

Librarians Telling Tales Podcast Transcript- Episode 8

Quick Look Booklist:

- **Section 1: Adaptations from when We Were Young**
 - *Old Yeller* by Fred Gipson
 - *The Swiss Family Robinson* by Johann David Wyss
 - *Mary Poppins* by P.L. Travers
 - *The Wizard of Oz* by L. Frank Baum
 - *Rikki-Tikki-Tavi* by Rudyard Kipling
 - *Tikki Tikki Tembo* by Arlene Mosel
 - *Peanuts* by Charles Schulz (*It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown*)
 - *The Neverending Story* by Michael Ende
 - *The Wolves of Willoughby Chase* by Joan Aiken
 - *The Witches* by Roald Dahl
 - *Berenstain Bears* by Stan & Jan Berenstain
 - *My Secret Identity* by Jovial Bob Stine (R.L. Stine)
 - *Garfield* by Jim Davis
 - *Bridge to Terabithia* by Katherine Paterson
 - *The Chronicles of Narnia* by C. S. Lewis
 - *Matilda* by Roald Dahl
 - *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* by Roald Dahl (*Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory*)
 - *Charlie and the Great Glass Elevator* by Roald Dahl
 - *Fantastic Mr. Fox* by Roald Dahl
 - *The BFG* by Roald Dahl
 - *James and the Giant Peach* by Roald Dahl
 - *Emma* by Jane Austen (*Clueless*)
 - *Taming of the Shrew* by William Shakespeare (*10 Things I Hate About You*)
 - *Little House on the Prairie* by Laura Ingalls Wilder
 - *The Baby-sitter's Club* by Ann M. Martin
 - *The Baby-sitter's Little Sister* by Katy Farina based on Ann M. Martin
- **Section 2: Adaptations for Better and Worse**
 - *Dune* by Frank Herbert
 - *Coraline* by Neil Gaiman
 - *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* by Betty Smith
 - *The Lord of the Rings* by J. R. R. Tolkien
 - *The Cat in the Hat* by Dr. Seuss
 - *Twilight* by Stephenie Meyer
 - *The City of Bones* by Cassandra Clare
 - *Divergent* by Veronica Roth
 - *Call of the Wild* by Jack London
 - *The Fault in Our Stars* by John Green
 - *Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs* by Judi Barrett
 - *The Hobbit* by J. R. R. Tolkien
 - *The Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan
 - *A Series of Unfortunate Events* by Lemony Snicket
 - *Flipped* by Wendelin Van Draanen

- *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas* by John Boyne
- **Section 3: New & Coming Soon Adaptations**
 - *Nightbooks* by J. A. White
 - *A Boy Called Christmas* by Matt Haig
 - *The One and Only Ivan* by Katherine Applegate
 - *Shadow and Bone* by Leigh Bardugo
 - *Artemis Fowl* by Eoin Colfer
 - *Wild Kratts* by Martin Kratt
 - *Daniel Tiger* by multiple authors, including Maggie Testa
 - *The Octonauts* by Meomi
 - *Ada Twist, Scientist* by Andrea Beaty
 - *Clifford* by Norman Bridwell
 - *The Bad Guys* by Aaron Blabey
 - *The Heartstopper* by Alice Oseman
 - *White Bird* by R. J. Palacio
 - *The School for Good and Evil* by Soman Chainani
 - *Lockwood and Co. (The Screaming Staircase - book #1)* by Jonathan Stroud
- **Reader's Rave**
 - *Harry Potter* by J. K. Rowling
 - *The School for Good and Evil* by Soman Chainani
 - *Mario* by Nintendo

Transcript:

Musical Intro: "Uplifting 2463" by Twisterium from pixabay.com
(Description) Upbeat, piano and percussion. Music fades and plays under.

Amy:

Hey, bookworms! Welcome to Librarians Telling Tales where we introduce you to all the things we love about libraries: books, people, and making connections. I'm Amy!

Blair:

I'm Blair!

Jennifer:

I'm Jennifer!

(0:28) Music fades out

Blair:

In today's episode, we're going to talk about books that inspired movie adaptations- for better or worse! You might even be surprised to learn that so many of the popular shows and movies your kids are streaming these days are actually based on books.

