

Graphic Novel Adaptations of Classic Mysteries

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Classic and popular mystery novels have often been adapted into graphic novels. The adaptations range from being close to the original to re-inventing the story. It is becoming a trend to see new or popular books being adapted into graphic novels.

Reasons for Adaptation

There are various reasons to adapt books into graphic novels, including:

- Graphic novels provide the text and the visual context for it together
- Graphic novels are popular, and thus graphic novel adaptations may reach a different audience than the texts they are based upon
- Graphic novel provide a new twist on classic or popular books
- Graphic novel adaptations feel like new books, even though they are derived from old books
- Graphic novels adaptations can reach younger audiences
 - Gorman (2004) provided a list of various novels adapted into graphic novels

for young audiences of children and teenagers

- Graphic novel adaptations can help readers discover classics, as Price (200) noted. they are like gateway drugs to the original works

Examples of Adaptations

Mystery classics such as *Sherlock Holmes*, *Nancy Drew*, *James Bond*, and *The Hardy Boys* have all been adapted into graphic novels. The following is a list of some key graphic novel adaptations of classic mysteries for teens.

Ando, Y., & Sato, Y. (2013). *Sherlock Bones v.1*. New York: Kodansha Comics. Takeru is going to get a new dog, and he is attracted to a special dog that seems more intelligent than others. It turns out that dog is the reincarnation of Sherlock Holmes. The dog can talk to Takeru with the help from a relic from his past, but only to Takeru, who turns out to be the reincarnation of Watson. What trouble will Sherlock cause Watson this time around?

Shintani, K. (2012). *Young Miss Holmes v.1-2*. Los Angeles: Seven Seas.

Lady Christie, the 10-year-old daughter of count Hope, is much like her uncle Sherlock Holmes. She has a keen sense of observation, has a high intellect, and loves solving mysteries, all of which makes her encounter her uncle on many of his jobs.

Doyle, C., Edginton, I., & Culbard. (2010). *A study in Scarlet*. New York: Sterling.

This is a direct adaptation of one of the *Sherlock Holmes'* novels; thus, it has the same title. In this book, Sherlock meets Watson and they move in together. Sherlock gets some interesting mysteries to unravel with the help of Watson. Other *Sherlock Holmes* novels have also been adapted by the same person and illustrator.

Higson, C., & Walker, K. (2010). *Silverfin*. Ian Fleming Publication.

The story of *Silverfin* is about the young adventures of James Bond. We see what his life was like, his fearlessness, and his curiosity, which lead him to spying on a family he just met. This will prove to be a very dangerous mission.

Conway, G., & Murase, S. (2011). *Nancy Drew v.3: Together with the Hardy Boys*. New York: Papercutz.

While this graphic novel is marketed towards children, it may appeal to teens who are fans of *Nancy Drew* and *The Hardy Boys*, both of which are classics in the mystery genre. Nancy Drew and the Hardy boys must solve a series of crimes together related to Nancy and her friends, but Nancy finds herself caught the middle of the tension between the Hard Boys.

Christie, A., Rivière, F., & Leclercq, F. (2008). *Endless Night*. Toronto: HarperCollins.

This story is based on the novel of Agatha Christie, which might appeal to older teens. A man wants to purchase a piece of land to build his dream house on. However, there are a couple things stopping him: the land is cursed, and he has no money. He meets a wealthy young lady whom he falls in love with, and they buy the house on the cursed land. Will the curse get to them?

References

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