



My streaming series hit parade for the housebound

In the world before The Virus, most of us spent far too much time talking about the films and the series we were streaming. The Virus has changed all that. Now, through social media and phone calls, folks begin by updating and commiserating with each other about The Virus. Then, they get to the heart of the matter: the films and series they are currently streaming. As a public service to loyal readers, LBL presents the following, her all-time favourite shows.

Schitt's Creek: This is her #1 series of all time. If there were a category higher than #1, this show would inhabit it. It makes her laugh like nothing else does, and it touches her heart like nothing else does. Mostly, she sits and marvels at the over-the-top brilliance of the writing, and the slowly evolving humanity of the clueless, entitled members of the Rose family. This one is for the ages.

Friday Night Lights: Years later, LBL still thinks about those kids in that small, Texas town and wonders what they are up to. This show has more heart than anything she has ever seen. Ever.

This is Us: LBL is blown away by the dialogue, the acting, the heart. There are scenes that will stay with

Renee Fisher
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her for the rest of her life, long after she has lost the ability to remember how to tie shoes or button a shirt. This show isn't about a family. It's about every single one of us in one way or another. It's about the choices we make and the lives we create, both because of those choices and in spite of them.

The Wire: If anyone had told her that a show about the drug trade in a large city could be so compelling, she wouldn't have believed it. It made every single character, good or bad, victim or perpetrator, real and compelling, as though they were all somehow personally connected to her. She felt like she was seeing see parts of life she wasn't supposed to see, then being dared not to care deeply.

The Killing, Season 1: The set up: Two detectives in a perpetually rain-soaked Seattle, trying to find a missing teenage girl. It's way beyond a detective story. It's a look at people, I mean a real look, beyond the trappings and the expectations of who you think these people are or should be. It's a revelation.

Seven Seconds: It's stunning how impacted LBL was by this. She was emotionally destroyed by the telling of a mother trying to get justice for her son, against the backdrop of a society created to dismiss both her and him. It brought up every injustice LBL had ever read about or seen. But it also never had her lose hope in human resilience. When all else is lost, this is what we have.

The Handmaid's Tale: Dystopian. Chilling. Infuriating. Terrifying. Absolutely, completely terrifying. LBL has never been so rattled in her life as watching this. It's even worse to be watching this with the current American administration as background. It's a terrifyingly brilliant show

Game of Thrones: There has already been way too much written about this show. There's a reason for that. LBL will simply say: WATCH IT.

House of Cards: (Every season except the last) This series grabbed LBL and wouldn't let go. It felt like a behind-the-scenes look at everything a government can do to avoid serving the people who put it in place (she won't say the predictable here). Kevin Spacey is a brilliant actor, and when he spoke to the audience, LBL was rooted to her seat. It's like being abducted by aliens ("I hate being here but I am incapable of protesting. Have your way with me"). LBL still mourns how Spacey turned out to be an SOB in real life, as well as in the series.

Breaking Bad: LBL had to start this show three times before she could get through the first 15 minutes. She kept plugging away because close friends who raved about it made her feel somehow inferior that they knew something she didn't. After she got through the first 15, she was a fan for life. Is it the best show ever in the history of the world? Might be.

There are lots of other shows LBL dearly loves (24, Homeland, Killing Eve, and on and on) but the ones on the list did more than entertain her. They told her a little bit more about herself.

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