ENTERTAINMENT & MEDIA

anne of green gables movie series in order

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Quick Takeaways: How to Watch Anne

- The Gold Standard: The Kevin Sullivan series starring Megan Follows (1985–2008) is the most beloved adaptation.
- Chronological Order: Start with the 1985 original, followed by The Sequel, The Continuing Story, and A New Beginning.
- The Modern Vision: The 2016-2017 trilogy starring Ella Ballentine offers a condensed, updated look.
- The Reimagining: 'Anne with an E' (Netflix) is a long-form series rather than a movie franchise, focusing on grit and realism.
- Vintage Treasures: The 1934 RKO film is a significant piece of cinematic history for completists.

Introduction to the World of Avonlea

For over a century, Lucy Maud Montgomery's red-headed heroine, Anne Shirley, has captured the hearts of readers worldwide. Since the first novel's publication in 1908, the world of Avonlea, Prince Edward Island, has been reimagined across various media. However, for many fans, the cinematic adaptations are where the magic truly comes to life. Navigating the **Anne of Green Gables movie series in order**can be complex due to the sheer volume of adaptations spanning from 1919 to the present day.

In this masterclass guide, we will break down every cinematic iteration of the series, providing you with the exact viewing order, historical context, and production details to ensure you have the most enriching experience possible. Whether you are a "Kindred Spirit" seeking a nostalgic re-watch or a newcomer curious about the hype, this guide is your roadmap to the world of Green Gables.

Foundational Concepts: Understanding the Adaptations

Before diving into the chronological lists, it is essential to understand that there is no single, continuous "movie series" that covers all the books. Instead, there are several distinct eras of production, each with its own continuity and tone.

The Sullivan Universe vs. The Rest

The name **Kevin Sullivan**is synonymous with Anne of Green Gables for a generation. Sullivan Entertainment produced the 1985 miniseries that defined the visual language of the franchise. While other adaptations exist, the Sullivan films are often treated as the "standard" timeline. Understanding the distinction between these productions and the more recent 2016 trilogy or the Netflix series is crucial for any viewer.

The Source Material: L.M. Montgomery's Novels

The original book series consists of eight novels (and two related collections). Most movies only adapt the first three books: *Anne of Green Gables*, *Anne of Avonlea*, and *Anne of the Island*. Later movies, such as *The Continuing Story*, often deviate significantly from the original text, moving into original storylines not found in Montgomery's prose.

The Kevin Sullivan Series: The Iconic Viewing Order

This is the most popular way to experience the movies. Starring Megan Follows as Anne Shirley, this series spans decades of the character's life. To experience the narrative arc correctly, you must follow the production release order, which also serves as the internal chronology (with the exception of the final film's flashbacks).

1. Anne of Green Gables (1985)

Originally aired as a two-part miniseries, this film covers Anne's arrival at Green Gables, her rivalry with Gilbert Blythe, and her growing bond with Matthew and Marilla Cuthbert. It is widely considered the greatest adaptation ever made.

2. Anne of Green Gables: The Sequel (1987)

Often referred to as *Anne of Avonlea* in certain markets, this film combines elements from the second, third, and fourth books. It follows Anne as a young teacher at a ladies' college and explores her deepening relationship with Gilbert. This film is the pinnacle of the romantic subplots within the series.

3. Anne of Green Gables: The Continuing Story (2000)

This third installment takes a sharp turn away from the books. Set during World War I, it follows Anne as she searches for Gilbert in Europe. While it received mixed reviews from book purists, it remains a vital part of the Megan Follows continuity.

4. Anne of Green Gables: A New Beginning (2008)

This is both a sequel and a prequel. Barbara Hershey takes over the role of an older Anne, who reflects on her life before arriving at Green Gables. While Megan Follows does not appear, it is technically the conclusion of the Sullivan saga.

The Modern Era: The Ella Ballentine Trilogy (2016–2017)

If you are looking for a more contemporary production with modern cinematography, the 2016-2017 movies are your best bet. These were produced by Breakthrough Entertainment and aired on PBS/YTV.

1. L.M. Montgomery's Anne of Green Gables (2016): A faithful retelling of the first half of the first book, introducing Martin Sheen as a gentle, soulful Matthew Cuthbert.
2. Anne of Green Gables: The Good Stars (2017): Focuses on Anne's adolescent years and her academic ambitions.
3. Anne of Green Gables: Fire & Dew (2017): Follows Anne as she moves to the city to attend Queen's College and navigates the transition into adulthood.

