



NOBLE HEART  
FILMS



# Monterey

based on the novel **MONTEREY BAY** by Lindsay Hatton

In 1940, a gifted and serious-minded teen, **Margot Fiske**, plunges into the mayhem of John Steinbeck's Cannery Row, as his partner-in-crime, **Ed Ricketts**, a charismatic scientist and bohemian, becomes her romantic obsession.



# Monterey

**Monterey** is a love letter to 1940's California that explores a vanished time and place - how *Mad Men* explores 1950's NYC or *The Crown* explores life as a royal in the second half of 20th century.

A coming-of-age (and growing-old) love story driven by sex, ambition, greed and our desperate need for others.



# Cannery Row

Cannery Row is Monterey's famous waterfront street, named for the sardine canning factories that line the shore. It's a main character in the series, as it was in Steinbeck's book named after the street.

In 1940, Monterey Bay was a boomtown in its industrial heyday. A new frontier, dangerous and seductive.

Factories were mostly run by Sicilians. And the streets were filled with screaming immigrant workers protesting unfair and unsafe working conditions.

**Monterey** is a story about this celebrated town's coming of age as well. The fishing industry is at its peak (and about to take a nosedive).





She's bright, strait-laced, headstrong.  
From certain angles she seems 16,  
but from some she seems 20.

She's an *artist*, always with  
sketchbook in hand. And a perceptive  
*businesswoman* with a strategic mind  
and deep understanding of people.

She's dragged to Monterey by her  
father's business. Once there, she's  
torn by conflicting wants: to win his  
respect, and to break away entirely.  
She's restless and frustrated by the  
expectations of girlhood.

# Margot Fiske





# Ed Ricketts

He's a charismatic bohemian, a romantic soul, a fountain of philosophy, science, and art. He also parties and drinks far too much. And he's preoccupied by women and sex.

He wants to share his knowledge and passion with the world and get Monterey to see that the way they treat the environment is unsustainable. Margot's father needs Ricketts' support in his business ventures, and so Margot is asked to help gain his trust.





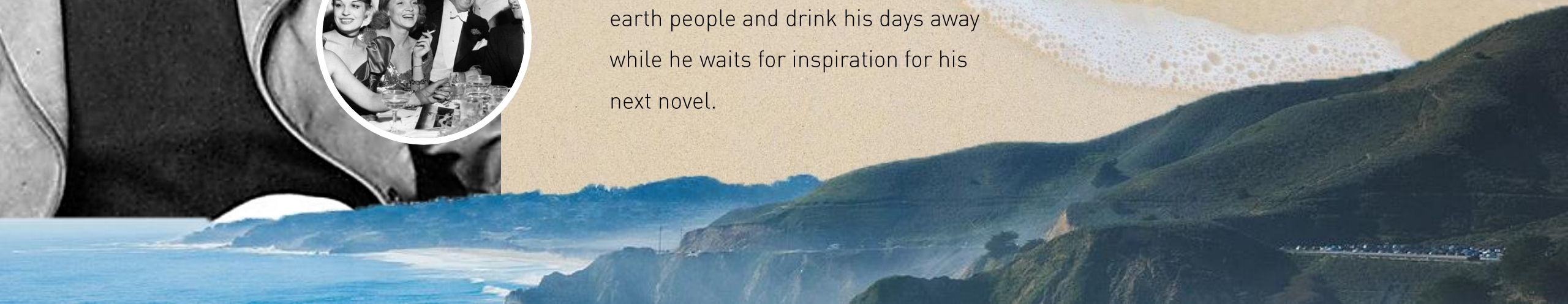
# John Steinbeck



Steinbeck is Ricketts' close friend and funds his lab. He is at the pinnacle of his success but hates how it impacts his creativity and solitude. And he's in the middle of a contentious divorce.

He wants nothing more than to hide away in Ricketts' lab with salt-of-the-earth people and drink his days away while he waits for inspiration for his next novel.

He's a constant voyeur in this world, as if he's constantly taking mental notes for future characters. A volatile, frustrated drunk at this point in his life whose short temper and paranoia often stops the party cold.





**Anders, Margot's father,** is a savvy, eccentric entrepreneur - a model of ambition and efficiency.

Margot has been his apprentice all over the world as they move from nation to nation, business to business. Margot's mother died in childbirth, and as a father, he is unsentimental and distant.

