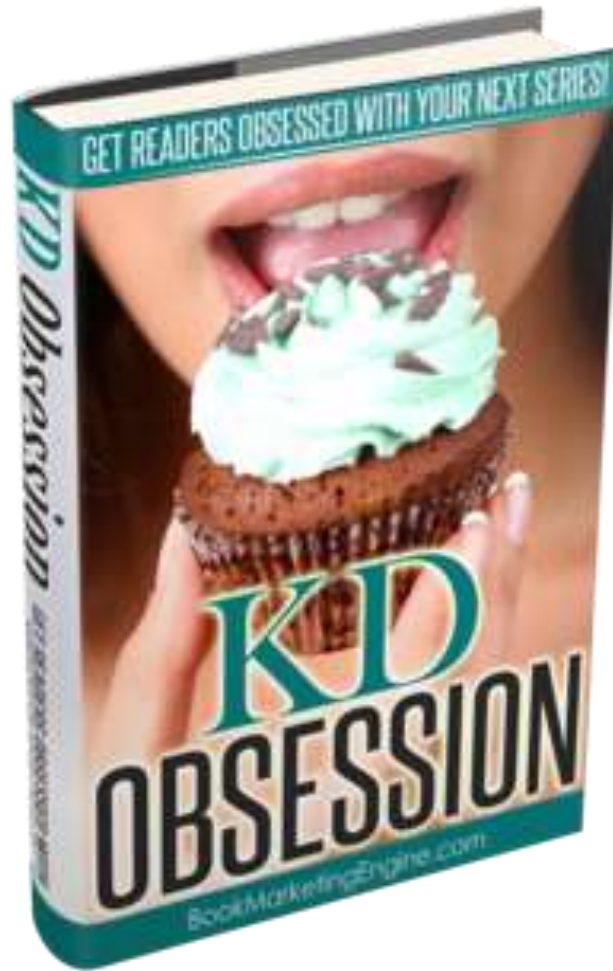


KD Obsession.



Get Readers OBSESSED With Your Next Book...
Before You Even Write It.

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Introduction

You don't know it...

But while most authors kill themselves with writer's block...

trying to come up with new ideas...

While others still fret and worry as to whether their new character and story ideas will be loved or loathed...

You are about to get ahold of a tried-and-true secret.

One that's been used by some of the most successful writers in the world...

to launch brand new stories into the world, even as readers claw, clamor, and crave this unseen work!

That secret method, is the “spin-off”, or “spin-quel”.

A spinquel is a narrative work, derived from an already existing work, that exists in the same world, the same rules, the same history, as the existing work. It features a few common characters, and will generally center on a secondary character from the original work.

It's an amazingly shrewd way to start a brand new series - whether in print, or on film.

And it's been used by so many of the great writers, on TV and in print, that you already know:

- **Recent movies like:**

- [“This is 40”](#) (from “Knocked Up”)
- [“The Bourne Legacy”](#) (from “The Bourne Identity”)
- [“The Wolverine”](#) (from “The X-Men”)
- [“U.S. Marshalls”](#) (from “The Fugitive”)
- [“Puss In Boots”](#) (from “Shrek”)
- [“The Scorpion King”](#) (from “The Mummy Returns”)
- [“Pirates of the Caribbean IV: On Stranger Tides”](#)
(follows the Pirates trilogy, with mostly new characters.)

- **Older TV Classics like:**

- [“All in the Family”](#),
- [“Laverne & Shirley”](#),
- [“The Facts of Life”](#),
- [“Trapper John, MD”](#),
- [“Benson”](#),
- [“The Bionic Woman”](#)

- **80s and 90s hits like:**

- [“The Simpsons”](#) (Most successful TV series of all time),
- [“Daria”](#),
- [“Beavis and Butthead”](#),
- [“Saved by the Bell”](#),
- [“Frasier”](#) (from “Cheers”),
- [“Angel”](#) (from Buffy, the Vampire Slayer),
- [“Melrose Place”](#),
- [“Private Practice”](#) (from “Gray’s Anatomy”),
- [“The Cleveland Show”](#) (from “The Family Guy”)
- [Xena, Warrior Princess](#) (from “Hercules: The Legendary Series”)
- [Star Trek: The Next Generation](#) (from “Star Trek”)
- [Terminator: The Sarah Connor Chronicles](#) (from “The Terminator” movie)

- **Newer TV hits like:**

- [“Fear the Walking Dead”](#) (from The Walking Dead),
- [“The Colbert Report”](#) (from The Daily Show),
- [“The Flash”](#) (from “Arrow”)
- [“Better Call Saul”](#) (from “Breaking Bad”)

- **Even books like:**

- “Ender’s Shadow” (*from Orson Scott Card’s “Ender’s Game”*)
- “The Short Second Life of Bree Tanner” (*from Stephenie Meyer’s “Twilight”*)
- “Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them.” (*from JK Rowling’s Harry Potter*)

Some of the greatest stories of all time, began as characters and concepts in other stories.

In fact, this method is used extensively in the oldest piece of written Western literature ever written! Homer’s Iliad, circa 775 BC.

In the following pages and chapters, we are going to go into at least 14 different spinquel examples, in great detail.

By the end of this course, you will have several very viable new ideas of how to grow your story universe, and how to develop those secondary character stories into full-blown, full-length novel series.

In this course, you will discover exactly how luminary and legendary storytellers like:

- Homer
- JK Rowling
- Stephenie Meyer
- Gene Roddenberry
- Suzanne Collins

- Veronica Roth
- George Lucas....

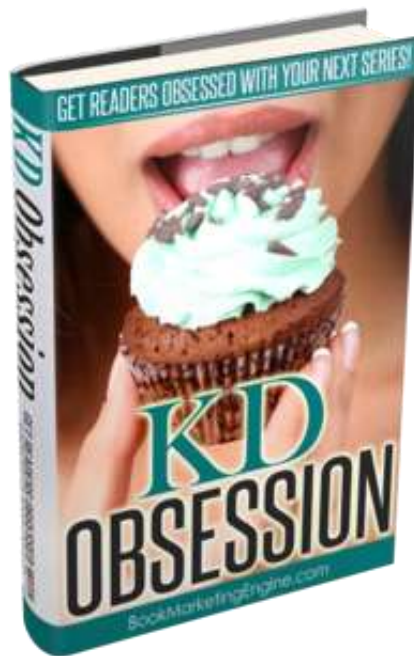
And the creators of shows like:

- Breaking Bad,
- The Walking Dead,
- All In The Family
- and more...

... have used this method to establish their book empires and their legendary status.

Hang on to your hat.

This is going to be a fun ride.



Chapter 1: Why Are Spinquels So Popular?

We all know how much Hollywood loves sequels.

Sequels are attractive to creators and to publishers because there is less risk involved in returning to a story with known popularity rather than developing new and untested characters and settings.

Audiences are sometimes eager for more stories about popular characters or settings, making the production of sequels very financially lucrative.

But Hollywood is just starting to wake up to the power of SPINQUELS -- sequels that are based on a secondary character.

You see - Hollywood movies are more often than not blockbusters. Huge budgets, several years of writing, several years of pre-production, several years of production, all for that 8, 9, or 10 figure payout. So for them - sequels are a no-brainer.

Imagine investing multiple years on a project, only to have it flop at the box office?

No. Hollywood is a business first - it's why they love to follow up one successful movie with a sequel.

Top 25 Films by U.S./Canada Box Office Earned in 2012

Source: Rentrak Corporation – Box Office Essentials, CARA (Rating)

Rank	Title	Distributor	Box Office (USD MM)	Rating	3D
1	Marvel's The Avengers	Disney	\$623.4	PG-13	Y
2	Dark Knight Rises, The	Warner Bros.	448.1	PG-13	
3	Hunger Games, The	Lionsgate	408.0	PG-13	
4	Skyfall	Sony	288.7	PG-13	
5	Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2	Lionsgate	286.4	PG-13	
6	Amazing Spider-Man, The	Sony	262.0	PG-13	Y
7	Brave	Disney	237.3	PG	Y
8	Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey*	Warner Bros.	228.5	PG-13	Y
9	Ted	Universal	218.8	R	
10	Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted	Paramount	216.4	PG	Y
11	Dr. Seuss' The Lorax	Universal	214.0	PG	Y
12	Men In Black 3	Sony	179.0	PG-13	Y
13	Wreck-It Ralph	Disney	176.0	PG	Y
14	Ice Age: Continental Drift	20th Century Fox	161.1	PG	Y
15	Snow White And The Huntsman	Universal	155.3	PG-13	
16	Hotel Transylvania	Sony	145.3	PG	Y
17	Taken 2	20th Century Fox	138.9	PG-13	
18	21 Jump Street	Sony	138.4	R	
19	Lincoln	Disney	134.2	PG-13	
20	Prometheus	20th Century Fox	126.5	R	Y
21	Safe House	Universal	126.4	R	
22	Vow, The	Sony	125.0	PG-13	
23	Magic Mike	Warner Bros.	113.7	R	
24	Bourne Legacy, The	Universal	113.2	PG-13	
25	Argo	Warner Bros.	108.7	R	

*Film still in theaters in 2013; total reflects box office earned from January 1 – December 31, 2012

But on TV, where production time is a lot shorter, and they can take more creative risks, you'll see a lot more **SPINQUELS** -- sequels based on a secondary character.