Comparative Table: Every Major Anne Adaptation

Production Title	Release Year	Lead Actress	Platform/Format	Book Faithfulness
Anne of Green Gables	1919	Mary Miles Minter	Silent Film (Lost)	Moderate

Methodologies: How to Watch Like an Expert

Depending on your goal, there are three primary ways to consume the **Anne of Green Gables movie series in order**. Here is our expert recommendation for each approach.

Method A: The Purist Path (Chronological Publication)

If you want to see how cinema's interpretation of Anne evolved over a century, watch in this order:

- 1934 Feature Film
- 1985 Miniseries
- 2016 Movie Trilogy
- 2017 Netflix Series (Anne with an E)

Method B: The Narrative Arc (The Sullivan Marathon)

For those who want to fall in love with the characters and see them grow old, stick strictly to the Sullivan timeline. Block out a full weekend, as the first two films alone total nearly 8 hours of content. This is the most emotionally resonant way to watch.

Method C: The Thematic Comparison

Watch the first film/episode of the 1985 version, the 2016 version, and the 2017 Netflix version back-to-back. This allows you to see how different directors interpret the same scenes, such as "The Slate Incident" or "The Raspberry Cordial," providing a fascinating look at changing cultural values in television.

The Expanded Universe: Spin-offs and Related Media

The world of Avonlea extends beyond Anne Shirley. To fully immerse yourself in the universe, you should consider these related productions:

Road to Avonlea (1990–1996)

While not strictly "Anne movies," this series is set in the same town and features many of the same actors and sets. It is a masterpiece of period television and occasionally features cameos from characters like Rachel Lynde and Marilla Cuthbert. For many fans, this is the "hidden season" of the Anne movies.

An Ocean Away (An Avonlea Story)

This is a lesser-known spin-off that focuses on the secondary characters of the Sullivan universe. It helps flesh out the history of Prince Edward Island during the late Victorian era.

Advanced Strategies for Collectors and Super-Fans

To truly master the Anne of Green Gables filmography, you must understand the complexities of international releases and "Director's Cuts."

The 1985 series was originally filmed in a 4:3 aspect ratio for television. Modern Blu-ray releases often crop the image to 16:9 for widescreen TVs. For the most authentic experience, seek out the "Original Aspect Ratio" editions

to ensure you aren't losing the beautiful P.E.I. landscapes at the top and bottom of the frame.

Locating the "Lost" 1919 Film

The 1919 silent film is currently considered a "lost film," meaning no known copies exist in archives. However, film historians frequently find lost prints in private collections. Keeping an eye on the *L.M. Montgomery Institute* newsletters is the best way to stay informed about any potential discoveries or reconstructions using surviving stills.

Common Pitfalls and Troubleshooting

When searching for the **Anne of Green Gables movie series in order**, viewers often fall into these common traps:

- The Title Confusion: The 1987 film is called "The Sequel" in the US/Canada but is often titled "Anne of Avonlea" elsewhere. They are the same movie.
- The Book Disconnect: Don't expect The Continuing Story (2000) to follow the books. It is set in WWI, whereas in the books, Anne is much older during the war, and her sons go to fight.
- Animated Versions: There are several animated series (including a famous Japanese Anime by Isao Takahata). These are excellent but have a separate continuity from the live-action movies.

Real-World Blueprint: Hosting an Anne Movie Marathon

Want to organize a viewing event? Follow this blueprint for a "Kindred Spirit" gathering:

1. Atmosphere: Decorate with puffed sleeves, dried flowers, and old books.
2. The Menu: Serve raspberry cordial (non-alcoholic), currant scones (check for liniment!), and chicken salad.
3. The Schedule: Start with the 1985 film at 10:00 AM. Break for tea. Watch the first half of The Sequel. End with a discussion of whether Gilbert Blythe is the ultimate literary crush.
4. Trivia: Prepare a list of differences between the 1985 script and the original novel to keep the conversation lively.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Final Thoughts on the Legacy of Anne

The enduring popularity of the **Anne of Green Gables movie series**speaks to the universal themes of belonging, imagination, and the power of nature. Whether you prefer the nostalgic warmth of the 1980s adaptations or the sharp, modern realism of recent versions, there is an Anne for everyone. By following the orders outlined in this guide, you can ensure that your journey through Avonlea is as magical as the first time Anne Shirley stepped off the train at Bright River station.

Remember, as Anne herself says, "Ahead are the bends in the road." Each adaptation is simply a different bend, offering a new perspective on a character who remains, after all these years, a true Kindred Spirit.

Tags: #anne of green gables #movie series order #l.m. montgomery #kevin sullivan #period drama #megan follows #film chronology