His unique skill is identifying industries that might be well-suited for change, and he uses their infrastructures to support new sources of income.

He purchased a coffee plant in Bolivia and switched it over to chocolate production. In the Philippines, he transformed mango orchards into tobacco fields.

**And now he's got similar plans in Monterey...**

# Anders Fiske



# Anders' Plan



Anders has moved to Monterey to purchase the largest cannery in town. He believes their industry will soon go bust because they are overfishing. And when that happens, what will remain in Monterey? It's *beauty*...

And he knows he can profit from it. The travel industry will be Monterey's future. He'll buy a water-front cannery and construct the coast's number one tourist destination: **the Fiske aquarium**. The largest, most famous in the world. And then hotels... cruises... casinos...





# The Agnellis

The cannery is owned and run by **Mrs. Agnelli** and her five sons. Monterey's most powerful and ruthless family, even though her husband is on death's door. When they came to Monterey from Sicily, they started from the bottom and now their home sat at the top of the hills, overlooking the Bay.

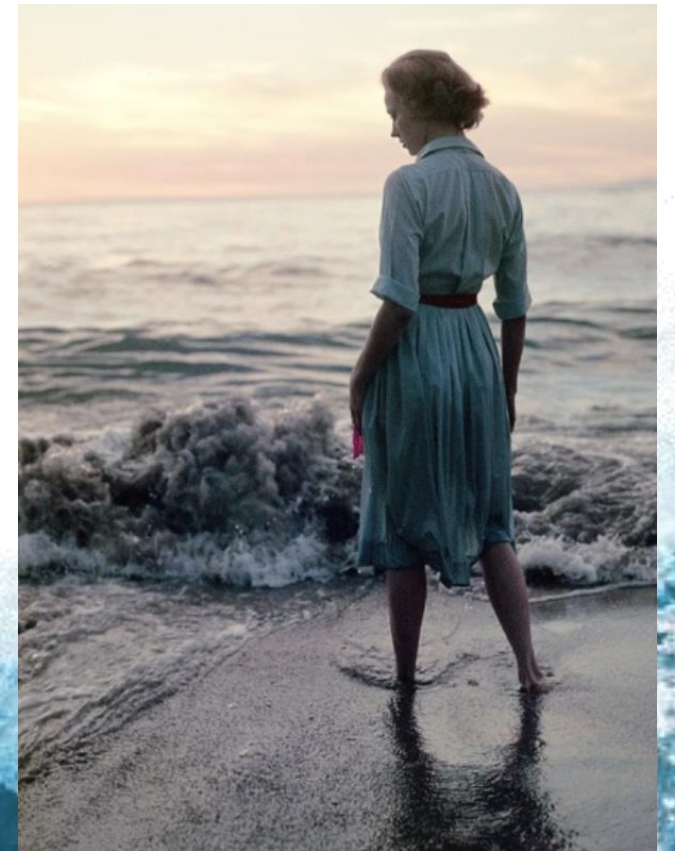
She resists selling to Anders, who just arrived in town, is not a natural fisherman and doesn't know how things work in Monterey.





First step of Anders' plan? Impress Ed Ricketts, whose lab is across from the Agnelli's cannery. Ricketts is the town's self-proclaimed expert on everything sea-related. And the only one in town who agrees with Anders-- that they're overfishing and business is about to go bust. Anders hires Ricketts to give Margot a tour of the tide pools, so she can forge a relationship with him.

Upon first meeting, Margot hates Ricketts as he ogles her and flirts. He teases that Anders must not have much respect for her if he's been hired to babysit and she doesn't know his plans. Eventually she's had enough. She stomps off on a dangerous path and tumbles up the slick, jagged rocks. **She falls hard, hitting the rocks face first, knocking her unconscious...**



# Margot's Accident





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After her fall, Ricketts nurses Margot back to health. Her sketchbook fell out of her satchel when she fell. In it, Margot's many beautiful drawings. As her father comes to pick her up, Ricketts suggests that perhaps **Margot could work for him** given Ricketts needs drawings for his catalog.

Anders apologizes for the trouble and agrees that she can help handle Ricketts' business matters. Allowing him to set his plan in motion as Margot becomes a spy at both Ricketts' lab and the Agnelli cannery.