And this is the model that is most applicable to indie fiction authors.

SPINQUELS basically combines the savvy of Hollywood sequels, with the creativity of TV spin offs. All built on the solid foundation originating in Homer's Iliad and Odyssey epics, from 2,800 years ago.

Chapter 2: Prequels, Sequels, and Paraquels.

You'll notice that the Iliad, the Odyssey, and the Telegony, happen sequentially in time.

That is conventional, but not always the case with spinquels.

There are actually some other creative ways to play with time, and get the readers even more obsessed.

1. The Prequel:

A spinquel that portrays events which precede those of the original work is called a prequel.

These can often avoid the plot problems associated with having to deal with the consequences of the original (e.g. the death of an important character).

However, they pose the challenge of maintaining dramatic interest when the outcome is already known from the original work, so the focus is usually on the character interactions or revealing how the characters and situations of the original work developed.

Prequels answer the question: *"How do we become the people we are?"*

2. The Sequel:

A spinquel that occurs AFTER the original work.

This is probably the most common kind.

3. The Interquel:

A spinquel that occurs in the interim years in-between two books of a series.

4. The Paraquel:

A spinquel that occurs concurrently with the original work.

This is a very creative way to tell the same story, from a different character's perspective.

In fact, you'll very quickly that you won't be telling the same story at all!

Imagine - having the benefit of starting from an entire, completed story... with already existing characters and story arcs. Except this time, you're starting a secondary character's story arc somewhere else! That story arc will dip in and out of the original work, but otherwise will take the reader to completely new places, and experiences.

The reader will be thrilled at the occasional interaction with scenes they've seen before... and will delight at the anticipation of seeing what happens around the corner, on the next page. This is a surefire page-turning method.

Note that a spinquel can occur before (prequel), after (sequel), or concurrently with (paraquel), the originating work.

Chapter 3: The 2800 Year Old “Epic” Obsession. [Method 1]

During the Greek Dark Age, poets (bards) told stories of the distant past, in the form of long poems called epics.

The two oldest surviving examples of Greek literature are the **Iliad**, and **the Odyssey**, purportedly written/ narrated by Homer.

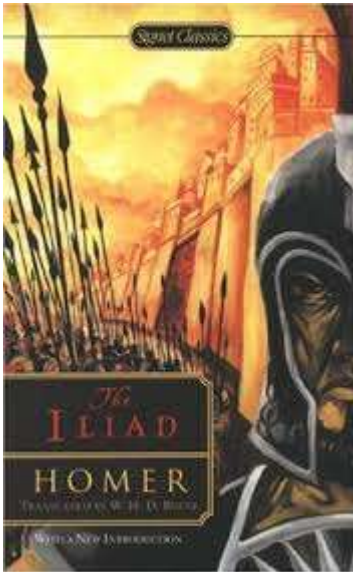
These epic poems describe the great Trojan War - a conflict between the Greeks and the city of Troy. The Trojan War was fought over Helen of Troy, the beautiful daughter of Zeus, and the wife of the Spartan King, Menelaus. The war began after a Trojan prince named Paris kidnapped Helen.

The central character in "The Iliad" is Achilles, a demigod who is also a skilled warrior.

Odysseus is the main protagonist in "The Odyssey" -- a dedicated, hardworking man who leads his crew with integrity and loyalty. Achilles is already dead in "The Odyssey," but readers still get a glimpse of him in the underworld.

Homer sets the stage for "The Odyssey" by introducing Odysseus as a minor character in "The Iliad." Odysseus represents heroic qualities that stem from a strong will and mind, not just physical warrior-like abilities.

Let's delve into both epics though, to see how the KD Obsession method finds its roots in this 3,000 year old epic.



The Iliad (Homer - c750BC):

Set during the Trojan War, the ten-year siege of the city of Troy by a coalition of Greek states, the Iliad tells of the battles and events during the weeks of a quarrel between King Agamemnon and the warrior Achilles.

Achilles is the main character in the Iliad.

The Iliad launches towards the end of the Trojan War.

Chryses, a Trojan priest of Apollo, offers the Greeks wealth for the return of his daughter Chryseis, a captive of the Greek King Agamemnon. Although most of the Greek army is in favour of the offer, King Agamemnon refuses.

Chryses, the Trojan priest prays for Apollo's help. So Apollo causes a plague throughout the Greek army.

After nine days of the plague, Achilles calls an assembly to solve the plague problem. Under pressure, King Agamemnon agrees to return Chryseis to her father, but also decides to take Achilles's captive, Briseis, as compensation.

Angered, Achilles declares that he and his men will no longer fight for Agamemnon, but will go home. Odysseus takes a ship and brings Chryseis to her father, whereupon Apollo ends the plague.

(Okay - did you catch that? Odysseus has the MOST MINOR of roles in the Iliad.

But he goes forward to be the STAR of the sequel - the Odyssey!)

The story essentially continues, with the war between the Greek King Agamemnon, and Troy escalating... Greek god factions support one side and the other. All the while with Achilles (who is still angry at Greek King Agamemnon) staying in his ships on the coast... away from the battle. He wants the stubborn King to admit he needs Achilles.

Finally - the fighting reaches Achilles' ships. Achilles right-hand man, Patroclus, is killed in the fighting. Enraged, Achilles brings his full might into the battle against Troy. The onslaught of Achilles, burning with rage and grief, is terrible, and he slays many.

According to the Odyssey, the Trojan War ended when the Greeks pretended to give up their quest for Helen. The Greeks left a huge wooden horse as a peace offering to the Trojans. The Greek navy pretended to sail away, but they only sailed out to a hidden location. The joyous Trojans opened the city gates and pulled in the giant statue.

After a great victory celebration of their defeat of the Greek army, the people of Troy slept for the night. As the Trojans slept, Greek soldiers emerged from their hiding place inside the wooden horse, opened the city gates, and began to burn the sleeping city.

The Iliad's Achilles is a demigod who is also a skilled warrior. Odysseus is the main protagonist in "The Odyssey" -- a dedicated, hardworking man who leads his crew with integrity and loyalty.

Achilles was killed near the end of the Trojan War by Paris, who shot him in the heel with an arrow. Later legends state that Achilles was invulnerable in all of his body except for his heel.

Because of his death from a small wound in the heel, the term Achilles' heel has come to mean a person's point of weakness. character in "The Iliad."



The Odyssey (Homer - c725BC)

Here is Odysseus, returning from the war. But this is a poem less about travel and monsters than it is about identity – how the wily hero disguises himself even among his family. This is conflict on a domestic scale.

"The Odyssey" is related to "The Iliad" because both poems involve the Trojan War.

In "The Iliad," the Trojan War has been raging for 10 years and Achilles finally dedicates himself to defeating the Trojans after his best friend is killed in battle.

The Trojan War has already ended at the beginning of "The Odyssey," but Odysseus is lost at sea and hasn't been able to return home to Ithaca after the war. Odysseus' wife and surviving countrymen eagerly await his return, but fear he's dead.

