



Dawn of the Planet of the Apes: The Official Movie Novelization

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A growing nation of genetically evolved apes led by Caesar is threatened by a band of human survivors of the devastating virus unleashed a decade earlier. They reach a fragile peace, but it proves short-lived, as both sides are brought to the brink of a war that will determine who will emerge as Earth's dominant species.

Dawn of the Planet of the Apes: The Official Movie Novelization Details

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From Reader Review Dawn of the Planet of the Apes: The Official Movie Novelization for online ebook

Paz says

Demasiado lento

Rebecca Knight says

Absolutely rockin' freaky cool. Good writing. Every scene builds up and elaborates on the visuals of the movie. Especially interesting details of the ape culture. So much more emotional. Especially fascinating are the characters Maurice (orangutan) and Luca (gorilla). There are a couple of extra scenes with them that were not in the movie. Also other additional scenes with Koba (the ferocious bonobo). Great suspense. And of course Caesar is simply awesome.

Jody Ellis says

This book was based on the movie, so I had high expectations that a lot would be added that the movie simply didn't have time to cover or explore. The world was the authors oyster.

What I got instead was a movie replica with tiny fragments of extras, and I felt like I'd spent 9 odd hours seeing the movie again.

If you haven't seen the movie then certainly give this book a crack. It is well written and enjoyable. If you have seen the movie, don't read it. You will be left feeling cheated.

Enrique says

The only gripe I have that is very minor is that the prior film, Rise of the Planet of the Apes, has not received a novelization. Thus we have a very, very good novelization of one of the best sequels ever, and no novelization of its also good prior movie. But ignoring that you still have a very good book.

What is very interesting to me is that while the writing isn't unintelligent, the language for the first few chapters is more so simple and straight forward in its storytelling, describing events in a straight forward matter of fashion, and not having dialogue or thoughts of characters that are ultra complicated, but no less intelligent. Once we are introduced to the humans and the conflict of the narrative begins (which happens soon in the novel) does the language and writing pick up. This approach makes sense considering that the apes in the story and film aren't quite evolved to the point of super complex language. Only Caesar and Koba can properly speak aloud while the rest of the apes use American Sign Language, which itself literally would be spoken differently than actual English. It's just an interesting tidbit I noticed as I read this book.

Being based on one of the best movies ever and of recent memory, the book's story is also very good. Like most novelizations its benefit is fleshing out a lot of background elements and the story. Namely you get a

lot of perspectives of various characters, their thoughts, motivations, that you might not be as readily aware of. Most interesting is knowing what Koba is thinking throughout the movie as it sheds light onto the exact moment he begins his big plans. This is also the case for the humans who aren't as focused on as our ape protagonists. We learn more about Malcolm's family, Dreyfus the humans' leader, and even random people.

The biggest surprise might be that the novelization isn't all that different from the film proper. Seeing as the movie is phenomenal this is definitely not a bad thing at all. But it also might be the fact that when Dawn of the Planet of the Apes was being made its script was actually hastily made and I don't believe was completed when filming began. Which is the biggest headscratch considering the film and book itself both have very solid narratives that flow very well. Overall if you liked Dawn of the Planet of the Apes or any of the new planet of the apes movies, then I would recommend buying and reading this novelization.

Oh there is one other Planet of the Apes book I forgot to mention. Dawn of the Planet of the Apes: Firestorm is billed as a prequel to this novelization, and while its similar in some ways and also fleshes out characters deeper than the movies, its more so a direct sequel to Rise of the Planet of the Apes. That said I would also say reading and buying Firestorm is definitely worth your purchase and makes sense if you are going to be reading this novelization.

AMEERA says

when monkeys be like humans always I have been thinking monkeys behavior close of humans or human act like animal and this book or a movie prove this

Adam Larkan says

I just started this book this lesson and so far i am really enjoying it. I like how descriptive it is and the book is showing that it's not just humans that have emotions. Apes have emotions and they stick together. I also like how (so far) they have sticked together with everything, from hunting to giving birth. I really am enjoying the book.

