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My Favorite Book-To-Movie Adaptation

Among many books converted into screen adaptations, the trilogy *Lord of the Rings* has always been my literary passion. From the days of their releases, all parts of the movie trilogy directed by Peter Jackson confidently remain the highest-grossing films of all time. Considering the voluminous world created by J.R.R. Tolkien, it is difficult to convey the sequence of events in them; nonetheless, the director managed to portray the plot as accurately as possible. The third book, *The Return of the King*, is my favorite part of the trilogy, and the extended edition of the movie would be a topic of discussion; however, since it is unwise to try to cover all the events within the trilogy, I will focus on the most significant parts below.

Beacon-hills (01:04:30-01:07:51)

The fascinating view from the height of Minas Tirith accurately conveys the understanding of how much effort it requires from the little hobbit Pippin to climb on the tower with a signal fire and ask for help, which had been forbidden by the Steward of Gondor. There is a marvelous musical accompaniment to make the viewer wonder how the hobbit could perform his task. From the first lit fire, the movie invites us to trace how a call for help passes through lonely outposts hidden in snowy mountains and how the news finally reaches Edoras. Here, it is also important to mention the acting skills of Viggo Mortensen (Aragorn) and Bernard Hill (Theoden). Gondor and Minas Tirith are of high importance for Aragorn, and the actor

masterfully expresses his disbelief, and after, the need to deliver the message to the king as soon as possible. However, my heart belongs to this scene by virtue of Bernard Hill: in a few short seconds and with the help of facial expression, he conveys the personal concerns of Theoden who remembers that Gondor did not come for help when Rohan needed them most. Nonetheless, he leaves the offenses done in the past and says, “and Rohan will answer” (01:07:50). Rohan will assist even if it means that most of the Rohirrim will not survive the battle.

Pippin’s song (01:32:15-01:33:28)

An accurate adaptation of the complicated father-son relationship between Denethor and his only remaining son Faramir would have required much more screen time. Thus, there was a scene in which Faramir tries to receive Denethor’s respect with the help of the decision to sacrifice his own life and win back Osgiliath, defended by his brother Boromir. When Faramir is leading his army to their death, Denethor asks Pippin to sing him a song while he eats. The compilation of frames over the song (performed by Billy Boyd himself) achieves the effect of despair and aversion to Denethor, who eats and sprinkles the juice of berries, while his son and his army bleed for the sake of the long-lost city to please their Steward, immersed in mourning the death of his eldest son.

To the world’s ending (02:33:27-02:35:02)

The adaptation of *The Return of the King* causes a countless number of goosebumps, but the most inspiring and heart-breaking scene is when the army of Rohirrim finally reaches Minas Tirith to see a black ocean of enemies. It is the moment when all the courage fades and gives way to despair; it is the moment when the bravest warrior can give up and run away from the battlefield. Nonetheless, the army of Rohirrim has the king Theoden, and he delivers the most powerful speech to encourage his people. The king understands that few people can survive this

battle and he decides not to deceive them with speeches about their survival. They are going to meet death, and Theoden the king screams it loud and proud until his Rohirrim start screaming in unison with him. They are going to meet death, and they are not afraid, which makes them deadly opponents. They are going to meet death together with their king, who runs his sword along their spears before they will smash into the orcs' ranks.

“My friends, you bow to no one” (03:46:28-03:47:29)

The scene that delivers an equal number of goosebumps with Theoden's speech is the moment when already crowned Aragorn approaches hobbits Frodo, Sam, Merry, and Pippin. Aragorn is the king now, and they should bow to him in recognition of his superiority. Nonetheless, Aragorn stops them from paying tribute to him—because of their deeds, these four hobbits should bow to no one. With tears in his voice, he admits this fact and becomes the first who bows to these four small heroes, and all the people gathered at the top of the city bow as well. The final reason why this moment is rewatched so many times by fans is when the camera shows Minas Tirith from a bird's-eye view, one can understand that all these people bow to four hobbits in recognition of their gratitude.

In conclusion, I would like to admit that *The Return of the King's* book-to-movie adaptation is magnificent to such an extent that it is almost a crime to mention only four short scenes from it. Peter Jackson, with a company of remarkable people, managed to convert Tolkien's world into emotional and inspirational movies, with the third part admired by countless critics and people in general. Undoubtedly, *The Return of the King* (together with *Fellowship of the Ring* and *Two Towers*) will remain in the list of the highest-grossing films for a long time and forever in my heart as my favorite book-to-movie adaptation.

Work Cited

Jackson, Peter, director. *The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King (the Extended Edition)*.

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