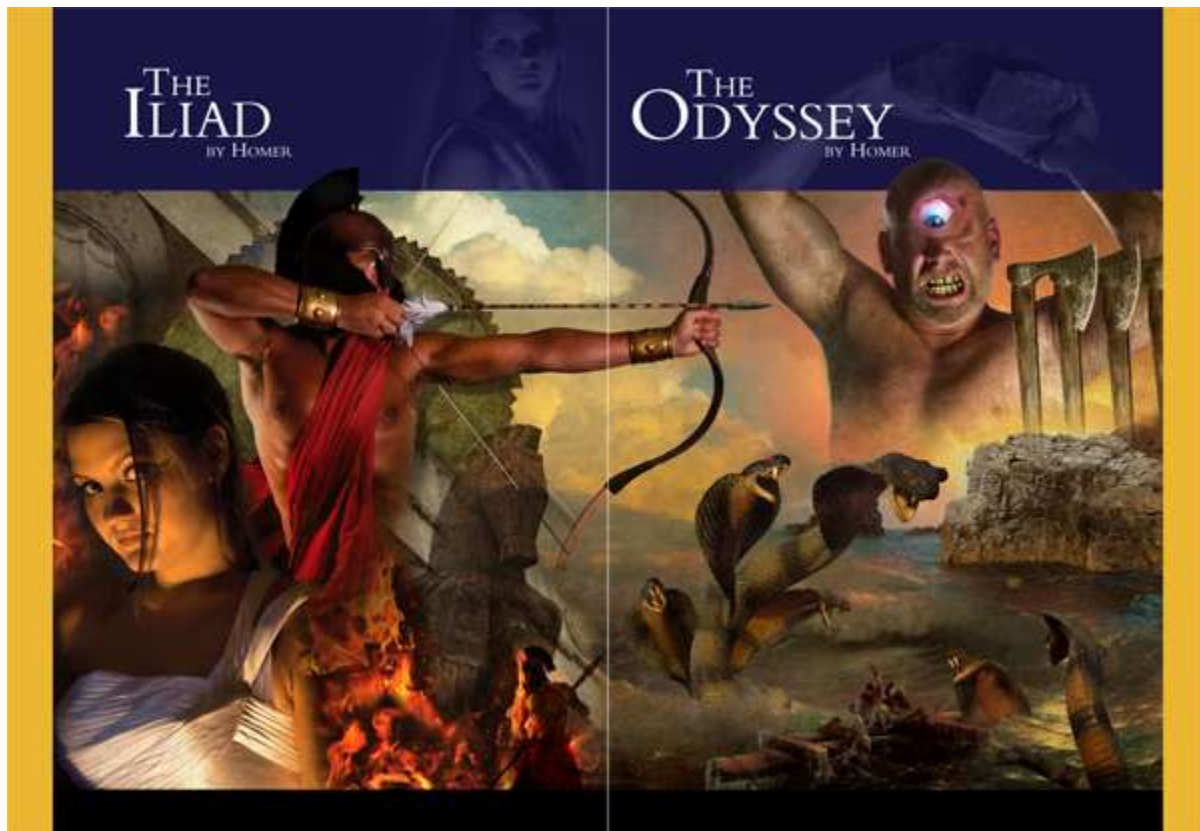
It takes Odysseus ten years to reach Ithaca after the ten-year Trojan War. In his absence, it is assumed he has died, and his wife Penelope and son Telemachus must deal with a group of unruly suitors, who compete for Penelope's hand in marriage.

Telemachus goes searching for his father, and with help from Athena, discovers that Odysseus has spent seven years in captivity on Calypso's island. Calypso has fallen deeply in love with Odysseus. But he spurns her advances.

She is finally persuaded to release him by Hermes. But when Poseidon finds out that Odysseus has escaped, he wrecks the raft. Odysseus swims ashore an island. With the natives help, he eventually finds his way home, and disguises himself as a beggar so he can see how things stand in his household. Realizing what the suitors are up to, he kills them all. They don't realize until it is too late, who he really is. Odysseus and Penelope are reunited at last.

The story of Odysseus was so impactful, in fact, that in the English language as well as many others, the word odyssey has come to refer to an epic voyage.

Odysseus represents heroic qualities that stem from a strong will and mind, not just physical warrior-like abilities.



Comparing the epic heroes of Achilles, and Odysseus, you'll notice a few contrasts:

Achilles: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Name means: "Grief of the people".• A hero of grief - an ironic comparison with the conventional view of Achilles as a hero of glorious battle.• Known for being invulnerable, everywhere except for on his heel.• Achilles' story is based in the same general geographical area.• Achilles only really comes to life in the latter half of the story, to avenge the death of his best friend.	Odysseus: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Name means: "Trouble".• Known for his "cunning intelligence".• Uses disguise and deceptive speech to his advantage.• Odysseus travels across the world, overcoming all manner of obstacles, to avenge get back to his family, and avenge their honor.
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With further analysis, you'll find some powerful threads here:

1. The Iliad was a successful story. Surely, the sequel could have starred Achilles
But Homer focused on a secondary character instead.
2. Odysseus was a secondary (minor) character in the first epic. But he had a few traits
that appealed to the audience- enough to build another entire classic epic around!
3. The stories share the same world, the same history, and many (but not all) of the same
characters.
4. Though they share the same world, the different personalities of Achilles and
Odysseus... as well as the variation of their challenges within that same world, allowed
for a completely different story arc.
5. **But here's the most important part. By bringing together these elements:**
 - Same world/universe (Ancient Greece)
 - Same history (Trojan/Greek war, etc.)
 - Same timeline (although, in this case, it happens sequentially, not concurrently)
 - Same rules (Interaction with Greek gods, and the like.)
 - Minor character from the first story
 - New hero has a different personality from the initial main character
 - New hero has a different set of challenges from the initial main character

...Homer was able to have lightning strike TWICE.

He was able to create not one, but TWO classic epics.

And the Odyssey is fascinating in that - it's essentially a story about a guy returning home from the war. Would you think you could build an EPIC around such a small concept?

According to Homer, you can.

In fact, you can create an epic that has English professors, high school kids, and all fans of story alike all obsessed - almost THREE THOUSAND YEARS LATER.

How would you like to siphon even just a fraction of this kind of staying power?

In fact, Homer's SPINQUEL formula was so successful, that another poet of the day, basically stole it to create ANOTHER SPINQUEL - based on the Odyssey.

The Telegony (Homer - c630BC):



The Telegony comprises

two distinct episodes:

1. Odysseus' voyage to

Thesprotia, and

2. the story of

Telegonus, Odysseus' son.

This third epic opens after

the events depicted in the *Odyssey*, with the burial of Penelope's suitors. Meanwhile, it transpires that Circe (*a Greek Nymph, or goddess of magic*), with whom Odysseus had an affair for a year in the *Odyssey*, has borne his son, Telegonus (*which means "born far away"*).

Telegonus grows up living with Circe, on the island of Aea. On the goddess Athena's advice, Circe tells him the name of his father: Odysseus. She then gives him a supernatural spear, tipped with the sting of a poisonous stingray and was made by the god Hephaestus, to defend himself.

A storm forces Telegonus onto Ithaca without his realising where he is. As is customary for Homeric heroes in unfriendly land, he commits piracy, and unwittingly begins stealing his father Odysseus' cattle. Odysseus comes to defend his property.

During the ensuing fight, Telegonus kills his father Odysseus with his unusual spear. As Odysseus lies dying, he and Telegonus recognise one another, and Telegonus laments his

mistake. Telegonus brings his father's corpse back to Aeaea, where Odysseus is buried and Circe makes the others immortal. Telegonus marries Penelope - Odysseus' wife.

These Greeks had some... strange... twists in their stories.

But the fact remains. By:

1. Plucking secondary characters out of their original stories,
2. Keeping them in the same universe, and
3. Giving them an adventure of their own,

the Greeks were able to create one historic classical “spinquel” after another, with ease.



Chapter 4: The “Anakin” Obsession. [Method 2]

Also known as the **“Where did we go wrong”** obsession method.

It explores the backstory of a villain - before they turned evil.

The most popular prequel examples is the Star Wars prequel trilogy.



(A long time ago... in a galaxy far, far away...)

George Lucas' Star Wars is a worldwide phenomenon.

And has been, since the first Star Wars movie came out in 1977. Star Wars portrays Jedi as a representation of good, in conflict with the Sith, their evil counterpart.

The first film in the series, Star Wars, was released on May 25, 1977, by 20th Century Fox and became a worldwide pop culture phenomenon. It was followed by two sequels released at three-year intervals. Sixteen years later, the first in a new prequel trilogy of films was released; the final prequel was released on May 19, 2005.

All six films were nominated for or won Academy Awards, and all were box office successes; the overall box office revenue generated totals \$4.38 billion.

The Star Wars series has spawned an extensive media franchise – **the Expanded Universe** – including books, television series, computer and video games, and comic books, resulting in significant development of the series' fictional universe.

