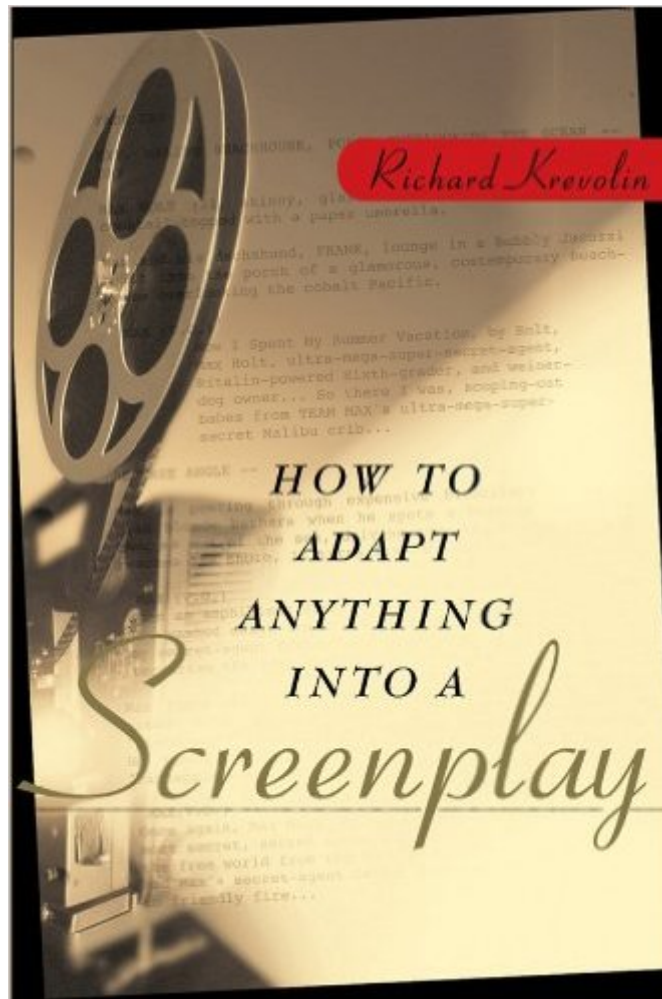


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How To Adapt Anything Into A Screenplay



Synopsis

From concept to finished draft-a nuts-and-bolts approach to adaptations Aspiring and established screenwriters everywhere, take note! This down-to-earth guide is the first to clearly articulate the craft of adaptation. Drawing on his own experience and on fourteen years of teaching, screenwriter Richard Krevolin presents his proven five-step process for adapting anything-from novels and short stories to newspaper articles and poems-into a screenplay. Used by thousands of novelists, playwrights, poets, and journalists around the country, this can't-miss process features practical advice on how to break down a story into its essential components, as well as utilizes case studies of successful adaptations. Krevolin also provides an insider's view of working and surviving within the Hollywood system-covering the legal issues, interviewing studio insiders on what they are looking for, and offering tips from established screenwriters who specialize in adaptations. * Outlines a series of stages that help you structure your story to fit the needs of a 120-page screenplay * Explains how to adapt anything for Hollywood, from a single sentence story idea all the way to a thousand-page novel * Advises on the tricky subject of just how faithful your adaptation should be * Features helpful hints from Hollywood bigwigs-award-winning television writer Larry Brody; screenwriter and script reader Henry Jones; screenwriter and author Robin Russin; screenwriter and author Simon Rose; and more

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Customer Reviews

After writing one screenplay and one teleplay, I still didn't "get it." I'd read a half dozen books on scriptwriting but was still a bit muddled. The light bulb finally went off with this book. Krevolin starts with short but useful information on structure. This includes a nice breakout of 'where your script should be' by certain pages. He explains it so that you don't just get the formula: you understand the dramatic and narrative reasons for the page delineations. And he includes the Scene-O-Gram (borrowed from fellow instructor Hal Ackerman). This is a marvelous visual tool. It shows your script from back story to climax as clearly as possible. Combined with his explanation of page 'marks', I finally realized how a script should truly flow together. Then he takes several films, including The Patriot, X-Men and The Shawshank Redemption, and looks at key elements while placing them into the Scene-O-Gram format. This is not simply formulaic plug and place. It is a look at key components and structure for adapting an existing piece of writing. Krevolin's book will help you select the most important elements to keep from the work you're adapting, and how to put them together. A must-have if you plan on adapting something into a screenplay.

The trouble with this book is in its repetitive nature. For one thing, a lot of the advice contained in the book is common sense. While common sense is not as common as it should be, most people only need to hear the advice once or twice before it penetrates their skull. This book gives the same advice time and time again. It really only offers a handful of suggestions but rambles about them endlessly and repeats them. The book is 208 pages long but the information might have fit quite snugly in 100 pages or less. Krevolin seems to pad the book with interviews and short diatribes from people in the business with experience in adaptation. I thought that I would find this quite helpful (it is a good idea in theory), but I didn't really get anything out of the interviews that I didn't extract from what Krevolin had to say. It was an extremely easy read and it uses specific films as examples to make its specific points. The trouble is that it doesn't contain a lot of actual advice and the advice that it contains is relatively intuitive.

I am an aspiring screenwriter just looking into the field. I have have not yet taken any courses but would love to learn about screenwriting. This book is the perfect for that. It is fascinating reading about the basic structure of a screenplay in terms that even I can understand. The analysis of

Hollywood movie screenplays is a great way to teach the process through example. Reading a few of the negative reviews made me wonder if those people understood the purpose of this wonderful book. It was not written with the idea that it was to help Steven Spielberg with his work. It was written for you and me. Based on that it has to be a 5 star book. Simply fascinating.

This book is really helpful for the scriptwriters. The most useful for me in this book was the special table, which called "Scene-o-gram". It has helped me structure my story. Besides, this book has full scene-o-grams with examples from 9 movies different genres. It helps to learn story's structure better. Thanks to this book I spent a lot of exciting and interesting hours. I was watching my favorite movies and rewriting my script. I enjoy this book and really recommend it!

A great text for learning how movies are structured using Krevolin's 8 sequence chart to construct story beat overview of story ideas.

Richard Krevolin's books are always great reads- very creative mind. Great tips for writing screenplays as well!

Not what I expected.

A book claiming to tell you how to adapt "anything" into a screenplay should have a bit more than books, short stories and plays. I mean, books and short stories are basically the same kind of thing! While it does have an example of comic book adaptation (X-Men), it doesn't have anything about adapting a serial or TV-show. Since this is a fairly common form of adaptation (e.g. The Flintstones, SWAT, Firefly) I am somewhat disappointed. Some of the legal advice was useful but also incomplete.

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