

## Falcon and Winter Soldier

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Since Marvel released Endgame in 2019, fans around the globe have been raving about the end scenes. One of which shows Steve Rogers, the beloved Captain America, passing on the legacy of his symbolic shield to Sam Wilson. This event leads to the mini-series, “The Falcon and The Winter Soldier,” which stars Sebastian Stan as James Buchanan “Bucky” Barnes Jr., (aka the Winter Soldier), and Anthony Mackie as Sam Wilson (aka the Falcon.)

The story starts with Sam Wilson working with the government to complete missions that assured the good of the United States, whether it be dealing with the “Displaced” that came back in Endgame or the Flag-Smashers. As he tries to deal with his loss, Wilson turns the legendary Captain America shield over to the government to retire it and place it in a memorial to honor Steve Rogers. While Wilson is dealing with loss in his way, Bucky was focusing on recovering from his massive trauma and loss by making “amends” and going to his state-mandated therapy.



Another Marvel spin-off series joins the Disney+ platform.

With the world quickly taking a turn for the worse, the U.S. decided that the people, once again, need hope; they need a figurehead. So, they bring the shield out of retirement and appoint a new Captain America, John Walker, played by Wyatt Russell.

While Walker doesn't have the added benefits gained from the elusive Super Soldier Serum, he is a highly decorated soldier that is automatically accepted and revered as the new Captain. He was put to work right away to try and apprehend the Flag Smashers. However, Walker isn't the only one trying to take down these rebels. We get our first look at how the iconic duo of Sam and Bucky work together, and to say it was fantastic is an understatement.

The heartbreak and disgust experienced by numerous viewers from seeing anybody other than Chris Evans in the Captain America suit made many hate the show altogether. However, the flaws of the Falcon and The Winter Soldier are far outweighed by its great plot, exemplary acting, flawless editing, and, most importantly, it addresses problems that many people experience in

their day-to-day life in a way that doesn't derive from the story. For instance, the show has scenes that deal with obstacles ranging from racism to immigrants and deportation and the global food crisis. All in all, this show is a must-watch for any Marvel fan!

## Shadow and Bone

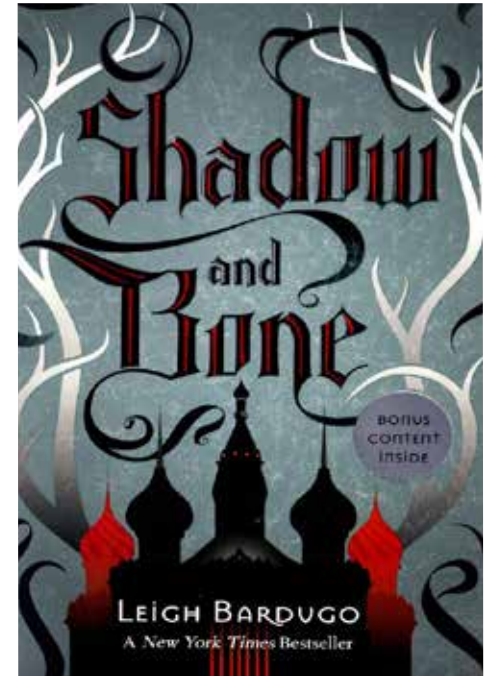
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Whenever I hear that a book series is going to become a movie or show, I always make sure not to get my hopes up too high. It's no secret to book lovers that film adaptations in many cases tend to be far worse than the original. The new Netflix series “Shadow and Bone,” based on the Six of Crows duology and Shadow and Bone trilogy, was no exception to this pre-judgment. However, soon after beginning the series, the show began to prove me wrong in many ways with few overall things that I would change, and after binge-watching the whole series in a night, I found myself with many strong opinions.

My absolute favorite thing about the show was the casting. Each and every one of the characters matched the description, both physically and personality wise, that they were given in the book nearly perfectly. Because of this, the cast was extremely diverse and had so much representation of all races, genders, and sexualities. In this cast as well, a lot of new faces that I've personally never heard of showed up and played their parts wonderfully, with a slight exception of one, but we'll get to that in a second. One of my other favorite things about the show was the new storyline. The series combines two groups of protagonists from the same universe that never interacted in the books. Because the show meshes the stories together, we get to see them interact with each other for the first time and get a whole new storyline from it. The way this new storyline was written encapsulated the different personalities and goals of the two groups amazingly without steering too much away from the original plot. However, with all of the amazing parts of the show also come some negatives.

The one character portrayed that I wasn't extremely impressed with was the main character Alina Starkov played by Jessie Mei Li. Her acting throughout the episodes was great, but I don't think that she fully encapsulated the fiery, sassy, and brave character described in the books. There were times where I found myself wishing for the book Alina back. It all just felt a little two-dimensional, and dare I say, cheesy at times. However, if I had to

Whenever I hear that a book



This Netflix series is based on the 2012 hit book series with the same name.

choose one thing to change from the show is the timing of events. While watching, I was constantly noticing small details that were different, whether that be the order of something happening or the actions of a character. It just got confusing at times when the order of events was different from the books.

Overall, it was actually quite difficult to find negatives about the show. I may even go as far as to say that it is one of my favorite book to screen remakes. The overall story felt just as authentic as in the books and the characters were lovable and easy to form an emotional attachment to. Which I did plenty of. Also, the fact that I basically sat through the entire show in one day goes to show how good it actually was. I'm glad that the screenwriters worked with the original author Leigh Bardugo to create a show as close to the books as possible. This fact for me is what I think really brought it to the next level. In the end I have a very strong overall positive impression of the show and would 100% recommend it. You don't even necessarily need to read the books to understand.