All from that one, original storyline.



In 2012, The Walt Disney Company acquired Lucasfilm for **\$4.05 billion** (that's not a typo), and announced three new Star Wars films. All on the power of...you guessed it...
"The Spinquel".

The next Star Wars movie, [Star Wars VII: The Force Awakens](#), planned for release on December 18, 2015.

The "Where Did We Go Wrong" obsession method involves taking a villain, and exploring (in prequel fashion) what led them to become so evil. It explores the fact that villains generally

aren't born that way. Something happened along the way. They used to be relatable, sympathetic, maybe even likable characters.

So where did we go wrong??

Let's analyze the *"where did we go wrong"* obsession method used in the 3 Star Wars prequels.





Star Wars Episode IV: A New Hope (1977):

The galaxy is in a civil war, and spies for the Rebel Alliance have stolen plans to the Galactic Empire's Death Star, a heavily armed and armored space station capable of destroying an entire planet.

Emperor Palpatine's Sith apprentice (Darth Vader) captures Princess Leia, a member of the rebellion who has stolen the plans to the Death Star and hidden them in the droid R2-D2.

R2D2 and C-3PO escape to a desert planet, where they are purchased by farm boy **Luke Skywalker** and his step-uncle and aunt.

While Luke is cleaning R2D2, he accidentally triggers a message put into the droid by Leia, who asks for assistance from the legendary Jedi Knight Obi-Wan Kenobi. Luke later assists the droids in finding the exiled Jedi. Han Solo and Chewbacca to take them to Leia's home world, which they eventually find has been destroyed by the Death Star.

Luke and Han rescue Leia, while Obi-Wan sacrifices himself during a lightsaber duel with Vader; so Luke, Han and Leia can escape with the plans that help the Rebels destroy the Death Star. Luke himself (guided by the power of the Force) fires the shot that destroys the deadly space station. *Summary: Amidst a civil war, the empire is building "The Death Star". Plans for the weapon are smuggled to the rebels. Obi-Wan is killed by Vader. Luke learns to use the force just in time to destroy the Death Star.*



Star Wars Episode V: The Empire Strikes Back

(1980):

The Galactic Empire is in pursuit of Luke Skywalker and the rest of the Rebel Alliance.

When Vader captures Luke's friends, Luke must decide whether to complete his training under Jedi Master Yoda, becoming a full Jedi Knight, or to confront Vader and save his comrades. Against

Yoda's wishes, Luke leaves to save his friends

In a flurry of betrayal and backstabbing, Boba Fett ends up with Han Solo, frozen in carbonite, and while the rest of the group are able to escape Vader. But Luke Skywalker, who arrives later, is still lured into the trap by Darth Vader. In the ensuing lightsaber duel, Vader severs Luke's right hand, and reveals himself to be Luke's father.

Horried by this, Luke refuses Vader's offer to rule the galaxy at his side, and escapes. Han Solo, however, remains in the custody of Boba Fett, and is about to be delivered to Jabba the Hutt for a huge bounty.

Summary: The empire captures the heroes. Darth Vader is revealed to be Luke's father.

The heroes eventually escape, but Han Solo remains in custody of Boba Fett, bounty hunter.



Star Wars Episode VI: Return of the Jedi

(1983):

The group rescues Han Solo from Jabba the Hutt, narrowly escaping with their lives.

A dying Yoda confirms that Darth Vader (once known as Anakin Skywalker) is Luke's father.

The spirit of Obi-Wan's Kenobi confirms that Leia is Luke's twin sister. And that Luke must fight Vader again, to defeat the empire.

Meanwhile, the Rebel Alliance learns that the Empire has been constructing a new Death Star. Han solo leads a team to destroy the battle station's shield generator, allowing a squadron of starfighters to enter the Death Star and destroy it from within.

Surrendering to Imperial troops, Luke is brought to Vader and unsuccessfully tries to convince him to turn from the dark side of the Force. Vader takes Luke to the Death Star to meet Palpatine, intent on turning his son to the dark side. Palpatine reveals that the Death Star is fully operational and set to destroy the Rebellion. It's a trap. Enraged, Luke attacks Vader and severs his father's right hand. Palpatine entreats Luke to kill Vader and take his place, but Luke refuses, declaring himself a Jedi. A furious Palpatine tortures Luke with Force lightning.

Unwilling to let his son die, Vader becomes Anakin Skywalker again and kills Palpatine, before dying in Luke's arms.

As the Rebels celebrate the end of the Empire, Luke sees the spirits of Obi-Wan, Yoda, and the redeemed Anakin watching over them.

Summary: The empire builds another Death Star. Luke tries to redeem his father, but fails. As the Emperor tortures a captured Luke, Darth Vader reverts to Anakin Skywalker and saves his son. Anakin Skywalker is redeemed, and Luke resisted the temptation of the Dark Side.

Okay. So we all know those three movies well.

The main character (Luke Skywalker) went through a complete character arc:

- from innocent farm boy,
- to headstrong hero and fighter pilot, scarred by loss,
- to calm and powerful Jedi-in-training, who saves the day,
- to conflicted Jedi-in-training, whose father is the villain,
- to tempted Jedi-in-training, who cannot redeem his father,
- finally, to full Jedi knight, who saved the empire, saved his friends, and brought his father to redemption.

So what else could George Lucas and company POSSIBLY write about Luke Skywalker?

Hm. Well, how about taking a secondary character (Darth Vader), albeit a major secondary character...

And how about delving into how he ended up at his story arc in the first place?

it's why George Lucas went BACKWARDS, to create a prequel trilogy
(instead of a sequel trilogy).



Star Wars Episode I: The Phantom Menace

(1999):

The prequel trilogy begins (32 years before the original film) with the corrupt Trade Federation setting up a blockade of battleships around the planet Naboo. The Sith Lord Darth Sidious has secretly planned the blockade to give his alter ego, Senator Palpatine, a pretense to overthrow and replace the Supreme Chancellor of the Galactic Republic.

They escort and protect Queen Amidala, who is traveling to find a peaceful end to a large-scale interplanetary trade dispute.

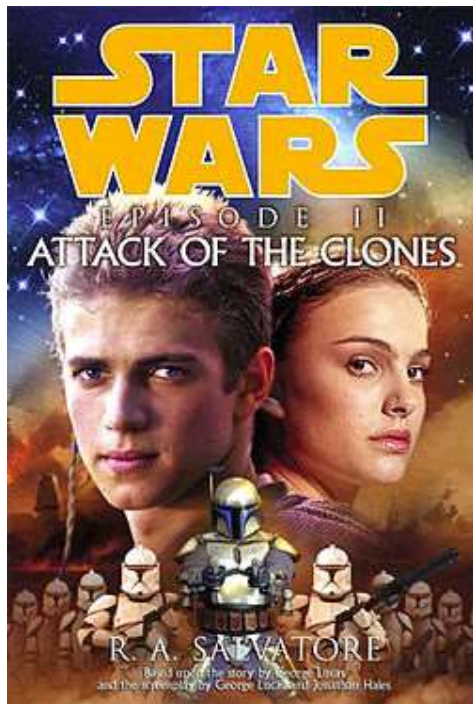
The story also features a young Anakin Skywalker before he became a Jedi; he is introduced as a young slave boy who appears to have unusually strong nascent powers of the Force and must contend with the mysterious return of the Sith.

With Anakin in tow, the Jedi escort Amidala to the Republic capital planet Coruscant so she can plead her people's case. Jedi Master Jinn asks the Jedi Council to train Anakin. But the Council are concerned that Anakin is vulnerable to the dark side of the Force and decline.

Undaunted, Jinn vows to train Anakin himself. Meanwhile, Queen Amidala grows frustrated with the corruption in the Senate and decides to return to Naboo with the Jedi.

Anakin enters a vacant starfighter and inadvertently triggers its autopilot, joining the battle against the Federation droid control ship in space. Anakin ventures into the ship and destroys it from within, deactivating the droid army. Senator Palpatine is elected as the new Supreme Chancellor.

Summary: Occurs 32 years before Episode IV. The evil Sith manipulate political events, to put Palpatine in power. A young Obi-Wan discovers Anakin Skywalker, and starts to train him in the ways of the Jedi. Anakin ends up saving the day against the Federation's invading droid army. But Palpatine still rises to power, becoming the Emperor.



Star Wars Episode II: Attack of the Clones

(2002):

Ten years after the Trade Federation's invasion of Naboo, the Galactic Republic is threatened by a Separatist movement organized by renegade Jedi Master Dooku.