Music Transition: "Ascending-marimba-notification" by Alexander from Orangefreesounds.com
(Description) Bright marimba scale.

(0:49) Section 1- Adaptations from When We Were Young

Jennifer:

A great place to start this episode, I think, is to take a trip down memory lane and think about the books that were made into movies or TV shows when we were kids. So I had to travel *way back*...

Blair/Amy:

(Laugh)

Jennifer:

And I really enjoyed this whole process, actually, of thinking about what did I watch as a kid. I watched a lot of television. We didn't really go to movies, at all. And I started remembering that my mom would bring out the newspaper and we would look to see what was going to be on the TV, and we would circle. And we always watched Disney on Sunday nights...

Blair:

Of course!

Jennifer:

The magical world of Disney.

Blair:

Yeah!

Jennifer:

And so a lot of the great movies that I saw there that I didn't know were books then were like, *Old Yeller* (Fred Gipson)...

Blair:

Mhmm

Jennifer:

The Swiss Family Robinson (Johann David Wyss)...

Blair:

Yes!

Jennifer:

Mary Poppins (P. L. Travers)...which I later realized were books and went back and read. And think those were such quality, quality books. And then another thing I remembered was that there were annual shows that would come on at special times of the year. Like *The Wizard of Oz* (L. Frank Baum) always came in March or April around Easter time. And so, another show was *Rikki-Tikki-Tavi* (Rudyard Kipling), do you remember that?

Blair:

I don't.

Amy:

No.

Jennifer:

Have you heard of it?

Amy:

Yes.

Blair:

I have heard of it, yes.

Jennifer:

It's a short story by Rudyard Kipling about the mongoose who protected the family in colonial India.

Amy:

I think I know it as like Rikki Tikki Tembo or something different.

Jennifer:

No, that's a separate book. *Rikki-Tikki-Tavi*, is about a mongoose and he protects his family from the snakes.

Amy:

Yeah, isn't that Rikki Tikki Tembo, too?

Jennifer:

No... Tikki tikki tembo-no sa rembo-chari bari ruchi-pip peri pembo fell into the well! That's a book (*Tikki Tikki Tembo* by Arlene Mosel)

Blair:

(Laughing)

Amy:

Ba-dum-bum-bum!

Jennifer:

My teacher read that book to us in first grade. And so that is a separate book by Arlene Mosel.

Amy:

You know, honestly, you saying that you would circle what was in the paper brings back memories because we did too! With three kids vying for television time, and at the time we just had the one with like the turn dial to turn the channel and stuff. We had to get our votes in for what to watch and we did the same thing! And it was a big deal. I wonder how today's kids, do you just kinda add it to your want to watch next on Netflix?

Blair:

It's bananas.

Amy:

It's so different!

Blair:

That instant gratification.

Jennifer:

They probably have a profile where they keep track of their favorite shows.

Blair:

(Laughing)

Amy:

Probably so, yeah. I'm reminded- we also though, used the paper for Charles Schulz and *Peanuts*.

Blair:

Yes!

Amy:

And talking about those things that came out seasonally like Charlie Brown—

Blair & Jennifer:

Great Pumpkin!

Amy:

[It's] *the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown* (Charles Schulz)! And that was such a fun one. Yeah, that's a cool memory, thank you for bringing that back. In prepping for this, I didn't think about that.

Blair:

I was the queen of having all of my favorite shows recorded.

Amy:

On VHS?

Blair:

On VHS! We recorded them from TV. So Dad would be watching live, mostly news, occasionally we would watch Star Trek together, so that was cool. But mostly he was watching boring dad things. And so I would get to watch all the things we had recorded off the TV like *The Neverending Story* (Michael Ende). Which, I was watching that when I was way too young to really be watching it, and I blame that movie, and *The Wolves of Willoughby Chase* (Joan Aiken) for scarring me and giving me wolf nightmares

as a child. But I will say they are still—well, *Neverending Story* is still a fantastic movie, *Wolves of Willoughby Chase* is still mildly scarring.

Jennifer:

Which reminds me of *The Witches* (Roald Dahl). We've talked about that before.

Blair:

Ah, love it.

Jennifer:

Roald Dahl's book *The Witches*, which was made into a movie, which was quite frightening.

Blair:

It is scary for young people, but...

