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JOURNAL ARTICLE

Making "Gay" and "Lesbian" into Household Words: How Serial Form Works in Armistead Maupin's "Tales of the City"

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Armistead Maupin's seminal *Tales of the City* novels, acclaimed for their depictions of gay life in San Francisco, are to be available electronically for the first time. The series began in 1978 as a daily column in the *San Francisco Chronicle* and has followed the inhabitants of the 28 Barbary Lane through the AIDS epidemic up to the modern day. *Tales of the City* has now been made into a musical with book by Jeff Whitty, who also wrote *Avenue Q*, and Jake Shears of the *Scissor Sisters*. Of the re-release of the series, Armistead said: "I revived a Victorian tradition when I started writing "Tales" in a daily newspaper thirty-six years ago. As Dickens knew, this was great for building suspense, since readers had to wait for a while before getting their next fix.