Narrowly avoiding an assassination attempt upon arrival, Padmé Amidala is placed under the protection of Obi-Wan Kenobi and his apprentice Anakin Skywalker.

The Jedi Council assigns Obi-Wan to identify and capture the bounty hunter, while Anakin is assigned to escort Padmé back to Naboo, where they fall in love.

Obi-Wan soon discovers an army of clones is being produced for the Republic. He follows Jango Fett and his clone son Boba to a desert planet, but is captured.

Anakin and Padmé journey to rescue Obi-Wan, but are also captured. The three are sentenced to death, but are eventually saved by a battalion of Jedi and clone troopers led by Mace Windu and Yoda. Jango Fett is killed by Jedi Master Mace Windu during the rescue.

As the clone and droid armies battle, Obi-Wan and Anakin intercept Count Dooku, the renegade Jedi. The three engage in a lightsaber battle. Dooku wins, injuring Obi-Wan and severing Anakin's right arm, but then Yoda arrives and engages the Count in a duel.

Arriving at Coruscant, Count Dooku delivers blueprints for a super weapon to his Sith master, Darth Sidious, who confirms that everything is going well and as planned.

Summary: The Republic is threatened by a Separatist movement organized by renegade Jedi Master Count Dooku. Anakin Skywalker protects, falls in love with and marries her. Obi-Wan discovers the creation of a secret clone army by the republic. Senator Palpatine gains emergency powers, and deploys the clone army against the separatists. Meanwhile, Count Dooku delivers the first plans for the Death Star to Darth Sidious. Anakin loses his mother, and becomes obsessed with preventing death.

Star Wars III - Revenge of the Sith (2005):

The Jedi Knights are spread out across the galaxy leading a massive clone army in the war against the Separatists. The Jedi Council dispatches Jedi Master Obi-Wan Kenobi to eliminate the evil General Grievous, leader of the Separatist Army.



Meanwhile, Jedi Knight Anakin Skywalker, separated from Kenobi, his former master, grows close to Palpatine, the Chancellor of the Galactic Republic (*and, unknown to the public, a Sith Lord*).

Their deepening friendship proves dangerous for the Jedi Order, the Republic, and Anakin himself who inevitably [succumbs to the dark side of the Force and becomes Darth Vader](#), changing the fate of the galaxy forever.

During a space battle over Coruscant between the Galactic Republic and the Separatist Alliance, Jedi Knights Obi-Wan Kenobi and Anakin Skywalker lead a mission to rescue the kidnapped Supreme Chancellor Palpatine from Separatist commander General Grievous.

After infiltrating Grievous' flagship, the Jedi engage Count Dooku in a lightsaber duel, which ends with Anakin killing Dooku at Palpatine's urging.

Anakin reunites with his wife, Padmé Amidala, who reveals she is pregnant. Initially excited, Anakin begins to have premonitions of Padmé dying in childbirth.

Palpatine appoints Anakin to join the Jedi Council as his representative, but the Council declines Anakin the rank of Jedi Master and orders him to monitor the Chancellor, diminishing Anakin's faith in the Jedi.

Palpatine entices Anakin with knowledge of the dark side of the Force, including the power to prevent death. When Palpatine reveals himself as the Sith Lord Darth Sidious, Anakin reports his treachery to Mace Windu, who subdues Palpatine in an ensuing lightsaber duel.

In a desperate attempt to help save Padmé, Anakin intervenes on Palpatine's behalf, allowing him to kill Mace. Anakin pledges himself to Palpatine, who dubs him Darth Vader.

Palpatine issues an order for the clone troopers to kill their Jedi commanders, and dispatches Vader and a legion of clones to kill everyone in the Jedi Temple; however, Obi-Wan (having killed Grievous on Utapau) and Yoda survive.

Vader then kills the remaining Separatist leaders hiding on the volcanic planet Mustafar, while Palpatine addresses the Senate and reforms the Republic as the Galactic Empire, declaring himself Emperor.

On Coruscant, Obi-Wan and Yoda return to the Jedi Temple to discover Anakin's treachery. Concerned by Obi-Wan's reasoning that Anakin has turned to the dark side, Padmé travels to Mustafar to confront him, while Obi-Wan stows aboard her ship. When Vader discovers Obi-Wan, he accuses Padmé of betrayal and uses the Force to choke her into unconsciousness.

Obi-Wan battles and dismembers Vader, who is significantly burned by a volcanic river. Back on Coruscant, Yoda confronts Palpatine, but retreats after their duel reaches a stalemate.

Obi-Wan brings Padmé to the asteroid Polis Massa, where she gives birth to twins Luke and Leia before dying. A funeral is held for Padmé on Naboo; meanwhile, Palpatine salvages Vader and brings him back to Coruscant, where his ruined body is repaired with cybernetic limbs and his respiratory suit. Palpatine informs Vader of Padmé's death, devastating him.

As the Sith supervise the construction of the Death Star, Obi-Wan and Yoda determine to hide the twins from the Empire.

Senator Bail Organa adopts Leia and takes her to Alderaan, while Obi-Wan delivers Luke to his stepfamily Owen and Beru Lars on Tatooine, where Obi-Wan intends to watch over Luke until the time is right to challenge the Empire.

Wow.

Imagine - all this rich history - three prequel movies generating billions of dollars.

All mined from a secondary character - Darth Vader.

George Lucas' genius gambit, is that he decided to create a spinquel based on his villain.

It really opens up the possibilities, doesn't it?



In fact, a cursory search of Amazon.com or Audible.com, reveals SCORES of spinquels from the Star Wars universe. **Incredible.**

It makes you wonder: How many different directions can you go in, from your original story?



AUDIOBOOK

[Star Wars: The Old Republic: Revan](#)

UNABRIDGED

By [Drew Karpyshev](#)

Narrated By [Marc Thompson](#)

Series: [Star Wars: The Old Republic](#), Book 3

Whispersync for Voice-ready

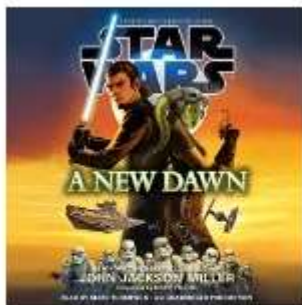
Length: 10 hrs and 55 mins

Release Date: 11-15-11

★★★★★ 4.4 (1575 ratings)

How many characters' histories can you delve into?

Notice how a lot of the spinquels go back and tell the history, the story arc, of a villain. And not just Darth Vader, either.



AUDIOBOOK

[A New Dawn: Star Wars](#)

UNABRIDGED

By [John Jackson Miller](#)

Narrated By [Marc Thompson](#)

Whispersync for Voice-ready

Length: 12 hrs and 43 mins

Release Date: 09-02-14

★★★★★ 4.3 (853 ratings)

The best storytellers don't blindly LOVE their protagonists, and HATE their antagonists. they realize that most antagonists believe that their

cause is a justified one. They

have their reasons - even if most of society might disagree with them.



AUDIOBOOK

[Heir to the Jedi: Star Wars](#)

UNABRIDGED

By [Kevin Hearne](#)

Narrated By [Marc Thompson](#)

Length: 9 hrs and 2 mins

Release Date: 03-03-15

★★★★★ 4.1 (1040 ratings)

They aren't mad or (simply) power-drunk - there is something driving them.

That back story? Is one your audience will obsess about getting their hands on.



AUDIOBOOK

[Star Wars: The Thrawn Trilogy, Book 3: The Last Command](#)

UNABRIDGED

By [Timothy Zahn](#)

Narrated By [Marc Thompson](#)

Series: [Star Wars: The Thrawn Trilogy](#), Book 3

Whispersync for Voice-ready

Length: 15 hrs and 47 mins

Release Date: 06-26-12

★★★★★ 4.7 (2204 ratings)

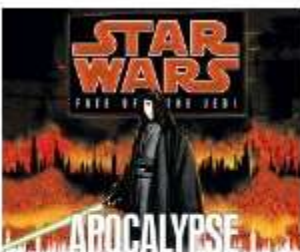
Regular Price: ~~\$33.60~~

Member Price: \$23.52 or 1 Credit

Consider this:

The Star Wars spinquel universe was worth \$4.05 billion to Disney.

How much will your spinquel universe be worth to you, before you're all said and done?