Amy:

Oh the movie? For sure! Agreed! Yes, Anjelica Huston...

Blair:

She's so good...

Amy:

Terrifying, terrifying.

Jennifer:

My daughter was very frightened by the movie. But I loved listening to the audiobook. It's brilliant. It's a wonderful book.

Amy:

Mhmm.

Blair:

I think it's funny when we go back and talk about a lot of these movies from the 80s and they're just terrifying. I don't know what Hollywood was doing in the 80s. Even *Return to Oz* (L. Frank Baum) which I still think is one of my favorite classic underrated 80s movies because it actually has sections of Oz very correct, but a lot of the things happening outside of the world of Oz, like in Kansas, are really creepy. (Laughing) And that's such an 80s way of like doing it too. I feel like everything in the 80s was mildly dark.

Jennifer:

What about some of the movies that you saw, Amy, from books?

Amy:

Yeah, so I was thinking about this, and I was really struggling because we did not have money, so we didn't watch a lot of movies. We'd go to the drive-in and load the whole van up. And the ones we did watch as a family were the superhero, crime-fighting ones. Which, honestly, that didn't even register for me when we were talking about this podcast. Like, how many of those were comic books that my brother read, but I was never a comic reader. But we saw all those movies. Those are the only ones really we saw besides, like, *Top Gun*.

Blair:

(Laughing)

Amy:

But as far as TV shows, though, I was thinking about this. The TV came first. And like today's kids, it was inspiring me to look for the book, or something like that, in the library as well. And the *Berenstain Bears* (Stan & Jan Berenstain) was definitely a TV show I watched as a kid. And then, come to find out as I was a little bit older, that there were books about this. And those books are still around today circ'ing. So, that's kinda cool.

Blair:

Yeah.

Amy:

But not too many of my shows that I when I was reflecting, and I asked my sister too, “Like what did we watch?” And it was like, Jem and the Holograms, and then that TV show with Jerry O’Connell in one of his first roles, *My Secret Identity* (Jovial Bob Stine) and I saw the show and then I read the book, and I actually did a book report on that one too. But I thought, those are the only ones really. It was surprising to me how few. Because, I mean, like you said though, I did watch those things like *Wizard of Oz*, and I didn’t know until I was much older that that was based on a book. I still have not read the book, I’ll be honest...

Blair:

Oh, well you should. It’s a great book, it’s a great read. Well, I mean, there are sixteen of them—

Amy:

I was going to say there are so many!

Blair:

But the first, the first one is really classic. I was just thinking that the only thing that I remember like connecting through a program that I was watching and into printed material as a kid was *Garfield* (Jim Davis) because *Garfield* on Saturday mornings was like, I had to see *Garfield*! But then I also had to read *Garfield* in the paper every week, so I did make that connection, and for whatever reason, my dad totally loved *Garfield* so we actually had a *Garfield* book in our house too. So I remember *Garfield* being one of my first connecting points. No most of the ones of mine that loved were the PBS movies. I remember *Bridge to Terabithia* (Katherine Paterson) and that PBS adaptation was amazing. I watched all *The Chronicles of Narnia* (C. S. Lewis) movies that way, and I still think they are better than the ones Hollywood murdered when they redid them. But probably the most popular one that I had read before the movie came out was *Matilda* (Roald Dahl). And *Matilda* was just such a fun adaptation of that book. I still think it is such a great movie. Apparently, they are redoing it too.

Amy:

Oh no, really?

Blair:

I know, I don’t know how this is going to go. They’re apparently doing a remake.

Jennifer:

So many of Roald Dahl’s books have been made into movies. *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, which I loved and watched, and that was a connection for me. I did read the book after I saw the show. And the second book *Charlie and the Great Glass Elevator*.

Amy:

Fantastic Mr. Fox, *The BFG*...

Jennifer:

James and the Giant Peach...

Amy:

James and the Giant Peach, that’s kind of scary.

Blair:

The claymation didn’t work as well as I wanted it to, yeah.

Jennifer:

But I loved it!

Blair:

Oh yeah! Oh yeah! I mean, I agree, and Gene Wilder is the best. I mean, I love Tim Burton, but it was not as good. Sorry, Johnny Depp.

Amy:

I tried to watch that one; I couldn’t get into it.