Steven Shinder says

I listened to the audiobook, which was 8 hours, 50 minutes, and 20 seconds long and narrated by Christian Rummel. The story sounds more epic when you listen to the film's score throughout. The chronology described in this novelization is a bit off, but I am sure that I am one of few people who will notice. There are minor references to the events of the preceding novel, Firestorm, in which mercenaries were sent to hunt the apes in the Muir Woods, which was set on fire. More background on human characters is provided. Thought processes of various characters are revealed, such as Caesar reasoning whether or not killing Koba could be justified. His claim that Koba is not an ape makes more sense when he realizes that Koba, in his quest for power, has tried to take what makes humans powerful. When I watched the film, I had wished that Rocket had had a larger role and some sort of reaction to the death of his son Ash. Here, he tells Koba, "You kill my son!" This mirrors Battle for the Planet of the Apes, in which Caesar says to Aldo, "You killed my son!" The last conversation between Caesar and Malcolm is more powerful in the film; the novelization leaves out some dialogue that really made that scene beautiful. In the epilogue, a ship containing humans from the north who had been contacted via radio approaches San Francisco as Caesar and the apes stand on

top of the tower at daybreak. Caesar wonders who will make the first move in this game of chess, a game that he has played both figuratively and literally since he was very young. This was probably meant to be the stinger of the film before being cut. I am eager to find out more info about the next installment as soon as I can.

Cassie Hawkings says

I'm not normally one to read Movie Novelizations but since I'm obsessed with the new Apes films I couldn't resist this. Having seen the movie the weekend it came out, I was deeply moved by the story and the direction by Matt Reeves and the incredible cast headed by human leads Andy Serkis (Caesar) and Jason Clarke (Malcolm).

I can see so much of the movie within this novel but I've also noticed there is a lot of stuff that wasn't in the final cut of the movie. One example being, the celebration surrounding baby Milo's (named revealed by Andy Serkis) birth was seen partially in the trailers but never made it into the final cut of the film, also, when Caesar screams at the humans to "GO!" in the movie, Koba takes the reins and screams it in the book.

I liked how some of the other humans have perspectives in the book but I don't think they were completely necessary. The main story of the film in particular is focused on Caesar, Malcolm and Koba and their experiences.

We see Caesar's inner struggle to control his teenage son Blue Eyes and having to balance his family life, his leadership to the apes and the increasing balance of trying to prevent a full scale war between the Apes and the humans.

Malcolm I think was always an interesting character and I think he is portrayed as being a little bit of a pushover in the book. There are times I couldn't even detect the dialogue in the way Jason Clarke said it in the movie.

What I enjoyed about the whole Koba part of the story was how you see him go from being insanely loyal to Caesar but then you see the rapid decline of being a full on Caesar sympathizer to a rogue who wants nothing more than to wipe the human race out. I think, much like the movie, Irvine did a good job at detailing Koba's fall from grace.

One thing that bugged me was the way Ellie (played by the incredible Keri Russell in the movie) was portrayed in the book. In the movie we see her struggle to bond with Alexander, her new stepson but in the book she came off as more rebellious and more...bitchy? I think that's word for it. Some of her dialogue was missing when they were in the truck with Dreyfus. Her line "It's what we saw" was nowhere to be found. That line to me was one of my favorite lines and I think Keri said it with such ease yet the way it sounded was made to sound like she was scared and worried and that's what made the line great.

The one thing that really annoyed me was, I kept finding spelling and grammar errors. Being an emerging screenwriting, I'm forever having to correct my mistakes and I think when the author sits down with the editor to go over the spelling and grammar, they have to go over it at least a half dozen times to make sure that the spelling and grammar is correct.

I think Alex Irvine has done a good job with the book even though it is far from perfect. If I could, I would award the book 3.5 stars for effort but since I can't, I will award this book an honorable 4 stars.

Ursula Johnson says

I have really enjoyed the new Apes films. Having read the excellent Dawn of the Apes Firestorm prequel book, (this wonderful novel covers the events right after Rise and before Dawn) I looked forward to this book. I saw the Film first, since the book was not released until several days after the film. While the Film was fabulous, (Andy Serkis was truly incredible), some things seemed to be missing from the Film. Other reviewed have noted that scenes in the trailer were not in the theatrical cut of the film. This novel follows the Film, but also gives additional insight into the major players that in some cases was missing from the film. In particular for me the character of Dreyfus, introduced in the Firestorm book, does not come across as one dimensional as he was in the film. I'm guessing some of his storyline was cut. The character of Malcolm was also more fully explained than in the film. Although the Film is powerful, this novel gives a more comprehensive picture of what was happening and why. The author does a wonderful job of characterization and handles the dramatic developments well. It definitely kept my interest. If you haven't already seen the film, I recommend reading the book first, as it will be easier to follow the events of the film. I plan on getting the audio book as well. A definite must read, along with the prequel for fans of the film. I wonder why we don't have a novelization of the first film?