AUDIOBOOK

[Star Wars: Fate of the Jedi: Apocalypse](#)

UNABRIDGED

By [Troy Denning](#)

Narrated By [Marc Thompson](#)

Series: [Star Wars: Fate of the Jedi](#), Book 9

Whispersync for Voice-ready

Length: 16 hrs and 30 mins

Release Date: 03-13-12

★★★★★ 4.5 (764 ratings)

KD Obsession - Get Readers Obsessed With Your New Book... Before You Even Write It.

www.BookMarketingEngine.com



AUDIOBOOK

[Crucible: Star Wars](#)

UNABRIDGED

By [Troy Denning](#)

Narrated By [Marc Thompson](#)

Whispersync for Voice-ready

Length: 12 hrs and 8 mins

Release Date: 07-09-13

★★★★☆ 4.4 (522 ratings)



AUDIOBOOK

[Tarkin: Star Wars](#)

UNABRIDGED

By [James Luceno](#)

Narrated By [Euan Morton](#)

Whispersync for Voice-ready

Length: 9 hrs and 27 mins

Release Date: 11-04-14

★★★★☆ 4.4 (883 ratings)



AUDIOBOOK

[Star Wars: Dark Force Rising: The Thrawn Trilogy, Book 2](#)

UNABRIDGED

By [Timothy Zahn](#)

Narrated By [Marc Thompson](#)

Series: [Star Wars: The Thrawn Trilogy](#), Book 2

Whispersync for Voice-ready

Length: 14 hrs and 56 mins

Release Date: 06-26-12

★★★★☆ 4.7 (2371 ratings)

Regular Price: ~~\$33.60~~

Member Price: \$23.52 or 1 Credit



AUDIOBOOK

[Star Wars: The Old Republic: Deceived](#)

UNABRIDGED

By [Paul S. Kemp](#)

Narrated By [Marc Thompson](#)

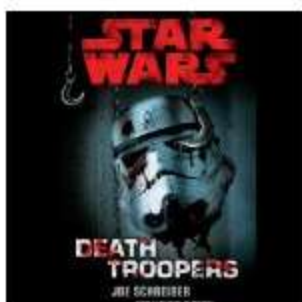
Series: [Star Wars: The Old Republic](#), Book 2

Whispersync for Voice-ready

Length: 9 hrs and 26 mins

Release Date: 03-22-11

★★★★★ 4.4 (1424 ratings)



AUDIOBOOK

[Star Wars: Death Troopers](#)

UNABRIDGED

By [Joe Schreiber](#)

Narrated By [Sean Kenin](#)

Whispersync for Voice-ready

Length: 6 hrs and 41 mins

Release Date: 10-13-09

★★★★★ 4.1 (605 ratings)



AUDIOBOOK

[The Secret History of Star Wars](#)

UNABRIDGED

By [Michael Kaminski](#)

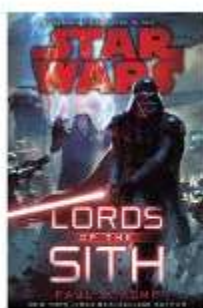
Narrated By [Josh Robert Thompson](#)

Whispersync for Voice-ready

Length: 24 hrs and 59 mins

Release Date: 05-08-14

★★★★☆ 4.1 (58 ratings)



AUDIOBOOK

[Lords of the Sith: Star Wars](#)

UNABRIDGED

By [Paul S. Kemp](#)

Narrated By [Jonathan Davis](#)

Length: 10 hrs and 56 mins

Release Date: 04-28-15

★★★★☆ 4.4 (331 ratings)

Chapter 5: The “Ender's Shadow” Obsession. [Method 3]

A spinquel that portrays events which happen concurrently to those of the original work is called a paraquel. So I want to share a little story with you, about a book called “Ender’s Game”.

“[Ender's Game](#)” is a 1985 military science fiction novel by Orson Scott Card.

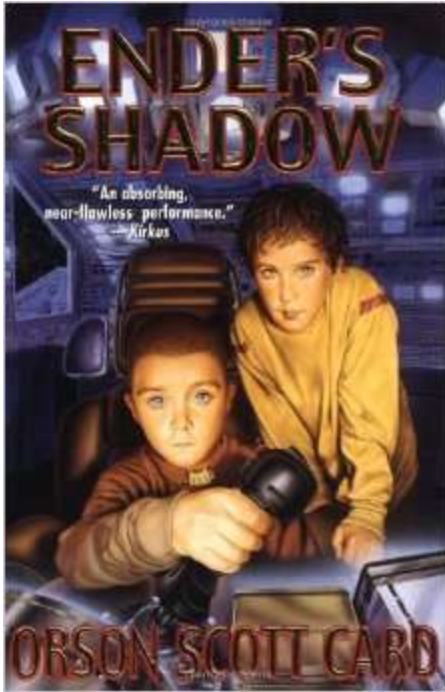


Set in Earth's future, the novel presents an imperiled mankind after two conflicts with the "buggers", an insectoid alien species.

In preparation for an anticipated third invasion, children, including the novel's protagonist, Ender Wiggin, are trained from a very young age through increasingly difficult games including some in zero gravity, where Ender's tactical genius is revealed.

A movie fashioned after the book came out a couple of years ago - and it was quite good ([recommended watching](#)). Many people have seen the movie, and perhaps read the book.

But few people know of the “**Ender’s Game**” paraquel... “Ender’s Shadow”.



Ender's Shadow (1999) is a parallel science fiction novel by the American author Orson Scott Card, taking place at the same time as the novel Ender's Game and depicting some of the same events from the point of view of Bean, a supporting character in the original novel.

Bean, the main character, is a homeless child living in the hellish streets of Rotterdam in roughly 2170 after escaping as an infant from an illegal genetic engineering laboratory.

Highly intelligent and extremely young, Bean is mainly concerned with his need for food. He joins a large gang of children led by a girl named Poke and sets up a system in which they can all receive nourishment at a local soup kitchen.

Specifically, the group gets a bully, Achilles (pronounced 'Ah-Sheel' [French Pronunciation]), to be their protector. However, Achilles is increasingly ruthless, protective, and methodical.

Luckily for Bean, his incredible mind, creativity and determination bring him to the attention of Sister Carlotta, a nun who is recruiting children to fight a war against the Buggers. At the training facility, Battle School, Bean's intelligence becomes apparent.

Not only is he smarter than average, he is smarter than any other child at Battle School, including Ender Wiggin.

Despite Bean's intelligence, Ender has been chosen to save humanity from the Buggers.

Bean begins to uncover secrets and truths about the school and struggles to understand what quality Ender has that he does not, until he is assigned to draw up a "hypothetical" roster for Ender's army and adds himself to the list.

At first, Ender does not appear to recognize Bean's brilliance, but time shows that he was



grooming Bean as his tactical support, putting him at the head of an unorthodox platoon challenged to outthink the teachers who designed the game and defeat their attempts to tip the balance of advantages towards Ender's rivals.

Throughout the book, the main theme rests on Bean's struggle against the IF administration, which seems bent on breaking Ender, even if it means murder. Throughout all of this, Bean has to contend with the reappearance of Achilles and his own struggle to understand what makes Ender

human.

I don't think it coincidence that in this spinquel, the author (Orson Scott Card), uses the name Achilles in his story (hat-tip to Homer, the author of the original SPINQUEL).

If you hadn't noticed the power and prevalence of SPINQUELS before, are you starting to see it now? This story construct has been hiding in plain sight for almost three millennia.

But those who recognize it, and learn how to wield it, have a wealth of powerful, compelling, audience-pleasing, obsessive stories right at their fingertips!

Imagine being Homer - just having completed "The Iliad", and thinking: "I'll never top that. What else can I write about Achilles?"

Only to come up with the idea of exploring the life and adventures of some minor character in the story.

Who woulda thought???

A sidequel typically features secondary characters.. but takes advantage of the world you've already created in the original series.

Chapter 6: The “Scorpion King” Obsession. [Method 4]

An adaptation of the “Darth Vader” Obsession method... The main character is revisited elsewhere in his narrative. These are either future or past adventures of the main character.

For example - like the Star Wars prequel trilogy, the Scorpion King is a prequel/spin-off to “The Mummy” trio of movies. It follows the story of Mathayus the Scorpion King, the character featured in The Mummy Returns.

The events of The Scorpion King take place 5,000 years before those in The Mummy and The Mummy Returns, and reveal Mathayus' origins and his rise to power as the Scorpion King.