Jennifer:

Gene Wilder's is classic for me. I just loved Charlie in that one. The golden ticket and the cabbage soup. Those are elements of that story that just stuck out for me, I remember them so fondly.

Blair:

For me it's all about the songs. Cheer Up Charlie...(sings) Come on! Cheer up Charlie is like one of the best songs!

Amy:

I love it.

Jennifer/Blair:

(Sing) Who can take a sunrise...

Blair:

Yes, totally! Oh, everything about that movie was just classic. I still watch it. In fact, the last time I watched *The Wolves of Willoughby Chase* I was so traumatized in my mid-twenties that I immediately turned around and put on *Willy Wonka* so that I could go to sleep...not even kidding!

Amy:

You know, I was just thinking, so when I was in high school that movie *Clueless* came out with Alicia Silverstone and Paul Rudd, and I loved it, and so I read then *Emma* (Jane Austen), because I loved the movie so much and I did not care for *Emma*. I don't know, I just thought the valley girl modern interpretation was pretty fun and then the book didn't do it for me.

Blair:

It's okay, that's how I feel about *Ten Things I Hate About You*.

Amy:

That was a book?

Blair:

That's based on Shakespeare, man! That's based on *Taming of the Shrew*!

Amy:

I didn't know that!

Blair:

That's a classic *Taming of the Shrew* remake!

Amy:

Wow, I did not know that!

Blair:

Yes!

Amy:

It's a little bit too far astray for me, I guess?

Blair:

Oh, I don't know about that... (Laughs)

Jennifer:

I guess it requires a rewatch.

Amy:

I didn't catch that crossover, I really didn't.

Blair:

Taming of the Shrew isn't as common of a Shakespeare either, so...it has a lot of the same kind of tropes.

Amy:

Now that you say it, yeah. I can tie a couple of threads together, but I would never have made that on my own.

Jennifer:

Well, I wanted to share a connection that really defines my childhood is the *Little House on the Prairie* (Laura Ingalls Wilder) books. I got those books for Christmas when I was in 2nd grade and devoured

them, and I still have them on my bookshelf. And I loved watching the TV show. Pa and Ma and Laura and Mary and Carrie, they were real to me, they were the characters in the book, and so at that point I was old enough to realize that they were a book and a TV show. I enjoyed both.

Amy:

What did you get introduced to first, the TV series or the books?

Jennifer:

I feel like it was almost simultaneous in my mind, but I just loved the books. I love stories about pioneer girls, I love strong girls, as we've talked about, and resourceful girls. And girls on the prairie are strong girls so I always admired their life and how they lived and how they survived.

Blair:

I was like the avid reader of the *Baby-sitter's Club* (Ann M. Martin). I was reading all of them! And then at some point someone was like, "Did you know there was a TV series and a movie?!" So then I had to find them on VHS, I had to like search and search and search and find them. I liked them, they were really cool, and I thought it was great now that it was remade, we've got new seasons, I watched a few episodes on Netflix. I think it's a really good adaptation, I think it is modernized really well for a digital age. So it is one of those fun ways it really can be modernized and brought up for a whole new generation, a whole new audience. And now we've got the *Baby-sitter's Little Sister* (Katy Farina) and all the other graphics, so I feel like that is, let's call it what it is, a franchise that is still pretty healthy and is still really interesting to a lot of people.

Music Transition: "Ascending-marimba-notification" by Alexander from Orangefreesounds.com
(Description) *Bright marimba scale.*

(10:41) Section 2- Adaptations for Better and Worse

Amy:

Do you find for yourselves that it's hard to...if you've read a story and you've loved it so well, you know, it's just like, I don't know it's hard to actually watch the movie because you've love the story so much? Cause' you're brave, like I read *Baby-sitter's Club* when I was a kid and to this day, I've never watched an episode of any of them. And I don't know if I even knew there was even a show, like back in the 80s or 90s whenever that first one came out, but I've been reluctant with this new stuff. I don't know why.

