

**From the Stacks**  
**By Julie Orf**  
**Dunklin County Library**  
**05/02/2026**

A familiar refrain echoes whenever a beloved story makes the leap from page to screen: the book was better. For readers, books offer an intimate experience, rich with detail, inner thoughts, and imagination that films often struggle to capture within a limited runtime. While movie adaptations can bring characters and worlds to life in vivid, visual ways, they frequently condense, alter, or omit key elements, leaving fans disappointed. This tension between storytelling mediums fuels an ongoing debate about whether any adaptation can truly live up to the depth and magic of the original text. On a positive note, however, these adaptations often lead audiences back to the library, where that familiar refrain is proven true.

*People We Meet on Vacation* by Emily Henry is a contemporary romance following Poppy Wright and Alex Nilsen, two unlikely best friends who take a weeklong vacation together every summer. Though they are complete opposites, Poppy is adventurous and outgoing, while Alex is quiet and reserved, and their bond deepens over time. After a falling out during a trip to Croatia, they stop speaking for two years. Unhappy despite her dream job as a travel writer, Poppy convinces Alex to take one last trip together, hoping to repair their friendship and confront whether their connection has always been something more.

Another adaptation, *His & Hers* by Alice Feeney, is a psychological thriller that follows journalist Anna Andrews and her ex-husband, Detective Jack Harper, as they investigate a series of murders in their small hometown. Both realize they have personal connections to the victims and to each other, making them suspects as well as investigators. Told through alternating perspectives, including that of the killer, the novel weaves together past trauma, secrets, and unreliable narratives, building toward a twist-filled conclusion.

Many readers first encounter “The Odyssey” in school. This epic poem by Homer follows the long journey of Odysseus as he struggles to return home after the Trojan War. Facing monsters, temptations, and the wrath of the god Poseidon, he spends ten years trying to reach his kingdom of Ithaca. Meanwhile, his wife Penelope fends off suitors who believe him dead, and his son Telemachus searches for news of his father. The story explores themes of perseverance, loyalty, and the longing for home.

*Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt tells the story of Tova Sullivan, a widowed aquarium cleaner who forms an unlikely bond with Marcellus, a highly intelligent giant Pacific octopus. As Tova copes with the decades old disappearance of her son, a struggling young man named Cameron arrives in town searching for answers

about his own past. Through Marcellus's observations and quiet interventions, their lives intertwine, leading to the discovery of long buried family secrets and a hopeful path forward.

Finally, *The Five Star Weekend* by Elin Hildebrand follows Hollis Shaw, a popular food blogger whose seemingly perfect life unravels after her husband's sudden death. Seeking healing, Hollis hosts a five star weekend at her Nantucket home, inviting four women from different stages of her life. As the weekend unfolds, long buried tensions and secrets surface, forcing each woman to confront her past and ultimately find a path toward understanding and renewal.