This is a really creative way to write a spinquel... it's going way back into the past, to determine how a major villain became who he is. Just like the Darth Vader / anakin Skywalker saga. I really like the twist of this “origin” story taking place 5,000 years in the past. Already, that has added an intriguing element.

Note that this method of exploring a main character in another can be found in other contemporary shows as well...

Sweet Valley High —> Sweet Valley Twins, Sweet Valley University, Sweet Valley Kids, Sweet Valley Junior High, Sweet Valley Senior Year, Elizabeth, and The Sweet Life.

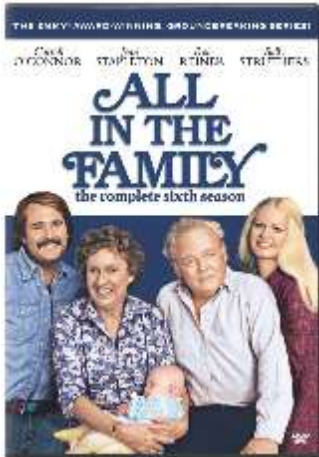
Mash —> AfterMASH and Trapper John MD

Rugrats —> All Grown Up!

Dora the Explorer —> Go, Diego, Go! and Dora's Explorer Girls

Batman: The Animated Series —> Batman Beyond

In these examples - it is the MAIN CHARACTER that is being essentially spun into a new series. The difference being - the character is of such a different age, that their personality, and their challenges, are different enough for them to seem like a brand new character.



Chapter 7: The “All In The Family” Obsession.

[Method 5]

Also known as the “Litmus Test” Obsession Method.

All in the Family is the king of the TV spinquel genre.

It spun off no fewer than three shows, some of which had their own spinoffs: The Jeffersons, Maude, and Maude's housekeeper Florida, was spun off into Good Times.

The “Archie Bunker, or the “All In the Family” describes the phenomenon where **multiple secondary characters** are each spun off into their own brand new series... and the audience follows!

The secondary character leaves the main series after establishing a relationship with the audience... while the old (parent) series continues to run.

No other series has ever pulled this off as many times, and as successfully, as the show “**All In the Family**” did.

Okay - so in case you're not familiar...



All in the Family is an American comedy (sitcom) that was originally broadcast in 1971.

The show revolves around Archie Bunker, a working-class World War II veteran living in New York.

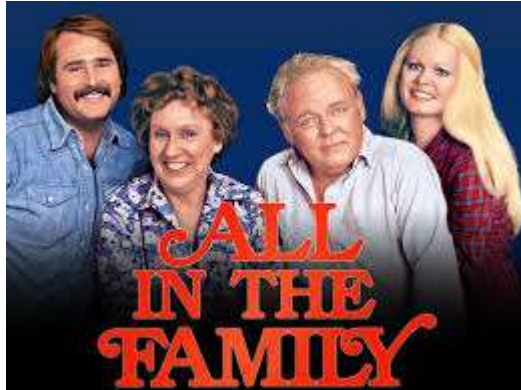
Archie is an outspoken bigot, seemingly prejudiced against everyone who is not a U.S.-born, politically conservative, heterosexual white male, and dismissive.

He longs for better times when people sharing his viewpoint were in charge. But despite his bigotry, he's portrayed as lovable and decent, as well as a man who is simply struggling to adapt to the changes in the world, rather than someone motivated by hateful prejudice.

By contrast, Archie's wife, Edith, is a sweet and understanding, if somewhat naïve, woman who usually defers to her husband.

They have one child, Gloria who, for the most part, is kind and good natured, like her mother, but who also on occasion displays traces of her father's stubbornness; she becomes more of an outspoken feminist as the series progresses.

Gloria is married to college student Michael Stivic. Michael (referred to as "Meathead" by Archie) is a bit of a hippie. He and Archie constantly clash over religious, political, social, and personal issues.



The show broke ground in its depiction of issues previously considered unsuitable for U.S. television comedy, such as racism, homosexuality, women's liberation, rape, religion, miscarriage, abortion, breast cancer, the Vietnam War, menopause, and impotence.

In 2013, the Writers Guild of America ranked **All in the Family** the fourth best written TV series ever. TV Guide ranked it as the fourth greatest show of all time.

All in the Family has the most spin-offs for a prime-time television series. And MOST of those spin-offs were very successful - some even more successful than the original show!

How did they do it? **The Litmus Test Obsession Method.**

The Litmus Test is this - does your audience have a STRONG reaction to the character you're looking to spin off? A strong positive... or strong negative... reaction - either is good. But a lukewarm reaction? That's kryptonite!

The show for the spinoff character serves to AMPLIFY those distinctive traits about the character that make them stand out.... all the while showing (Only) momentary flashes, or glimpses, of the secondary personality trait that makes them relatable.

Most times, they will almost repel half of your audience with their stringent views. Except... under the surface... they will remain relatable.

Goodness, it's why the "Bad Boy" personality has been so popular in romance novels, through the ages.

So. Your secondary character must have a very strong personality... strong enough to repel half the audience. But like a romance bad boy, underneath the veneer, they must be relatable.

Of all the "All In the Family" spin-offs, the one that didn't do well featured a "lukewarm" All In the Family Character. You'll see why in a moment...



1. Maude (1972).

Maude stars Edith Bunker's cousin, an outspoken, middle-aged, politically liberal woman living in New York.

Maude embraces the tenets of women's liberation, always votes for Democratic Party

candidates, strongly supports legal abortion, and advocates for civil rights and racial and gender equality.

Maude's overbearing and sometimes domineering personality often gets her into trouble when speaking out on these issues. She was the liberal to Archie's conservatism. For the entire run of the show, Maude also had a housekeeper.

Shortly after the series began, the Findlays hired Florida Evans, a no-nonsense African-American woman who often had the last laugh at Maude's expense.

Maude would often make a point of conspicuously and awkwardly demonstrating how open-minded and liberal she was (*Florida almost quit working for Maude because of this*).

Despite Florida's status as a maid, Maude emphasized to Florida she felt that they were "equals," and insisted she enter and exit the Findlay house via the front door (even though the back door was more convenient).

As portrayed by Esther Rolle, the character of Florida proved so popular that, in 1974, she became the star of her own spin-off series, entitled Good Times.

Litmus Test: PASSED.



2. Good Times (1974).

Spun off from Maude, Good Times focuses on Maude's former maid Florida Evans raising her family in a ghetto on the South Side of Chicago.

Good Times deal with the characters' attempts to survive in a high rise project building in Chicago, despite their poverty.

Good Times deal with the characters' attempts to survive in a high rise project building in Chicago, despite their poverty. When he is not unemployed, James Evans is a man of pride who often stated he would not accept charity. He usually works at least two jobs simultaneously, from a wide variety such as dishwasher, construction laborer, etc. When he has to, he plays pool in order to hustle money, though Florida disapproves of this.

The character of J.J. was an immediate hit with audiences and became the breakout character of the series. J.J.'s frequent use of the expression "Dy-no-mite!" became a popular catchphrase. Both the phrase and the J.J. Evans character caught on with the audience. As a result of the character's popularity, writers focused more on J.J.'s comedic antics instead of serious issues.

Litmus Test: PASSED.



3. The Jeffersons (1975).

The Jeffersons (*the Bunkers' former next-door neighbors*) lasted longer than the All In The Family!

The Jeffersons focused on George and Louise ("Weezie") Jefferson, an affluent African-American couple living in New York City.

The show was less sharply political in tone than All In The Family, relying more on the characters' interactions with one another than on explicitly political dialogue or storylines.

Like his neighbor Archie Bunker, George Jefferson was frequently opinionated, rude, bigoted, prone to scheming and not particularly intelligent in a scholastic sense.

Unlike Archie, however, George was more quick-thinking, and usually more clever. Frequently, plots in The Jeffersons revolved around George's usually dishonest schemes, which always ended in comedic failure.

Also like Archie Bunker, George Jefferson's personality softened somewhat as years passed.

The characters were witty, flawed, and relatable. The family interactions were gritty, and comedically real. And the show lasted 11 seasons. Remarkable.

All from a couple of secondary characters that the writers decided to expand into their own series.

Litmus Test: PASSED.

4. Gloria (1982):



The show Gloria features Archie Bunker's daughter. Gloria at this point had become a single mother, after her husband (Meathead) left her for one of his students. She relocated with her son, and worked at a vet clinic. (yawn. and, a little depressing.)