Jennifer:

I've thought about that, and I can tell you why I don't watch a lot of the movies that are based on books: because those books are special to me. It's my personal connection and experience with those books and my own creation of the characters in my mind. And I just don't want that to be taken away from me. I don't want to be disappointed. I don't want to be frustrated that they don't follow the story. And if I do watch a movie it has to be over a long period of time where maybe I've forgotten some things. So I can just enjoy the movie, but I feel like reading a book is a special experience and I don't want that to be put on the big screen for people to scrutinize because that's what happened with some of the books I've read. All of sudden they became so popular, and people were really analyzing the movie and finding what was wrong with it and scrutinizing it when I really had had a special, unique experience with it. And now all the world has just put it out to dry, so I've decided that I'd rather not see the movies and just keep that experience to myself.

Amy: That's a good point, though. Even just giving yourself time between, enough to have forgotten some of those details maybe or just time for the hype to die down, and then you can watch it and go, "Oh yeah, that was fun!" Like *Dune* (Frank Herbert).

Blair:

See, I don't know, I am the reverse person, if I have read it, I want to see it. Because, I have that theatrical version in my head, I picture the full scene, so I picture it like it's a movie so for me I want to see what Hollywood can do with it with special effects. I'm not saying I'm not frequently disappointed on some level, but it is also really nice to see when changes and adaptations are made that make a movie stronger. So for me like I think that *Coraline* (Neil Gaiman) is a stronger movie than it is a book. I think it is done extremely well as a movie and as a book I think it kind of has some holes that the screen then visually fills. So that's an example that I think kind of goes the opposite direction.

Jennifer:

Let me ask you one question, to both of you. Are you re-readers? Do you go back and read a book a second time?

Amy:

Definitely.

Blair:

Hundred percent.

Jennifer:

Okay, the reason I ask that is that after you see a movie, do you think you can go back and reread a book and have it be fresh characters in your mind or are you stuck with the characters you saw on the screen? Because that's a big deal for me.

Amy:

Yes, I have never reread a book after I saw the movie and was less than overjoyed by it.

Blair:

Oh, I have. I mean, for mostly those are adult books, because those are the ones that I reread the most. I think it is really interesting to go back because then the movie is fresh in my brain so then when I approach the text I'm approaching it with different visuals, and sometimes I see things I haven't seen before, even things I've read multiple times. I would say that's the case with *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* (Betty Smith), for example.

Amy:

There's a movie there?

Blair:

Oh my gosh, yeah!

Amy:

See I don't watch TV.

Blair:

Yeah, black and white, man. Gorgeous classic movie, come on!

Amy:

Okay, so we need a watching list, so that I can find these to watch.

Jennifer:

It has a classic mom in it, I forgot her name, but she's the mom in *Swiss Family Robinson*, she is the mom in...

Blair:

I can't remember her name either. (Dorothy McGuire)

Jennifer:

Old Yeller...

Blair:

She's amazing.

Amy:

The actress?

Blair:

Yeah, it's the same actress, she's great.

Jennifer:

She's the mom in *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*, she's just the mom!

Amy:

That's cool.

Jennifer:

Your theatre background I think helps you see things differently. I get so involved with my characters and if the casting is off...

Blair:

Oh, that's how I felt about the remake of *The Witches*. I'm sorry, Anne Hathaway is not my Witch Supreme.

Amy:

For me, *The Lord of the Rings* (J. R. R. Tolkien) movie helped me finally read the book. The book was assigned to me in high school, and I had to read it over the summer before freshmen or sophomore year, I can't remember. And I was slogging through that book, I had no interest in when Frodo and Sam are alone and the descriptive details and pages and pages of like no action. And then I watched the movies and it drew me in better into the story but also to visualize some of those weird (indecipherable).

Jennifer:

So I guess it's a beautiful marriage--good screen play with good casting to make that book work. So maybe we should talk about, we've talked about books that have worked for us, maybe more about books that haven't?

Amy:

Alright, who wants to start?

Blair:

I will. The live action *Cat in the Hat* (Dr. Seuss) movie with Michael Myers was so terrible! Not only was it, I think universally panned, but it was so bad that Theodore Geisel's estate said no more live action movies ever because of that movie, because of how bad it is. But it's bad...

Jennifer:

Well I was in the theatre with my kids watching it and I was putting my hand over my son's eyes, I was like, "Oh my gosh, what is this show?" So awful!

Blair:

So bad.

Jennifer:

Painful!