Melissa C. says

The story of the book was amazing from its own cinematic contrast. There were more feelings and thoughts projected from all the characters, good and evil then in the film but the emotional aspects of the characters in the film did contribute respectively. The apes, especially Caesar, Cornelia, Blue Eyes and little Cornelius, are a greater example about family and love. Apes Together Strong!

Logan says

Plot: The book is about this plague that has taken out most of the world. These apes are all super smart now from a drug that was supposed to help humans and now they live in the California Redwood forest. Humans go up there and discover the apes home and they feel very threatened by the apes and how smart they are and all the weapons they have. The apes feel threatened and now it is a war with man vs. ape.

Analysis: Caesar was shot by Koba another ape that was basically the second leader and he was one of his best friends, Caesar felt a lot of pain with a gunshot wound in his shoulder. Caesar felt very betrayed and also like he couldn't trust anyone after that. Blue eyes is Caesar's son and he felt terrible seeing his father in pain. He felt even worse since he liked the way Koba wanted to do things but Koba wanted the bad way.

Theme: One of the themes that may be taken from this book is that you should be careful who you trust. In the book Koba shot his best friend, the leader, Caesar and they knew this because, "The whole show of supplication after the fight in the powerhouse..." (Irvine 246). Koba just wanted to be in charge so he hurt one of his best friends and put everyone in danger just to be in charge. They don't want him in charge because, "If Koba had pulled off a coup, and removed Caesar from power, his next move would be to consolidate that power" (Irvine 247).

Opinion: I really liked the book and thought it was very fun to read. I liked how there was a lot of action and it was different because it was animals vs. humans. The book was very unpredictable and that was the good part about it. It was very cool to see how the animals were very smart and knew how to do things.

Dave Hay says

Listen to this as an audio book, and have not seen the film. As always, the books seem to be better than the adaptation, scenes better set, characters past, feelings and thoughts easier to convey. With this 'book' it was plain to see that the book is an adaptation of a movie, and that what is lost from book to film has not been 'found' again in the film to book adaptation. With the apes being a reflection on mankind and it wrong and rights there was so much missing or more that could have been provoking. Books are not set to a time limit like films, I am sure there must be many in the planet of ape franchise boooks that are better as a read.

AudioBookReviewer says

My full Dawn of the Planet of the Apes: The Official Movie Novelization audiobook review can be found at Audiobook Reviewer.

This is a retelling of a classic tale that I believe will continue to be retold as society continue to develop and change. Paired with a very capable narrator, it will be very difficult for this movie novelization to fail.

Humans have been all but wiped out by a mysterious virus that originated in the apes that were being experimented on. 10 years have passed since the first movie, I don't think they made a novelization of it. This must be some sort of a newer way to gain publicity. That doesn't bother me at all. Cesar has led his band of ape into Muir woods. Successfully creating a new society where ever type of ape lives together in harmony. As their golden rule states: "Ape shall not kill ape".

Everything is going fine for our primate friends. Until they had the bad luck to bump into some human survivors of the plague. This is where the internal struggles of some of the tribe members comes to the surface. Cesar is overthrown as leader and must fight, life or death, to regain his authority.

I think the only reason the humans are even in these stories is to make people want to read or watch the movie. All they were were the antagonists to our protagonist apes. I was able to fully relate and care for man of the apes in the tribe.

The same day that I finished listening to Dawn of the Planet of the Apes: The Official Movie Novelization, the wife and I went to the theater to see it on the big screen. Boy was I disappointed with the movie. Don't get me wrong the movie was some fun eye candy, with ridiculous 3D animation that was out of this world. Yet the movie version left out so many, what I thought were, key items in the plot.

I would highly recommend listening to instead of watching the movie. I got more out of it.

The movie focus mostly on the human ape interactions while the audiobook focuses on the ape ape interactions. That just so happens to have people in it. Oh and the afterward of the book lays out a great way to continue expanding this new classic retelling.

