

"Bitter Content"

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Based on the song "Not what I meant" by dodie.

1. INT. DAY WAITING ROOM

A girl (**GRACE**) sits in a chair, knee shaking, in her hand a script carefully folded in half without creasing it so she can still check back and forth between it. Her headshot and resume sits on the plastic sleeve of a ringbinder on her lap.

She is small and fair, her long hazel hair falls in soft curls down her back and shoulders. She wears a pastel pink shirt dress with a neat bow tied at the front, on her feet she wears a pair brown leather pumps with a small heel that lace up the front.

A sign behind her reads "Cymru Casting".

Around her girls are all dressed similarly in dresses or light coloured clothes they all have a similar look and they each wait for their turn.

She can't help but pull each girl apart. She is shaken out of her trance as a voice in the room calls her. Why can't she look like them?

(BACKGROUND VOICE)

Grace Edwards, please.

She stands up, stops, takes a deep breath exhales and Walks into the audition room, She places her headshot and script on the table in front of her and steps back standing against a blank wall as two interviewees sit in front of her looking through paperwork.

Awkward silence

WOMAN 1

(Looking up) When you're ready.

GRACE.

Jake, I know i'm not perfect but we can make this work we can be the perfect team, i-

WOMAN 1

Thank you very much.

GRACE.

Oh, I uh can do it a different way?

WOMAN 1

No, that will be all. We will be in touch thank you.

GRACE picks up her belongings and leaves the room, closing the door behind her, Stopping and listening she overhears the people inside.

WOMAN 1

How many followers did you say she has?

WOMAN 2

only 2,000. She would never have the pull that we are looking for?

WOMAN 1

Yes exactly! Just not well known enough!

CUT TO BLACK.

2. INT. AFTERNOON/ EVENING. FLAT

FADE IN FROM BLACK.

GRACE walks through the door into her lounge. Her partner **NICK** is at the stove cooking. She dumps her stuff onto the counter and slumps onto a bar stool.

NICK

How'd it go? (Not looking at her focusing on the food in front of him)

GRACE

It didn't. Another No. didn't even let me finish the line let alone the scene. UGH! (Her head falls back into her arms)

He turns around and starts to serve up. He realises how down she is and walks around to her hugging her from behind.

NICK

(Over her shoulder) I'm sure it's a crap part anyways. You don't need that

GRACE

I'm an actress Nick.

Wriggling out of his grip and getting up.

GRACE (CONT'D)

Maybe I just can't act. What's the point anyways. it's a load of shit. You gotta be big to even make it small these days. I'm sick of it.

She (**GRACE**) picks up a blanket from the corner of the couch wraps it around herself and slumps down covering her head.

NICK

Look i'll check my inbox i'm sure there's a list of roles in there you'd be perfect for.

He (**NICK**) goes back to serving food up.

GRACE

ugh don't bother, unless you can give me a million followers overnight there's no point. i'm going to bed I have work in the morning.

3. INT. COFFEE SHOP. DAY.

GRACE works away busily in a small welsh coffee shop, when her next customer in the queue gets to her it was her best friend **AMELIA**.

GRACE

(To the Barista behind her) So that's two macchiatos and a chai latte. Thanks Stu!

She (**GRACE**) looks up from the till, There is **AMELIA** almost bouncing on the spot in front of her. Her brightly coloured purple hair is tied back into a ponytail, her denim jacket is filled with patches and embroidery and she has a film camera over her shoulder like a bag.

AMELIA

(Excitedly) When's your break?

GRACE

oh uh hi Amelia, I clock off in like 5 minutes.

AMELIA

Sound. Latte pleaseee. Let's stop for a coffee.

CUT.

GRACE and **AMELIA** sit at a table coffee mugs in hand. **GRACE** scrolls through her instagram liking each photo as it appears on her screen.

AMELIA

So how was your audition yesterday?
I'm sure you smashed it!

