



“Let me recommend this film...”

Some notes on *Enola Holmes*

By Peter E. Blau

It’s easy enough to assume that everyone who wants to see the Netflix movie *Enola Holmes* has already seen it, but if you aren’t a subscriber to Netflix, and would like to see the film, you can take advantage of their one-month free trial subscription and see what so many others have seen. Just be sure that you unsubscribe if you don’t want to be billed when the free trial ends.

Netflix also offers many other Sherlockian films and television series, as well as a lot of other content that might be of interest. The company has come a long way from the days when it was happy to mail subscribers DVDs that could be exchanged for other DVDs.



Enola Holmes, the younger sister of Mycroft and Sherlock Holmes, was created by [Nancy Springer](#) in *The Case of the Missing Marquess* (2006), the first of six [Enola Holmes Mysteries](#). The series was discovered by the young English actor [Millie Bobby Brown](#), who decided to produce and star in an Enola Holmes film.

No spoilers here, for the benefit of those who have yet to see the film, but she found an excellent cast and crew and wound up with an imaginative script and impressive performances from her supporting actors. There’s a lot

of fun to be had, unless you're among those who believe that Sherlockian films should not in any way deviate from what we read in the Canon.

Enola Holmes was praised by almost all the critics at [Rotten Tomatoes](#), and it has been in the top ten most-viewed Netflix films in the 76 countries in which the company operates. Some reviewers described the film as worthy of being the start of a franchise; it seems quite likely that there will be at least one sequel, and of course it's nice that there are five more books in the series.

There also are dueling lawsuits over the film. The Conan Doyle Estate, Ltd. (which is a corporation rather than anyone's estate), filed a lawsuit against just about everyone connected with the film, as the CDEL did a few years ago, just before Ian McKellen's *Mr. Holmes* was released in theaters. That case was settled out of court, but this time the producers of *Enola Holmes* filed a countersuit demanding a jury trial. You can read the documents in the case at [Free Sherlock](#), the website created by Les Klinger after he won a lawsuit against the CDEL in 2014. Les also has filed opposing a trademark application by the CDEL.

Nancy Springer, who was born in New Jersey and grew up in Pennsylvania, worked for a time in Emmitsburg, Md., and thus almost is local. She was interviewed recently on WTOP-FM, and you can read about and hear what she had to say about her books and the film [at the station's website](#).