What can I say about Christian Rummel, only one of my favorite narrators. He was easily able to breathe life into this story. Yelling when it called for it. The jumbled slightly distorted speech of Cesar was perfect. The vocal range of a guy who seems to have a pretty naturally deep voice is quite extraordinary. Fill every sentence with the proper emotional filled ear candy.

Audiobook purchased by reviewer.

James Caterino says

A few disclosures first:

“Dawn of the Planet of the Apes” was a trans-formative cinematic experience for me. I was blown away by it in every aspect. I found it deeply affecting and it will end somewhere among my top four or five films of all time. I also read a lot of movie novelizations and really enjoy them. Take a look at my bookshelf and you will see I generally give them favorable reviews. Plus, I have written both novels and screenplays so I understand the straight jacket sometimes imposed on the author, who often is working from a very early draft of the screenplay and given little creative space to truly “novelize”.

Given my affection for the film and my understanding of the process, this book should have been a five star layup for someone like me. And the source material is so strong here, turning this into an outstanding novel should not be that hard.

Don't get me wrong, there is a ton of great stuff in this book. The major set pieces are well done. There is some really cool back story information sprinkled in. The author does a good job with the big three (Caesar, Malcolm, and Koba) for the most part. So why three stars instead of four or five?

There is way too much Carver here. He gets the viewpoint narrative for large chunks of several chapters. While Carter is a very realistic character, he is not interesting. He hates because he is stupid and ignorant and a sheep who probably listened to some loudmouth fear-mongering talk show host who screamed “the apes did this to you. It's all their fault.” The thing is, we don't even get that. Just spent wasted narrative time in his empty head that would have been better served in one of the big three, or an interesting secondary character like Maurice, Ellie, or Alexander.

While the book does a good job with Koba's viewpoint most of the time, we never feel his pain, the damage awoken inside him by the appearance of the humans. I wanted more. Plus, there is a major continuity error here, something that directly contradicts Koba's backstory as told in the excellent prequel novel “Dawn of the Planet of the Apes: Firestorm” by Greg Keyes. And it is a huge detail that goes a long way toward making Koba the unstable, rabid, vengeful persona he becomes in “Dawn”. Now granted, the author was probably relying on a continuity “expert” at the studio. But this error could have been easily avoided with a simple phone call, email, or by reading the prequel (if it was finished).

The ending is different here and lacks all of the powerful, bittersweet emotion that made the final scene in “Dawn” so unforgettable. Yeah, I know the author was working from an early version of the script, etc. Sorry, but I don't buy that as an excuse. The movie was in the can months ago. There was plenty of time for an editor to get the ending right in the book before the release date. The ending, as it reads here is just....wrong. The Malcolm and Caesar I saw in the movie, are nowhere to be found here. “Dawn” is first and foremost a story about friendship. I wanted to feel it in this book the way I did in the movie, but it wasn't quite there.

Bottom line: This book lacks the emotional firepower of the movie and is not as good as the prequel “Firestorm”. But still, the source material is so strong and there is enough great stuff in here to make this a must own/read for hardcore “Planet of the Apes” fans or anyone who enjoyed the movie.

(Edit 2015 update)

As Baby's father said to Johnny Castle in "Dirty Dancing", "When I'm wrong, I say I'm wrong."

I just reread this book and admit I was way too hard on it the first time. Partly because I was on a huge emotional high from the movie and had unrealistic expectation for this adaptation. And partly because I read it as a writer instead of as a reader and kept thinking of how I would write it, instead of just enjoying this author's version.

Now I still am bugged by the Koba backstory contradiction with "Firestorm". There is simply no excuse for a such a sloppy continuity error in a major release from a huge publisher and a giant movie studio with a team of editors on payroll. And I still think there is WAY too much page time given to the annoying racist/hater Carver.

But that being said, there is so much about this book that is great. Actually, everything about this book, except for those two things, is fantastic.

Bottom line: Enthralling novelization of the best movie of 2014. I am upping my rating from three to four stars.

Austin says

good for what it was

It was well written and I enjoyed the story. I was pleasantly surprised to read that the mythology around the rise of the apes was somewhat believable. I could suspend reality enough to believe in the genetic altering of a species combined with a mutated virus that kills off most of mankind. However the Hollywood ending and other theatrics throughout just didn't work for me.