GRACE

Uh i don't know. really not feeling this whole acting thing anymore I think i'm just gonna give it up and get a real job. I just want to be seen!

AMELIA

(snickers) Ha a real job?! you don't do real jobs they require commitment remember. I'm surprised you're even still working here. When's your next one?

GRACE

It's tomorrow, but they've already said they require at least 2 thousand followers to even be considered. I'm nowhere near!

AMELIA

Why the hell is acting based on followers?! You're a good actress why can't they see that! Why does everyone have to link it back to social media these days it's bullshit!

GRACE

Exactly it's just not happening so I'm probs just gonna leave it! Like look at this girl!

She (**GRACE**) shows a picture of a girls instagram on her phone, The girl is tall and skinny, posing up against a hedge. The post has 20 thousand likes and over 5 thousand comments. The caption reads "I got the part!"

GRACE (CONT'D)

She got the part from that audition yesterday! How am I supposed to compete, she's got it all the looks, the body, the FOLLOWERS! It's stupid i'm not even bothering.

AMELIA

Look. Why don't I help? get you out of this slump!

GRACE

Oh I don't know. It's not what i meant about wanting to be seen.

AMELIA

Yes it is! Come on I'll even do some photoshoots for you get your insta on the same level! You're gonna be a new woman in this audition.

CUT TO NEXT SCENE.

4. INT. EVENING - GRACE'S BEDROOM

GRACE lies across her bed, as **AMELIA** wanders around the room throwing clothes on top of her.

GRACE

I don't see how a makeover is going to help in this situation. I need followers.

AMELIA

yeah and to get followers you need to look better

AMELIA blows a kiss in the direction of **GRACE**.

AMELIA (CONT'D)

look, the thing is you have to have a sense of style and individuality to stand out online and especially in these auditions!

Music Montage as **GRACE** and **AMELIA** dance around the room, their looks changing with every few beats. The music slows as they settle on **GRACE**'s final look.

GRACE

Oh wow. It's like perfect.

AMELIA

It really is! oh my god.

NICK walks through the door.

NICK

Oh my days, what is all this noise.

beat.

NICK (CONT'D)

you. wow. uh. oh my. Look amazing.

GRACE

I do?

AMELIA

yes, you do now let's go kill that audition!

5. EXT. DAY - THE AUDITION.

GRACE and **NICK** sit in the car ahead of her new audition. **GRACE** looks over at **NICK** with a worried expression on her face.

NICK

(Rests hand on her leg) You got this I believe in you.

GRACE

I don't. I don't have the followers remember?

NICK

You won't need followers when they see how good you are!

GRACE gets out of the car and walks into the audition building. she takes a seat and a deep breath.

MAN 1

Grace Edwards?

GRACE gets up and makes her way towards the gentleman and then follows him into the room. Before entering she looks back at **NICK** nervous. He smiles back at her giving her a thumbs up. She goes in to the room, where the gentleman takes a seat and smiles calmly at the table in front of her. **GRACE** stands on the cross in the centre of the room.

GRACE

Hi there, My name is Grace Edwards. I
uh actually haven't prepared anything?

MAN 1

that's alright. give us a monologue of
how you're feeling right this moment.

GRACE

oh right uh okay.

MAN 1

don't stress take your time there's no
rush. we are here for as long as you
need.

GRACE (CONT'D)

I am just a girl. I don't have a
following. I don't live in a big
london apartment. I have a small flat
in carmarthen. I post selfies on my
instagram not sponsored posts. I love
art, reading and acting. I don't have
a big hollywood lifestyle but I am
content here. Although I am afraid of
what you both will think of me I know
that I gave my all and that there will
be more auditions and more parts of
which i will fit better. How am I
meant to stay on track with all of
your expectations? When each hand I
shake will pull me back? and in the
end will i feel proud? that i grit my
teeth and followed the damn crowd?
Will i have grown my own empire? or
made a fucking mess?

