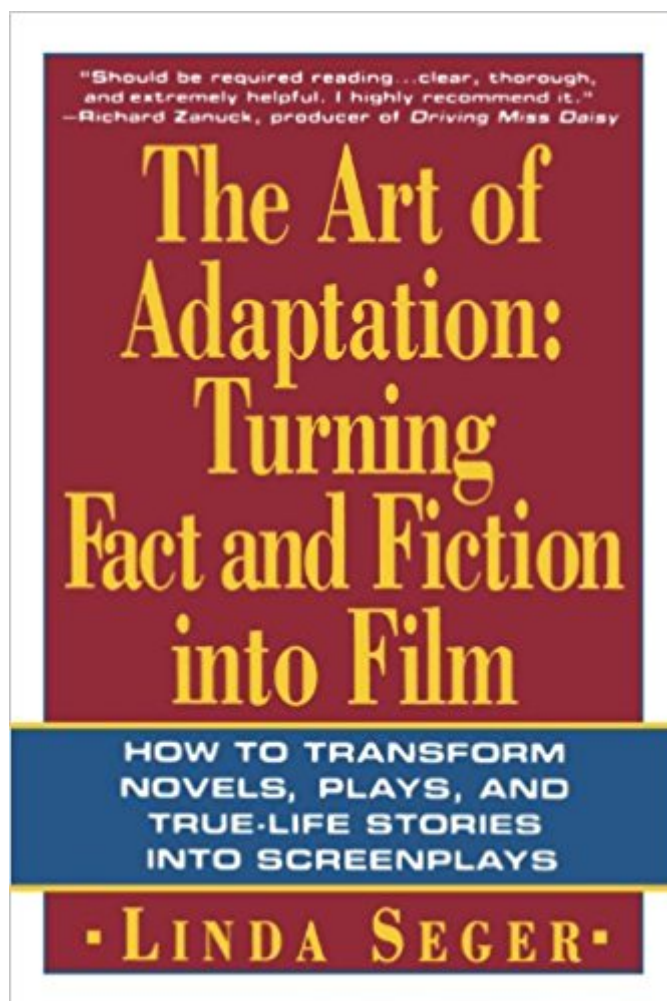


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# The Art Of Adaptation: Turning Fact And Fiction Into Film (Owl Books)



## Synopsis

Adaptations have long been a mainstay of Hollywood and the television networks. Indeed, most Academy Award- and Emmy Award-winning films have been adaptations of novels, plays, or true-life stories. Linda Seger, author of two acclaimed books on scriptwriting, now offers a comprehensive handbook for screenwriters, producers, and directors who want to successfully transform fictional or factual material into film. Seger tells how to analyze source material to understand why some of it resists adaptation. She then gives practical methods for translating story, characters, themes, and style into film. A final section details essential information on how to adapt material and how to protect oneself legally

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“Should be required reading...clear, thorough, and extremely helpful. I highly recommend it.”  
—Richard Zanuck, producer of *Driving Miss Daisy*  
“Once you have a piece of source material, adapting it for film seems simple. It isn't--as we have all learned. But it will be easier in the future, thanks to Linda Seger's comprehensive and artful book.”  
—Stan Margulies, producer of *Roots* and *Separate but Equal*

Linda Seger has been a script consultant since 1981, working with writers, directors, producers, and companies throughout the world, including Tony Bill, William Kelley, TriStar Pictures, and the New

Zealand Film Commission. She has given seminars for ABC and CBS television networks, Embassy Television, the "MacGyver" series, and for producers and writers in Rome, London, Australia, New Zealand, and Canada. Dr. Seger is the author of *Making a Good Script Great* and *Creating Unforgettable Characters*.

Historically, more than 75 percent Academy Award and Emmy Award-winning films have been adaptations of novels, short stories, plays, nonfiction books, and articles. Linda Seger sets the tone of *THE ART OF ADAPTATION* on the opening page: "In spite of what we may think, there is no such thing as an easy adaptation. We've probably all heard people say, 'All you have to do is film the book,' Francis Ford Coppola tried that with the 1974 version of 'The Great Gatsby,' and it failed. Others say, 'This was immensely popular it's bound to be a blockbuster.' 'Bonfire of the Vanities' was a best-seller, but the film was panned." With exceptional lucidity, the author explains the issues and solutions in adaptations from fact and fiction into film. The book includes two detailed examples of successful adaptations: E. M. Foster's novel "A Room with a View" and Andrew Lloyd Webber's play "The Phantom of the Opera." Other examples include "Gone With the Wind," "It's a Wonderful Life," "Deliverance," "Dances With Wolves," "Silence of the Lambs." This was the first Linda Seger screenwriting book I read. Impressed, I went on to study three more: *Creating Unforgettable Characters*

Not having read other books on adaptation, I have nothing to compare this one to but as a stand alone book, it offers a lot of good information on different types of materials to adapt and things to consider when looking for material to adapt. Seger's writing is easy to follow and I find myself referring back to sections I've highlighted so I guess that means I'm getting something out of it. She occasionally seems to spend too much time on analyzing some stories (I found the "Gone with the Wind" stuff to drag quite a bit) but overall you get a lot of insight into different parts of the adaptation game which makes this a good read for those considering or about to take on an adaptation.

Sometimes repetitive but useful nonetheless

Loved it!

This book had slightly more information to offer than Richard Krevolin's "How to Adapt Anything into a Screenplay." It isn't quite as repetitive as Krevolin's text, nor is it as easy to read (though it

certainly isn't difficult to read). It has a different tone and is organized differently than the Krevolin text. Much of the information is the same, but it seems to offer slightly more information and advice to the reader. Like the Krevolin text, much of the advice is given in common sense (or should be). However, it is motivating for a person to read a book and find out that their intuition was correct. Out of the 3 books about Adaptation that I have read, this book is the most solid and helpful.

Finding the information very applicable.

This book was purchased for a screenwriting class. The instructor uses it as one of our textbooks. Our assignments were from that book and others. I would recommend it to writers because sometimes we can take other people's stories and rewrite them in other forms with additional information.

Complete instructions on what you need to do. It's not as easy as it seems. You already need to know how to write a screenplay, this only covers how to adapt.

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