

Adaptations of Books

By Oliver Nicol

Films Vs Series: Which is the superior medium?

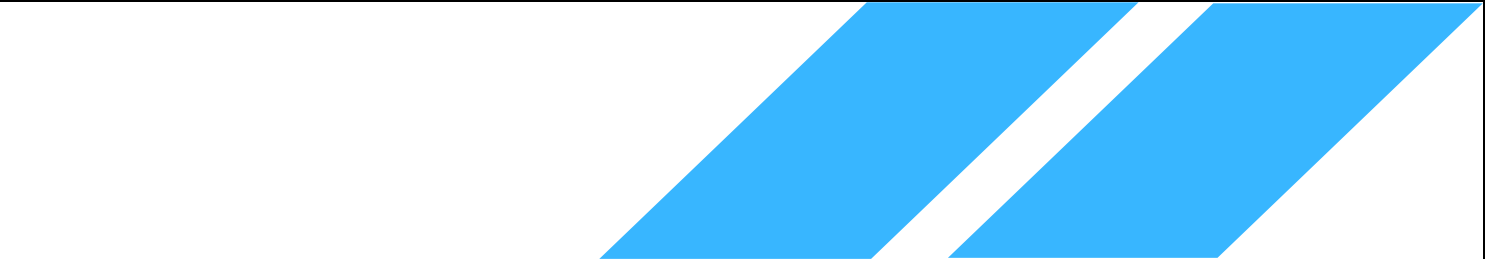
Ever since there has been cinema, there have been cinematic adaptations. Some of the earliest examples of this date back to the turn of the 20th century with books such as Cinderella and Sherlock Holmes being converted into films. However, the movie adaptation has slowly been rivalled by the Series adaptation. This format is becoming more and more popular with the culture phenomenon of streaming services. But which of these mediums is the superior when we come to an adaptation for the screen. Here, the pros and cons of each will be shown along with some examples.

Firstly, the pros of film adaptations. A film adaptation allows a viewer to enjoy the main story line of a novel within around 2 hours. In one sitting the novels main plotline, themes and characters can be explored. This means that those who have not read the books can understand the storyline that the book follows. For those who have read the book it means they can enjoy visual interpretation of the story. Another benefit is that some books are more fitted to be adapted into movies than a series.

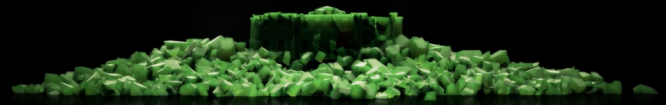


One example of this is André Aciman's *Call Me by Your Name*. The book itself lacks any chapters making the book stretch out into one long story echoing the summer romance of the two characters. The film format reflects this long continuous story, unlike if the text was adapted for shorter episodes; disrupting its flow. Film adaptations also benefit when there more than one book to a collection, for instance with *Harry Potter*, each book can be adapted into its own film meaning the whole of the story that spans multiple books can be enjoyed.

However, this also brings a big con of film adaptations is that some of these books are not able to fit into just one film. For instance *Harry Potter and The Deathly Hallows* being divided into two films, something that both film and book fans alike see as an annoyance. This highlights the main issue with films adaptations; the sacrifices of characters, subplots and sometimes entire chapters being lost.



This is where T.V Series has answer. Instead of confining entire books into a couple of hours of movie it can be spread across multiple episodes. With this option we are no longer rushed through and can take more time to engross ourselves within the world of the book, understand characters more and enjoy the smaller details. A great example of this could be the miniseries of Agatha Christie's novel And Then There Were None. By spreading the text across three episodes each characters back story is able to be explored and not rushed past. It also benefitted from the build-up of tension from episode to episode.



AND THEN THERE WERE NONE

Furthermore, expansive novels such as the Game of Thrones series which has such and expansive world and stories is would ultimately have been ruined if the books were attempted to have been crammed into a film format. On the other hand though, Game of Thrones finished with 73 episodes in total. This highlights one major issue of the TV series. Some shows choose to stretch their source material across season after season. Ultimately, this is too large of a commitment for people to fit into their busy lives.



In conclusion, there is not a winner to this battle. Instead it is apparent that certain books fit better into film adaptations where as others into a T.V series. It is down to us as the viewers to decide whether an adaptation is fitting or not to its medium. As personally I am still waiting for a T.V Series Adaptation of Harry Potter. Let us know what adaptations you would like to see on our social media accounts...



@pop_perception



@perception_pop