaiden was the gaze,  
the way that sook-hee and hideko would watch and look at each other.

the literal translation of ligaw tingin from tagalog to english would be  
"courting look" and this collection, as the introduction says is  
comprised of eight komix that show "desire and love visible in the way  
women glance, stare at, and observe fellow women." [1]

my favorite line in the introduction is "if the male gaze is inclined to  
claim, to silence, to revoke agency, its opposite is the female gaze. the  
gaze of a woman is revolutionary: it frees, it seduces, it gives strength.  
in a quick word: it courts. it waits for the sweet "yes"—it does not  
force." [2]

the gaze of a woman is revolutionary!!!

okay the thing about this is also that it was published by a small  
volunteer-run press and the issue is access; i'm not sure this is  
something people can find because it was printed in a small print run  
and there isn't a digital copy available. but i still want people to know  
it exists!

p.s. i also don't have my copy right now so please bear with my citations being incomplete

[1] original tagalog: pagnanasa at pag-ibig na kitang-kita sa pagsulyap, pagsipat, at pagmasid ng babae sa kapwa babae

[2] original tagalog: kung ang pagtingin ng lalake sa babae ay mapang-angkin, mapanahimik, at mapangbawi ng ahensiya, taliwas nito and female gaze. Rebolusyonaryo ang pagtingin ng babae: mapaglaya, nanunuyo, nagbibigay-lakas. Sa madaling salita: nanliligaw. Naghihintay ng matamis na ""oo""— hindi namimilit. "



<https://gantapressorg.files.wordpress.com/2019/02/ligawtingin-frontcover.jpg?w=570>

PORTRAIT OF A LADY  
ON FIRE (2019),  
THOROUGHBREDS  
(2017), BOUND (1996),  
THE FAVORITE (2018),  
MULHOLLAND DRIVE  
(2001), HEATHERS  
(1989)

@ganseycore on twitter @mograa on tumblr

if you like the beautiful women yearning part of the handmaiden -  
portrait of a lady on fire. if you just want to see women act crazy  
(literally) for each other and commit crimes - thoroughbreds. lesbians  
who scam men together, stay together - bound. messy lesbian drama  
in a period piece - the favorite. psychosexual drama - mulholland  
drive. there is murder and a man acting insane and a woman who  
wins in the end - heathers.

# THE HOUSEMAID (1960), MEMENTO MORI (1999)

chrevints @kuvroe

watching the handmaiden left a gaping hole in my heart for more korean girl yaoi cinema. if this happened to you as well, then my condolences. i am here to fix that by filling up that hole with cement. and also two korean girl yaoi cinema recs.

do YOU wish the handmaiden had more girl-on-girl violence? do YOU wish it leaned further into the class disparities between sook-hee and tamako and the reversal of their identities/social roles outside of that horny as hell dress-up scene? then you should watch the housemaid (1960). in the film, a korean middle class family with rat poison in their kitchen cupboard hires a housemaid, and everything proceeds to go to shit.

do YOU wish sook-hee and tamako were more toxic to each other? do YOU wish they further blurred the boundaries between where one girl's identity ended and the other began? then you should watch memento mori (1999). a schoolgirl discovers a cursed diary that details the relationship between two of her peers, who were ostracized for being gay. also, someone insults one of the characters by telling her "you smell like a lesbian."

please talk to me about these movies.