GRACE takes a deep breath, Closes her eyes and as she opens
it a tear rolls down her cheek.

Smiling softly

GRACE

Thank you very much.

MAN 1

No thank you that was perfect! We will be in touch very soon.

6. INT. THE NEXT DAY THE COFFEE SHOP

GRACE works away in the coffee shop busily clearing tables talking and smiling with customers when her phone rings. She doesn't recognise the number but answers anyways with hesitation.

MAN 1

Grace Edwards?

GRACE

Hi yes, speaking?

MAN 1

Hi Grace, It's Anthony from Wales casting direct. You auditioned with us for an upcoming drama last week?

GRACE

Oh Hi. Yes.

MAN 1

Well Grace, I am about to change your life.

GRACE hangs up the phone and looks directly towards the camera as it slowly zooms in. She holds the phone tightly to her chest and then deep inhales before closing her eyes.

FADE TO BLACK.

THE END.

A comparative analysis of two or more adaptations of the same source text

Today I will be talking about adaptations of the Sherlock Holmes Books by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. There are fifty-six short stories spread across five collections which are "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" This collection consists of twelve Short stories. "The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes" which consists of eleven short stories. "The return of Sherlock Holmes" which consists of thirteen short stories. "His Last Bow" consisting of eight short stories and lastly "The case-book of Sherlock Holmes" which includes eleven short stories. There are also Four novels called "A study in Scarlet, The sign of the Four, The Hound of the Baskervilles and the Valley of Fear".

To begin with I would like to talk about the British adaptation "Sherlock" by the BBC. It's a Television series which specifically focuses its episodes on the original Novels by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in 1902. Portrayed by Benedict Cumberbatch, the famous detective set in modern Britain. Made up of 4 series and 13 episodes, I will specifically be focusing on the episode "The Hounds of Baskerville" it is one of the novels that I have read and can talk about in detail.

When talking about the differences in each of the texts it's very clear that one of the biggest contrasts is the setting and time in which it is set. The novel is set in 1901 (The Late Victorian Era) when it was written. In the novel 'Baskerville' is an estate in Devonshire owned by a very rich family with the surname "Baskerville". Whereas the show is set in 2011 when it was filmed ahead of being released in late January 2012. With a modern-day setting comes a modern-day storyline written by Stephen Moffat and Mark Gattis update the novel, appealing to the audience viewers. In the show, Baskerville, and the area around it is a Military of Defence research base where they conduct confidential experiments.

The novel closely looks at the corruption within upper class society, compared to the series which closely looks at the corruption within a government organisation. In the late Victorian Era (The early twentieth century) the period in which the story is set, people strongly believed in the supernatural. It was actually quite easy for Doyle to write a character who believes in an evil hound who parades through the moors. Sherlocks job in the novel is to prove to the world that the dog was actually normal and nothing but ferocious.

This is compared to the series where the writers used people's fear of the misuse of technology and science. The use of hallucinogenic formulas is a very real possibility in modern day Britain that someone could use to make the supernatural feel very real and frightening. Using this technique, the episode was able to make characters believe that there is a devilish hound wandering the moors at night, killing and injuring civilians. When In fact all it was, was an oversized dog. Because of the chemicals in the fog and the lights from the military base.

However, it is also important to talk about the similarities of the texts and how the writers of the show have adapted their show to give reference to the original text. The books are written from the perspective of Dr John Watson, in the show each of the novel titles are the titles of his blog posts. E.g. "A study in Scarlett" in the show has been adapted to a "A study in Pink".