Amy:

I'll go there: *Twilight* (Stephenie Meyer). The whole series. I'm sorry, I'm sorry everybody. I enjoyed the books! I really did, I'm not a *Twilight* book hater at all! I did enjoy them, but the movies? Oh, cringe, cringe...

Blair:

So much cringe.

Amy:

So much cringe.

Jennifer:

Well, any, really for me, any of the YA adaptations, *The City of Bones* (Cassandra Clare), *Divergent* (Veronica Roth)...though the acting was a little bit better there, they were painful. I just can't even bring myself to watch any more. I'm done. I'm boycotting YA adaptations! (laughing)

Blair:

I mean for me I feel like it's bad CGI that will tank it, so when they redid the 2020 *Call of The Wild* (Jack London), I couldn't do it, man. The CGI was so terrible I couldn't even watch it the whole way through.

Amy:

Jennifer, what about *The Fault in Our Stars* (John Green)? Because it's not the book, but I think it was a pretty good movie.

Jennifer:

Okay, I didn't watch it.

Blair:

Good for you, that's fine.

Jennifer:

I was so done with being disappointed. I think, I told you all, I mentioned it that I went to the *Twilight* with my husband and he was really curious because I was just reading these books, and he looked over at me and said, "What are we watching?"

Blair/Amy:

Laughing.

Jennifer:

I was so embarrassed that this book that I had really enjoyed out on the big screen was just awful and so I decided that I was going to start be more selective in the movies that I watched. Though my mom dragged me to the third one, because my mom loved the *Twilight* movies!

Blair:

Oh gosh, they were garbage. Erhm, which I know that I'll take flak for because it was also a mega franchise, right? But they are just not pleasant at all. I agree. And then *Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs* (Judi Barrett)...the images in it were great, they matched well the illustrations, but they felt they had to add an entire plot line that is not in the books, that sort of kind of works, but I feel like you have to appreciate them separately, right? So you have to appreciate the book and you have to appreciate the movie, and you have to be like, it's one of those very loose interpretation moments.

Amy:

That's like *The Hobbit* (J. R. R. Tolkien). We watched *The Hobbit* and I read the book, and then we like almost immediately we had to watch the series, all three, and I thought: "How do they make three movies out of this small book?" And then I was like: "Oh this is why." They are so slow. And they've added things. Matt even said: "I don't know why they introduced this character. She is not in the book, and it is just this romance that has no place in the actual story line, and that's what it was, it was a romance to keep certain audience members maybe watching the movie...but I thought it was painful, that last one, I kept thinking: "It's almost over!" He would pause it to check how much time was left on the DVD because I was dying...

Jennifer:

After the first two we decided not to see the third one because it was just getting so far afield and long. They were so long!

Amy:

So long! (laughing)

Blair:

I didn't watch anything besides the first original three *Lord of the Rings* movies, and I'm fine with that. Because, I have watched them in their extended versions more times than I can count now because there was a summer in my early twenties where me and my friends we would put them on as the background to our lives. And so we would hang out every night with one of the Lord of the Rings movies, so I've done enough, it's fine.

Amy:

We have a very nice comfy couch any time you want to come over and watch-rewatch with Matt, because we have the extended director's cuts...

Blair:

I will watch those.

Amy:

He would love company because he always asks me and I say, "I'm sorry, I can't commit 3.5 hours to that movie today. Thank you, no."

Blair:

(Laughing) Yeah.

Jennifer:

I think the movie we are tiptoeing around, but we feel strongly about is *The Lightning Thief* (Rick Riordan) franchise. The kids, even today, still talk about how disappointed they are in that movie.

Blair:

They are looking for redemption, Disney Plus is going to be making a series off the books. It has been pushed to 2023, but it is coming, it is in progress, it is gonna happen. So, maybe it can be salvaged. Because I agree, it was extraordinarily disappointing. It was as disappointing to me as *A Series of Unfortunate Events* (Lemony Snicket), because there is no reason they can't be good movies, there is no reason that they can't translate well to Hollywood, and they just failed.

Amy:

It will be curious to see if those Disney Plus shows bring back a resurgence. I mean, the readership on those books hasn't waned really, but I wonder how many more kids will jump on *The Lightning Thief* train when they watch that series, because his works are so popular. All of them!

Jennifer:

Well, I hope it's redeemed, because it is a great story, and kids love it and they deserve to have a good show that represents that story.

