



## Brokeback Mountain: Story to Screenplay

*Annie Proulx , Larry McMurtry , Diana Ossana*

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**Brokeback Mountain: Story to Screenplay** Annie Proulx , Larry McMurtry , Diana Ossana

Annie Proulx has written some of the most original and brilliant short stories in contemporary literature, and for many readers and reviewers, "Brokeback Mountain" is her masterpiece. Now the major motion picture "Brokeback Mountain" is being hailed as equally masterful, with performances that are "the stuff of Hollywood history" (The New York Times). "Brokeback Mountain: Story to Screenplay" offers readers insight into how this classic short story was turned into an award-winning screenplay and film. "Brokeback Mountain" was originally published in "The New Yorker." It won the National Magazine Award. It also won an O. Henry Prize. Included in this volume is Annie Proulx's haunting story about the difficult, dangerous love affair between a ranch hand and a rodeo cowboy. Also included is the Oscar-nominated and Golden Globe-winning screenplay for the major motion picture, written by Larry McMurtry and Diana Ossana. All three writers have contributed essays on the process of adapting this critically acclaimed story for film. This book is an indispensable tool for film students and aficionados.

## Brokeback Mountain: Story to Screenplay Details

Date : Published April 11th 2006 by Scribner Book Company (first published December 27th 2005)

ISBN : 9780743298155

Author : Annie Proulx , Larry McMurtry , Diana Ossana

Format : Hardcover 166 pages

Genre : Fiction, Short Stories, Culture, Film, Lgbt

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## From Reader Review Brokeback Mountain: Story to Screenplay for online ebook

### Leigh Ann says

Just as beautiful as the film.

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### Jeffrey says

If you like to book you'll love this title. I came away with a much greater insight into the process of getting this made into a screenplay and the courageous men and women who made it happen. I was particularly impressed with their tenacity give the climate in the U.S. and the buzz created by a story that was completely mislabeled as a "gay cowboy story". Cheers to Annie & Ang. Well done and Cheers!

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### Trish says

Wow. Run, don't walk, to find this one. Everyone knows the basic premise of the story, but the writing is truly amazing.

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### Matt Sautman says

3.5 is likely a more accurate star rating for me. I find the overall presentation of this book more interesting than the original short story itself. To be able to have access to Proulx full original text with the screenplay is neat, but also having a later section dedicated to her own reactions to the adaptation process seems far neater to me. I can't shake the feeling at times though that the relationships in the short story feel unreal to me, specifically with Jack and Ennis's relationship seeming almost like fan fiction. The screenplay adaptation does address this problem somewhat as it is able to dedicate more time to exploring these characters and their "forbidden love." Yet there is also a somewhat dated quality to how this relationship develops that goes beyond the historical setting of both the short story and the screenplay. I'm curious how a contemporary queer author would choose to develop a story like this one differently from its earlier incarnations.

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### Jacoline Maes says

The short story is just okay, the movie is beautiful. This confirms what I always fear for in short stories: the limited page number makes it impossible for the story and characters to grow on me and it doesn't help that it spans twenty years. In the movie there's time to work out nuances of the characters, to give them more backstory and a real sense of the world they live in. In the story there are just a few sentences mentioning those things and that makes it feel a bit empty and it doesn't succeed in leaving an impression, while the movie definitely did.

I also liked the extra material. It's fun to see where the script differs from and adds to the short story. It's

great to read Annie Proulx thoughts about making it into a movie. I don't regret reading this, but it confirms what I thought: the movie is superior.

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### **Emilie Morscheck says**

I had to read this book for my university course in screenwriting.

Anne Proulx's short story is lyrical and emotional. The screenplay really does a great job at expanding the short story and building on Proulx's tones. The script is sensitive and ends the way I have come to appreciate in stories - an end with no clear resolution, just the sense that life goes on. The extra material after the screenplay was interesting and provided an insight into Proulx's and the screen writers' experience the adaption process. It wasn't instructional, just informative.

This is a good read for anyone interested in screenwriting or fans of the film.

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### **Maitê says**

There are some differences in the screenplay when compared with the short story but they're complementary. As one of the essays said, the short story was the rough blueprint and the screenwriters used it to develop the characters beyond what was showed or and to bring out the essence of the story, doing so brilliantly.

People call Brokeback Mountain the 'gay cowboy movie' but it's so much more than that (also because neither main character is a cowboy xD)! The essays by Annie Proulx, Larry McMurtry and Diana Ossana explain what the story is about and how hard everyone worked for the film to come to fruition must better than I could. Though the short story is really rough and gritty, the essays made me love it, so this is a recommended read for the lovers of the film and the short story alike.

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### **Mell says**

Took a wonderful "spiritual exploration" class back in 2006 or so where we read this book (containing the short story) and watched the film together as a group. It was a day long retreat, and we followed with discussion and then individual art time. I've since lost my artwork. It wasn't very good. But the day of re-watching and re-reading such a beautifully created, incredibly moving story with a group of people remains a memorable event for me.

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### **Miguel Vega says**

Good story, decent characters, but not my type.

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### **Bethany says**

This short story was far better and close to the actual movie than I expected. I absolutely adore Annie Proulx, though, so that's to be expected.

Honestly, I think more people should read the short story and actually pay attention to it, because this is not about "two gay cowboys". First of all, they aren't gay. Second of all, they aren't cowboys. Third of all, it's not about their romance. It's about homophobia and society pressure, both external and internal. And it is absolutely wonderful. By far, one of my favorite short stories. The prose fits the plot and setting of the story: spare, bare, without embellishment. Raw. Proulx is an absolutely fabulous writer. She manages to fit more detail into about 30 pages than most writers do into a novel. Honestly, this story was the perfect length. I don't even wish it were longer, because it is perfect.

Reading the screenplay right after the short story is also a wonderful experience, because you get to compare the two. The authors are right. Why don't more people adapt short stories? Get on that Hollywood! It's truly a great adaptation, the screen writers often taking not only dialogue, but even prose straight from the short story and copying it word for word into the screenplay. Simply wondrous.

I could go on for a very long time about the politics of this story and it's movie, but that's not what this is for. Just suffice it to say, you won't regret reading it.

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### **Claire says**

Had to read this for a class and loved it. I had the luxury of reading the short story before watching the film, which I think is ideal. The film expands upon the short story, so it might be disappointing to read the story after watching the movie version. Proulx has a wonderful, straight forward style- she's blunt yet still writes incredibly human, heartfelt scenes.

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### **Xikou says**

"If you can't fix it, you have to stand it."

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### **Skip says**

Words to describe the story: beautiful, poetic, longing, bittersweet, towering

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### **Desiree Rico says**

loved the original short story! seeing the development from story to screenplay with input from the author and screenwriters was very interesting.

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### **Jennifer says**

This is a fantastic short story and it was fascinating to read the screenplay as well, and to learn about the journey from story to film. I loved the essays from Proulx, McMurtry and Ossana.

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