They also adapt the text for example in the original novel the text states “I observe from your forefinger that you make your own cigarettes. Have no hesitation in lighting one” [P. 7, CH.1 Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Sherlock Holmes the Hounds of Baskerville] and then in the series Sherlock says “Sit down, Mr Knight, and do *please* smoke. I’d be delighted.” And “Then there’s the nicotine stains on your fingers ... your *shaking* fingers. I know the signs.” [Sherlock, s2 e2 (2012)]

When talking about character each adaptation focuses on the characters from the books including Sherlock Holmes, Dr John Watson, Detective Lestrade and Mrs Hudson. In more classic adaptations John Watson is portrayed by an older man. Whereas In newer adaptations he is portrayed by British heartthrobs such as Martin Freeman and Jude Law. Giving the sidekick more sex appeal for the audience watching. In more recent adaptation the character of Sherlock is also giving off a lot more sex appeal. Actors such as Benedict Cumberbatch and Robert Downey Jr are very well-known actors, and each give off their own performance when portraying the role of sherlock.

When talking about the film version of “Sherlock Holmes (2009)” it is important to talk about its creator being “warner bros” being an American company they have a different look on the film and how Britain is perceived. Still set in London but in the late Victorian era instead so it in keeps with the original setting of the text.

Robert Downey Jr is an American actor, born in New York 1965. Created and released in 2009, Sherlock Holmes is an amusing but inaccurate depiction of the original text. Although it is based on the original characters that were created by Conan Doyle, it is not an adaption of any book or case from the original franchise. Robert Downey Jr’s version of Sherlock Holmes was different from the one in the books but was praised by both critics and audiences alike. In the books sherlock is described as quite an eccentric man, and while he put up an appearance of quite smart and well-dressed most of the time, at home he had a tendency to be quite messy whilst at home. In the film however he was portrayed as quite an untidy man even when at home.

In the text Sherlock is unpassionate and overall quite cold, and yet he comes across respectful and calm – Robert Downey Jr’s version is impatient, impulsive and overall rather aggressive. He tends to blurt out thoughts and ideas as they come to his mind. His demeanour towards the other characters such as Inspector Lestrade is the complete opposite in the film as to what comes across in the books. Although he makes it clear he is not keen on Lestrade’s work and can find him to be quite incompetent, their relationship comes across as quite respectful. There is of course the sarcastic comment here and there but that is the relationship which they have.

When talking about the role of John Watson, it is important to consider that he is the one character with very few differences. Dissimilar to the character of Sherlock in the books there is no consistent, detailed descriptions of Watson’s physical appearance. We must remember he is the one telling the stories in the text. The only details that we know is that he has a moustache, comes across as quite intelligent and learns sherlocks deduction methods. He cannot however put them into practice as Sherlock does as he doesn’t have Sherlock’s insight nor his capability to think outside of the box. “You see but you do not observe” – (Arthur Conan Doyle, A scandal in Bohemia). Coping with Sherlock is no easy task and Watson does tend to lose his patience with Sherlock, although he never is physically aggressive to Sherlock, he only “Answers bitterly” as described by him.

The movie itself focuses on seeking out and fighting a "Known" Villain. There isn't really a mystery to solve. It follows a storyline where the villain does a lot of bad stuff, and they decide they need to catch him. The use of supernatural powers gives a sense of mystery but overall it didn't give the same appeal as the novel would. In the movie audiences didn't get the puzzling mystery that Sherlock solves. In the Blue Carbuncle, a gem is found inside a bird! In the Speckled Band - a woman mysteriously dies saying "The band, the speckled band!" and her sister is now hearing the exact same noises that the dying woman heard. In the Creeping Man, a man is found crawling in the corridors during the night without a reason. The mystery is intriguing to its audiences, they don't know who the villain is, and it is up to Sherlock and his sidekick Watson to deduce and solve the mystery. Instead the villain was known and because of that a lot of things about him were known too. Although being a good film, it would have many good points if judged individually and not compared to the original Sherlock Holmes series.

In conclusion, both adaptations fit well with the original text in keeping with characters. The BBC show reveals to the audience the information to us as Sherlock learns it, it makes the audience feel as though we are always on the same page. Whereas the film makes it feel as though Sherlock is always a few chapters ahead. The difference between a period and modern setting comes across well and each adaptation has its own ups and downs that the audience can follow.

References:

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