

### Read It Before You See It

Film adaptations of young adult novels like Harry Potter, The Twilight Saga, and The Hunger Games have enjoyed success in recent years. Without fail, a movie will be compared to the book and it is important it hit the right notes with an audience so that it brings an emotional connection to the theater. Grasp this opportunity to fall in love with a book before you fall in love (or don't) with the movie. Stop in today to pick up one of these tales about and for young adults that will make the leap from page to screen in 2016.

Rick Yancey's, "The 5<sup>th</sup> Wave" is first out of the gates this year, hitting theaters on January 22. Yancey is a master storyteller. In this novel, an alien invasion has left few survivors. The aliens themselves aren't here either. Instead, they sent waves of destruction to the Earth. The story is told from two points of view: Cassie, a girl who is on a mission to save her brother, and her classmate Ben who is a trained alien killer. This novel has broad appeal for fans of science fiction, horror, and action. The non-stop action makes this a good pick for a movie adaptation. The successful formula for print-to-screen for young adult trilogies seems to be making not three movies, but four. Veronica Roth's "Divergent" series is sticking to the strategy with the release of "Allegiant" in March. The third book in the series follows Tris and Four outside the walls of the only world they have ever known. What else can be said about a final book in a trilogy without spoilers? Just this: a bunch of stuff happens! This is another example of a story that has broad appeal. Teens love it; adults love it. There is action, suspense, drama, and just enough romance to hook a variety of readers – and viewers. The fourth movie, "Ascendant," is scheduled to wrap up the story in June 2017.

Patrick Ness is a talented author of young adult novels that have earned a host of starred reviews. His novel, "A Monster Calls" features a boy who is bullied at school, is dealing with his mother's serious illness, and is plagued by a recurring nightmare. A monster comes to him to tell him three stories and expects to hear a fourth in return. A different kind of story amongst the current dystopic landscape of young adult fiction, this poignant story should make a beautiful movie. Liam Neeson stars as the monster and Sigourney Weaver is cast as the boy's grandmother. Still, given Ness's skill for putting words together on a page, this book is not one to skip in lieu of the film.

Other young adult books that are hopping into theaters this year include Ransom Riggs "Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children," "Let It Snow" by John Green, Maureen Johnson, and Lauren Myracle, and "Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them" by J.K. Rowling writing as Newt Scamander.

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