

## Love the movie? Read the book. (May contain spoilers)

When I first watched the Hunger Games in the theaters, I was surprised at how they portrayed Katniss in the movie. In the books, Katniss was way whinier, way more boy obsessed and far less brave. In fact, she made impulsive and rash decisions out of fear and was an unwilling martyr for her people. However, while munching on popcorn in the theaters, I observed Jennifer Lawrence's portrayal of Katniss is seen to be much more akin to being the modern day Joan of Arc than her whiny teen image in the books.

This is why I always say, if you love the movie, go read the book. The book came first for a reason. It was successful first for a reason. Who knows how movies have butchered or altered the true thesis of the stories we so love?

There are so many reasons a book can be a delicious alternative to the film. More depth, more internal dialogue and greater understanding of the protagonist and his or her conflict.

Here's a list of books that are almost a necessity to read if you loved the movie:

### 1. Gone Girl



GIF of throat slitting scene in Gone Girl

So when I think of *Gone Girl*, the film, I picture the scene where Rosamund Pike pikes it to Neil Patrick Harris by gruesomely slitting his throat in an ultimate **that girl cray** move. Barney really got legend... wait for it... bloodied, legend-bloodied good, didn't he?

Most lay audiences see *Gone Girl* as the classic stalker woman gone mad scenario. But if you actually get a chance to read the book, there's actually much more complexity to Pike's character than the movie suggests. The movie of course, does touch on Pike's character, Amy Dunne's rejection of the male gaze to an acceptable degree. But the book is able to portray much stronger overarching themes of the complexities of masculinity and femininity through the lengthy internal dialogues of its characters. The little VO from the movie can't even begin to cover the layers of conflict going on in the minds of Amy and Nick

Dunne. Remember the infamous “Cool Girl” speech? Here are a few lines missing from the film that are present in the book, for your own enjoyment:

*How do you know you're not Cool Girl? Because he says things like: "I like strong women." If he says that to you, he will at some point f\*ck someone else. Because "I like strong women" is code for "I hate strong women."*

Unf, yeah, I must admit, I lady-worship this film/movie like bro-dudes worship Fight Club.

## 2. Hunger Games

As mentioned, in the movie, Katniss is an poignant hero, the Mockingjay. But you'll see that in the book, she is an unwilling participant in her own image. A scared little girl made out to be a martyr. A big chunk of a couple of chapters is Katniss trying to convince Gale or Peeta to run away with her.

Here are some excerpts from the book about Katniss's plans to run away:

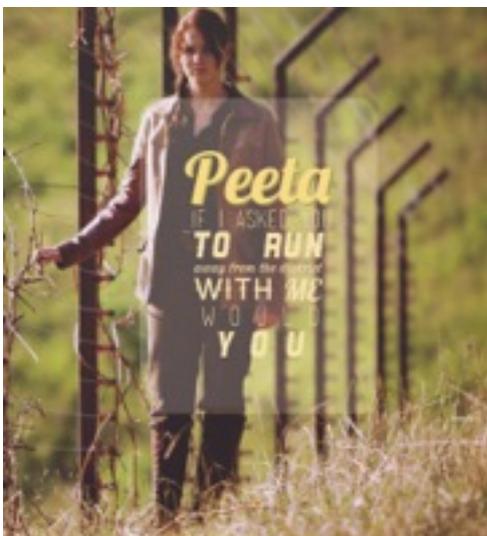
*Not Gale. Even if I could get word to him. What would he do with the information, anyway? If he were alone, I might try to persuade him to run away.*

*I can't let President Snow condemn me to this. Even if it means taking my own life. Before that, though, I'd try to run away.*

*"I've heard enough for the moment. Let's skip ahead to this plan of yours," he says. I take a deep breath. "We run away."*

*"Okay, let's run away," he says. "Really? You don't think I'm mad? You'll go with me?"*

*"What about the other families, Katniss? The ones who can't run away? Don't you see? It can't be about just saving us anymore. Not if the rebellion's begun!" Gale shakes his head, not hiding his disgust with me.*



True romance is born from fear guys...

*I take a deep breath and let the words rush out. "Peeta, if I asked you to run away from the district with me, would you?"*

*Although I have no idea what exactly that should be. But deciding not to run away is a crucial first step.*

Okay, Katniss, we get it, you want to run away... badly. This rabid internal conflict is a pretty compelling reason to pick up the book version.

Also, the sense of dystopia in the book runs much deeper. You get a greater depth of understanding of the warped universe created by the writer.

### 3. American Psycho

Love gore? Then read the book. A lot of controversy has surrounded female director, Mary Harron taking on the bloody and emotionless book. Don't get me wrong, the film is pretty amazing. But if you've ever read a Bret Easton Ellis book, you'll know that films tend to overhype his affectless style of writing. Otherwise, it'd be a pretty hard film to sit through. His book drone on inside the minds of his remorseless characters in a crude and twisted way. And if you're like me, his dialogue really speaks to the darker sides of your soul.

The book is a difficult read but also necessary if you want to really experience violence and satirical nature of Ellis's work. I've always been a big Bret Easton Ellis fan, and you really don't know how messed up his work can be till you read it yourself.

By losing the inherent violence of the book, you inevitably lose the darkness that Ellis translates into his writing. The film is great but similarly to the books mentioned above, there is a layering and depth in the book that is just missing from the film. However that said, the film is much more entertaining.

Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdlixUWX-UQ>

That "Walking on Sunshine" musical intro in the movie, while effective in depicting irony in the film, is completely absent in the silent, droning dialogue of the actual book.

The book. Well, let's just say you feel little bits of your soul dying when you read it. Which is exactly why you should pick it up.