Amy:

I think that the movies too that translate best from book to movie are the more actiony ones, because I remember when you read *Flipped* (Wendelin Van Draanen) with your book club a couple years back, and I hadn't seen the movie, and you had mentioned that movie is set in a whole different time period. And it is, and it is unfortunate, because the movie was cute, but I enjoyed the book so much more! They didn't need to put it back to the 1950s or whatever it was. It could've still stood in today's day and been still that sweet contemporary story.

Blair:

Yeah.

Amy:

The character-driven stories though I think are the hardest ones to translate as a movie because when you are listening to a character's thoughts, Hollywood just can't transform that into an entertaining, if you will—

Blair:

No, it's really hard...

Amy:

Part of the movie. That's the part of the movie that slogs, for me. Is when you're in the character's head and you're like, oh my gosh. Come on where is the action now? But it's tough in the movies, for sure.

Jennifer:

I think you're right. Because that's why I think *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas* (John Boyne) actually was a better movie because the book is just more of a fable. So Hollywood had the opportunity to really allow those actors to expand those feelings, to really bring out those emotions, and that's why I actually

love the movie better than the book although I love the book, the movie really brought those characters to vivid life.

Music Transition: “Ascending-marimba-notification” by Alexander from Orangefreesounds.com
(Description) Bright marimba scale.

(0:00) Section 3- New & Coming Soon Adaptations

Blair:

So, I know I’m maybe the person who watches more streaming but what have you been watching recently that is new or you know is upcoming that you’re excited about?

Jennifer:

Well, I just watch *Nightbooks* based on the book by J.A. White, and that was really a fun movie about a boy who loves to write horror stories but feels a little bit bullied because of what he writes and he gets lured into this apartment building by a witch and she wants him to read her stories and they’re really fun stories to read. I love the book much more than the film, but the film was still a lot of fun.

Blair:

It was really exciting to know that it was a book.

Jennifer:

It’s a pretty new book, maybe just a year or two ago.

Blair:

That’s awesome.

Amy:

I know we’re in April now but *A Boy Called Christmas* (Matt Haig)—I watched that and oh, it was so charming and the book was also lovely. That’s one that if you haven’t seen it yet, do see it. It’s so sweet. I cried.

Blair:

The One and Only Ivan (Katherine Applegate) is such—oh my gosh, the movie is actually really good. I was afraid, because I have those issues with CGI like ruining things. I mean they have a really good blend, they have done really well having a good blend of the live animals with the CGI and it works really well and the story really translates and the changes that they’ve made are understandable and not super crazy. It just expands the world a little bit because in the book we are so totally in Ivan’s head that we don’t really understand the world around him and in the movie they’re showing us the context, so I think it works really well.

Amy:

Shadow and Bone (Leigh Bardugo) on Netflix is getting a little bit of love.

Blair:

Ehhh, it’s not as awesome—

Jennifer:

I was gonna say the kids when I was at Prescott High School and they were having this discussion about books to movies and that they came to on their own—they did not like *Shadow and Bone*.

Blair:

Yeah.

Amy:

Really!?

Jennifer:

Unn-uh.

Amy:

Interesting.

Blair:

As it's alright, the book's better.

Jennifer:

And the same with *Artemis Fowl* (Eoin Colfer), they thought it was boring, not like the books.

Amy:

Wild Kratts (Martin Kratt) is on Amazon Prime, *Daniel Tiger* (Maggie Testa), there are so many series that are on streaming right now that are driving...

Blair:

And *The Octonauts* (Meomi)!

Amy:

The Octonauts—that are driving kids to read the books which is awesome. And we have a number of books on our shelves and I was surprised, maybe you don't know this, maybe you do, but *Ada Twist, Scientist* (Andrea Beaty)...

Blair:

Oh, yeah!

Amy:

Is a Netflix series.

Blair:

It is now.

Amy:

And they're pretty cute. I watched the first, the one, the first episode has a two-parter and I watched it the other day and I was like oh, who knew?! And they did a – you know, it's kind of awkward cartooning but the animation isn't great...

Blair:

And the new Clifford (Norman Bridwell) movie too that just popped back out so Clifford's having a little resurgence as well.