# Ricketts' Proposal





As Margot uses her artistry and business savvy to help Ricketts' lab, she's drawn into his tumultuous, exuberant world and the audience is invited to go back in time and join the party.

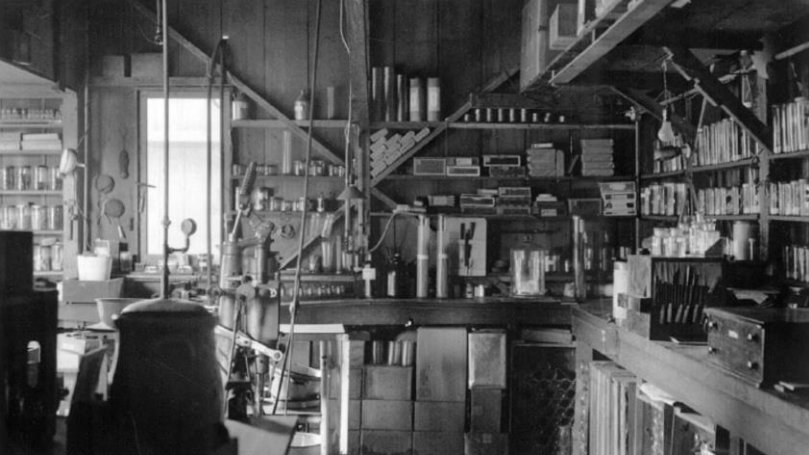
The lab is a gathering place for colorful locals, and at night his lab hosts raucous celebrations that rival those of the roaring 20s and can be heard halfway up the hill. Public sex, fist fights, and blaring jazz music. Musicians, scientists, poets. LA actresses in town to seduce Steinbeck and off-duty prostitutes from the brothel next door.

# Joy & Pain of Excess

Ricketts can hardly control the pandemonium as he tries to party away the pain and suffering caused by his father's death and a recent fire that destroyed nearly everything he owned.







# Ricketts' Lab



A one-of-a-kind location, made of weathered wood, crammed between canneries.

Rickett's **basement** is a storage room with shelves to the ceiling loaded with jars of preserved animals. There's a sink and tools for embalming. Animals most will recognize-- turtles, crabs, squids- and others we'll discover-- anemones, tunicates, urchins.

A **library** which is essentially an aquarium room: microscopes, work benches, chemicals. And a **living room** where they host the wildest parties in Monterey.

Next door - an untended, weedy lot, filled with old rusted boilers where vagrants stay. Across the street, there's the Agnelli Cannery, a Chinese grocery store, and a brothel.



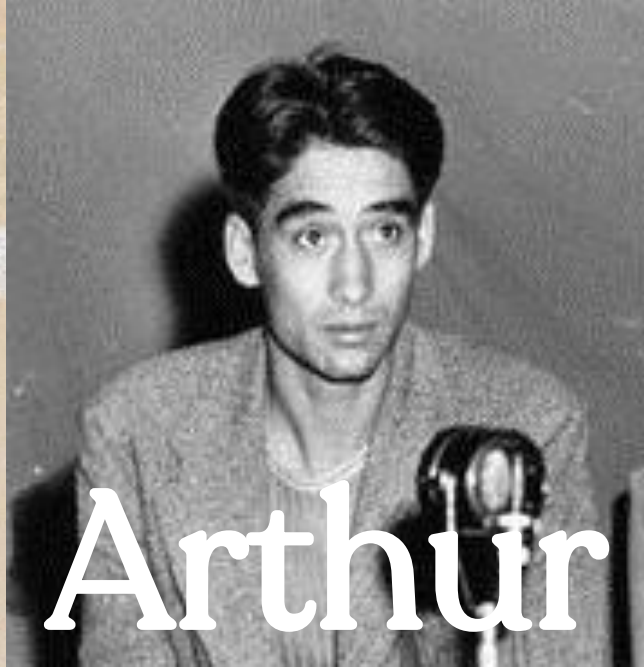
# Prostitutes & Vagrants

Ricketts often hosts a group of neighborhood vagrants with no families, no money, and no ambitions beyond food, drink, and pleasure. Led by a charming, kind-hearted trickster named **Bucky**.

Across the street is a brothel and the prostitutes often attend Ricketts' parties on their nights off. Ricketts has a particularly close relationship with one in particular - the boisterous Madame, **Flora**, who oversees the ladies.

