Book Trilogy Becomes a Phenomenon

The hunger games, by Suzanne Collins, is a series made up of three novels that have been developed into movies. Both the books and the movies have become a cultural phenomenon. They are among the top selling books and movies of all time. The popularity of the first novel inspired millions of fans to read the subsequent novels and run to theaters to watch the films. With its unique plot, strong main character, and highly praised lead actress, the hunger games have attracted a loyal fan base.

The series begins with the hunger games. Next is Catching Fire followed by Mockingjay. Author Suzanne Collins creates a unique universe where young characters are chosen to fight through a battle until only one opponent is left alive. The book's setting is unlike anything readers have seen before. A mix of science fiction and fantasy give readers a thrill. Katniss Everdeen, the story's main character, is chosen by lottery to participate in the hunger games, which is a televised fight between twelve boys and twelve girls, from the twelve different districts of the post-apocalyptic nation of Panem. Each participant is forced to eliminate the other competitors in any way they can.

As the story begins, Katniss is neither willing nor ready to fight to the death, but volunteers to take part in the battle in place of her younger sister. She knows she must survive the ordeal in order to get back home to care for her younger sister. Katniss lives in a coal mining town in District 12. This poor district affords little to its citizens, so Katniss learns to hunt for food for her family after her father dies in a mining accident. Katniss is strong-willed, determined, resourceful, responsible, and sometimes, sarcastic. The death of her father leaves her mother in a great depression, and in response, Katniss steps up to take care of both her mother and younger sister. She provides them with food, finding ways to forage, hunt, and trade. She is an especially skilled archer, and her name is derived from the official name for the Katniss plant, Sagittaria. Sagittaria comes from Sagittarius the Archer, and the Latin meaning is he who throws arrows.

Although Jennifer Lawrence did not begin her occupation when she was cast in the first of the hunger games movies, playing the part of Katniss Everdeen certainly launched her into worldwide stardom. Lawrence is an American actress who received an Academy Award for Best Actress nomination in 2010 for the independent drama Winter's Bone. Starring in the hunger games film series has established her as the highest grossing female action star. Between filming the subsequent films for the hunger games series, Lawrence went on to star in a romantic comedy alongside Bradley Cooper. In 2012, she won the Best Actress Oscar for her role in that film. Besides acting, Lawrence has become a style icon and was named the face of Dior Addict's beauty campaign.

The hunger games trilogy has had such success that many aspiring authors look to it for inspiration and motivation to keep writing. Suzanne Collins was able to create a story that had wide appeal and international attention. Young girls all over the globe look up to Katniss Everdeen and Lawrence as role models.

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