Jennifer:

So, Blair, let's hear what's coming out because I know you've been watching that.

Amy:

(Laughs)

Blair:

Duh duh duh, duh duh da da da da na na... (sings) *Bad Guys* (Aaron Blabey) is coming out this month! Amy and I are going to go see it!

Amy:

Yes, we have a date.

Blair:

It's going to be so much fun.

Amy:

(Laughs)

Blair:

I know from watching the trailers, right, that they are changing some of the things, they are adding a character in who doesn't show up until later books and they have turned it into a girl villain, which I think that's phenomenal. I think Tarantula should totally be a girl. Not only is it voiced by one of my favorite comedians—Awkwafina—so you can't go wrong there, but like it looks just phenomenally well done. So I'm very excited about that. So... A couple of new things that are coming out, mostly streaming, *The Heartstopper* (Alice Oseman) series for YA, the graphic novels, those are being turned

into a Netflix series which is also out this month. So I'm excited to see those. Those were such cute little romances. And then *White Bird* by R. J. Palacio which is I think it's a graphic novel in that *Wonder* world that is being made into a movie that's gonna be coming out. And Netflix is also making a movie version of *The School for Good and Evil* (Soman Chainani), so...

Amy:

Ahhhh.

Blair:

That is going to be our next hot takeoff series if they do it well because those books have circulated really well for a while but it's kind of gone quiet so I feel like that might be everybody wanting to grab and read those all at once. Those are, those are coming.

Jennifer:

Jonathan Stroud's *Lockwood and Co.* is also coming out and that's one I'm on the fence about because I love those books, those supernatural stories about teens who really are like ghostbusters going in and getting supernatural creatures out of houses. It's just a great great story but I'm not so sure I want to see the Netflix version of it. But it's coming, so anyone who loves Jonathan Stroud and the *Lockwood and Co.* will have something to look forward to as well.

Blair:

Nice.

Amy:

I think it's awesome how my experience of Netflix original content has been really positive actually

Blair:

Yeah.

Amy:

So hopefully they do it justice. I've only read the first in that series, *The Screaming Staircase* (Jonathan Stroud), but hopefully they do it justice.

Music Transition: "Ascending-marimba-notification" by Alexander from Orangefreesounds.com
(Description) *Bright marimba scale.*

Amy:

We hope this episode brings back some fun memories of books that became movies and inspires some dinner-table conversations with your family about what you wish would be made into a movie next.

Blair:

Now we're going to hear from you, our readers and listeners. This is a fun segment where you get to tell us some of your favorite books- this is Reader's Rave.

(25:47) Music Transition: "Ascending-marimba-notification" by Alexander from Orangefreesounds.com
(Description) *Bright marimba scale.*

Greer:

Hi, book lovers! Are you a fan of the *Harry Potter* series (J. K. Rowling) but just have read them one too many times? Well, if you are, I have a book that you might enjoy. Hi, my name is Greer, I'm eleven years old. The book series I just can't get enough of is called *The School for Good and Evil*. It's about two girls who are kidnapped and are taken away to a magical school of good and evil, full of fairy tales. Be sure to check it out!

Charlie:

I love *Mario* (Nintendo) and I'm Charlie and I'm four years old!

Jennifer:

Do you want to be part of Reader's Rave? Call us at [928-777-1490](tel:928-777-1490) and leave a message with your first name, your age, a book you love, and what you love about it. We can't wait to hear from you!

Amy:

Thank you for joining us today on Librarians Telling Tales. For a full list of the books shared in this episode, check the link in our podcast bio.

Blair:

Don't forget to subscribe to catch our next episode where we deep dive into a treasure chest of books to get ready for Summer Reading 2022: An Ocean of Possibilities.

(26:42) Musical Outro: "Uplifting 2463" by Twisterium from pixabay.com

(Description) Upbeat, piano and percussion. Music fades in and plays under.

Jennifer:

This Podcast is supported by the Arizona State Library, Archives & Public Records, a division of the Secretary of State, with federal funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. We would also like to thank the City of Prescott, Friends of the Prescott Public Library, and all of our fabulous coworkers at Prescott Public Library.

Amy:

Be sure to like and subscribe to Librarians Telling Tales- and until next time, we'll see you in the library.

Total Run Time: (27:29)