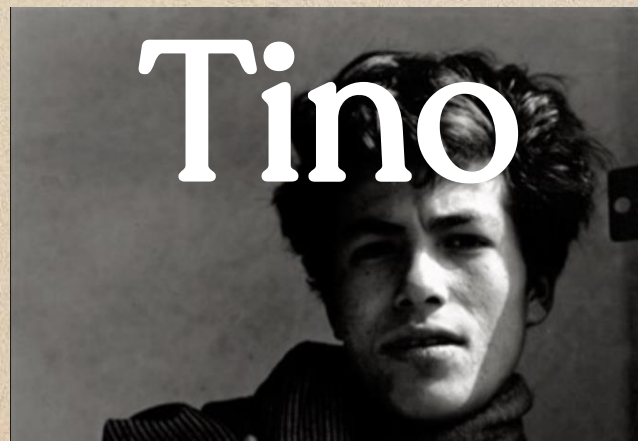






A dustbowl orphan. He came to Monterey to try and make a living in the canneries, but prefers spending time in Ricketts' lab, aiding the scientist in whatever he needs. He quickly falls for Margot and worries that she's not ready for Ricketts and his world.

Mrs. Agnelli's youngest Son, Tino, is a troubled young man who befriends Margot as their parents do business. Tino resents that he was born with poor health so he can't handle working the canneries like his brothers. His mother totes him around instead, an heir or a prop, depending on who they meet. Tino advises Margot that only way either of them will truly succeed and be happy in life if they escape their parents.



A level-headed, confident young woman, wise beyond her years, who works in the lab. She's married and cheating on her husband with Ricketts. Frustrated with her life outside the lab, she wants as much of Ricketts' attention as she can get - and she wants to help him be an even better version of himself.





# A Complex Love Story

Throughout the series, Margot and Ricketts engage in a battle of intellects that stirs their hearts and souls. They shake up each other's worldviews and change one another, and like all complex love stories, there are moments of darkness and destructive results.

It drives Ricketts to achieve new heights in his scientific research... but ultimately curses his personal life. Margot's influence on Ricketts begins to create a notable rift between he and Steinbeck, causes conflict with Wormy who views Margot as a child, and causes resentment in Arthur, who quickly falls in love with Margot as well.

It transforms Margot equally, as Ricketts encourages her artistry, a pursuit her father disapproves of. She begins to earn her financial independence spending time at the nearby brothel crafting and selling pornographic drawings. She drifts away from her father, who she learns has a secret past in Monterey and scandalous reasons for returning. And she faces a crisis of conscience when Mrs. Agnelli gives her the opportunity to betray her father to serve her own interests...

And finally, their relationship sets in motion a chain of events that affects not just the two of them, but the future of Monterey itself.



# Frame Device:

## Future Margot Looking Back



This coming of age story is told through the lens of present-day Margot. She maneuvered her way through a complicated male-dominated world in the 1940's and bares her scars (both mental and physical) from those days gone by. In the present, we learn she is the foundress of the world-famous Monterey Aquarium, raising the question of how this accomplishment escaped her father and how the aquarium wound up her dream instead.



# Monterey

*Monterey* is an atypical, scandalous, racy story of young love and sexual liberation, and her taboo relationship with Ricketts challenges the morays of the time. Margot is a progressive protagonist whose thinking and ambitions are ahead of the gender and social dynamics of the era. Despite the misogynistic world and her father's efforts to keep her in line with his goals, Margot is a strong young woman who fights against everyone's expectations, pushes the boundaries set for her, and goes after what she wants for her future.



# Monterey

*Monterey* takes place amidst a gorgeous oceanside setting with characters in love with sea life. Today, Ed Ricketts is well-known for his impact on his field and through him we witness the birth of environmental and oceanic conservation.

The “dark magic” of the sea is a consistent theme as we get a glimpse of the strange and wonderful sea creatures Ricketts studies.



# Monterey

*Monterey* explores a lost world rarely seen on screen. As a period-piece, it contains eye-grabbing costumes and beautiful set pieces. The world is inhabited by bohemian characters in love with music, art, fashion and style, wealthy characters living extravagant lifestyles, blue-collar workers fighting against the town's elite, and the criminal element who lurk in the shadows.



# Comparables



**DIRTY DANCING**



**BRIDGERTON**



**QUEENS GAMBIT**





# Thank You