The show didn't do quite as well, and was canceled after just one season. But considering the premise, I can't say I'm too surprised!

Gloria was the rare "All In The Family" spinoff that didn't succeed.

And you can see why. It was too easy to be indifferent with the character of Gloria.

Litmus Test: FAILED.

It goes to show that simply spinning off a well-known character can work most of the time, but not every single time. The premise of the new series must be compelling as well.

Chapter 8: The “Breaking Bad” Obsession. [Method 6]

Also known as the “Iceberg” method.



Breaking Bad (2008 - 2013) is an American crime drama television series.

Breaking Bad tells the story of Walter White, a high school chemistry teacher diagnosed with inoperable

lung cancer, who, together with a former student, turns to producing and selling crystallized methamphetamine to secure his family's financial future before he dies... having wasted the first 50 years of his life on the mundane business of day-to-day life.

The moment Walter begins to use his abilities as a gifted scientist and entrepreneur to prepare for the future, he begins a slow slide into the very worst aspects of his character.

Breaking Bad is widely regarded as one of the greatest television series of all time.

(Let me say that one again.)

Breaking Bad is widely regarded as one of the greatest television series of all time!

By the time the series finale aired, the show had received numerous awards, including:

- 16 Primetime Emmy Awards,
- 8 Satellite Awards,
- 2 Golden Globe Awards,
- 2 Peabody Awards and
- 1 People's Choice Award.

For his leading performance, Bryan Cranston won the Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Lead Actor in a Drama Series **four times**. (sheesh!)

In 2013, Breaking Bad entered the Guinness World Records as the highest rated show of all time.

Breaking Bad has broken records and gained fans all over the world.

You'll find all kinds of Breaking Bad mash-ups, clips, and [Walter White quotes](#), on YouTube.

Fans LOVE the show!

Video: [Top 10 Unforgettable Moments from Breaking Bad](#) [SPOILER ALERT!]

But the show had to eventually come to an end.

How do you end what many regard as the greatest TV series of all time?

And how do you dare attempt an encore?

Enter... Better Call Saul.

[Better Call Saul](#) features a secondary character from the Breaking Bad universe.

The debut episode for Better Call Saul set the record for the highest-rated scripted series premiere in basic cable history, with 6.9 million viewers overall.

All from a prequel that, for all intents and purposes, doesn't sound particularly interesting?

Here's how the series is described on its official web site.

Set six years before he became Walter White's lawyer, Saul Goodman is known as Jimmy McGill, a small -time lawyer searching for his identity.



(yawn.)

And yet - it broke records.

Better Call Saul has received critical acclaim.

On Rotten Tomatoes, the series has a score of 100%, based on 61 reviews, with an average rating of 8.1/10. The site's critical consensus reads, "*Better Call Saul is a quirky, dark character study that manages to stand on its own without being overshadowed by the series that spawned it.*"

.

Stephen Marche of Esquire wrote that the first few episodes were "*better than those of Breaking Bad.*"

Kirsten Acuna of Business Insider declared the initial episodes *"everything you could possibly want from a spinoff television series"*.

Alesandra Stanley of The New York Times wrote, *"Better Call Saul is better than good: It's delightful — in a brutal, darkly comic way, of course."*

Vulture writer Eric Konisberg noted the show was special as it was *"the first spinoff of this golden age of premium cable."*

For the 5th Critics' Choice Television Awards, Bob Odenkirk (Saul) is nominated for Best Actor in a Drama Series and Jonathan Banks is nominated for Best Supporting Actor in a Drama Series.

What makes the Breaking Bad Spinquel, “Better Call Saul”, so compelling?

Character, character, character.

The main character has enough internal conflict, complexity and internal logic that they can twist and turn and baffle and surprise and still remain in character.

Particularly considering Saul is a secondary character in Breaking Bad, we only see about 10% of the whole. Saul has a hidden history, as all interesting characters do. And that's what provides such a rich platform for the spinquel to launch.

Thorough and complex characterisation plus tight, surprising plotting equalled devoted fan viewing. Saul is a spin-off series that adds layers and richness to its parent show.

Watch this show. Learn from it. Enrich your own storytelling.

To mimic Better Call Saul's success, take a little-known character, infuse him/her with lots of character, conflict, contradiction, and personality. Think of the character as an iceberg -- we only see 10% of that character in the original series. In your spinquel though - the remaining 90% is slowly revealed.

Chapter 9: The “Steve Jobs” Obsession. [Method 7]

Also known as the “One More Thing” method.



“There is one more thing. And we’ve managed to keep it secret....” -- Steve Jobs

“I do have one last thing I forgot to tell you about...”-- Steve Jobs

Steve Jobs made the phrase: *“There is one more thing..”* famous.

(You can see a compilation of all his “one more thing” moments, [here](#).)

And you can hear the crowd's delight, before he even reveals the surprise! It worked for decades, with Steve's presentations... and it has worked on TV shows looking to create a spinquel, as well.

The Steve Jobs” Obsession method involves casually slipping in a pretty big announcement, toward the end of your show. Where a character is brought on to an existing show simply in order to be spun-off, hopefully making some of the original audience into followers of the new show.

[Golden Girls](#) → [Empty Nest](#)

[JAG](#) → [NCIS](#) → [NCIS: Los Angeles](#)

[Happy Days](#) → [Laverne & Shirley](#), and [Mork and Mindy](#)

[Criminal Minds](#) → [Criminal Minds: Suspect Behavior](#)

[Make Room for Daddy](#) → [The Andy Griffith Show](#) → [Mayberry RFD](#)

[Bones](#) → [The Finder](#)

[The Practice](#) → [Boston Legal](#), where the spinoff was designed around characters originally introduced in the original in a serious case of Final Season Casting.

[Arrow](#) —> [The Flash \(2014\)](#). The titular character of the latter show was introduced in - and gained his powers at the end of - a two-parter in the middle of Arrow's second season.

Chapter 10: “The Mortal Instruments” Obsession. [Method 8]

Also known as the “**Shared Continuity**” method.

The Mortal Instruments is a series of six young adult fantasy novels written by Cassandra Clare,

The series has been in the New York Times Best Sellers List for 102 consecutive weeks as of September 5, 2013, and No. 1 for 9 weeks straight knocking series as The Hunger Games and Percy Jackson and The Olympians off the top spot. It even spent 100 consecutive weeks on the bestsellers list was in May 2012



In The Mortal Instruments, a seemingly ordinary teenager named Clary learns that she is descended from a line of Shadowhunters -- half-angel warriors who protect humanity from evil forces.

After her mother disappears, Clary joins forces with a group of Shadowhunters and enters Downworld, an alternate realm filled with demons, vampires and a host of other creatures. Clary and her companions must find and protect an ancient cup that holds the key to her mother's future.

This spinoff generally carries no characters over from the series that spawned it, though both are in the same continuity that allows for Crossovers from the original.

“**The Infernal Devices**” series, a spin-off The Mortal Instruments, is an interesting example of the shared continuity method. "The Infernal Devices" takes place 200 years before "**The Mortal Instruments**", and contains some of the character's ancestors. Now there's a twist! You spin off into a new series, featuring your main characters' ancestors! Love it.

The two series share a couple characters, but they're not central to either series. All the other characters in the two series are distinct to their series.





Other examples of the shared continuity method:

[Den of Shadows](#) —> [Kiesha'ra](#) (by Amelia Atwater-Rose)

[Stargate Atlantis](#) and Stargate Universe

[Battlestar Galactica \(Reimagined\)](#) —> [Caprica](#):

A prequel spinoff which follows the creation of Cylons ~50 years before the setting of the parent show.

The various CSI and Law & Order spin offs.

Chapter 11: The “Fantastic Beasts” Obsession. [Method 9]

Also known as “The Text Book” Method.



JK Rowling is one of the most successful authors in the HISTORY of writing.

So when JK Rowling makes a move, authors everywhere are wise to take heed.

Video: [JK Rowling: Creating Harry Potter's Fantasy Empire](#)

Porter Bibb, Managing Partner, Mediatech Capital Partners:

"She sold something like 400 million copies sold in the US, and she got a billion kids reading 600-page tomes in an era when kids were not reading

books at all!"

Paul Dergarabedian, Hollywood.com:

" Probably \$10 billion dollars in overall generated, this is an amazing media franchise that I don't think we'll see again."

Ever since Harry Potter series took the world by storm, breaking and re-breaking records left-and-right, JK Rowling's insights have been paid **very close attention**.

In a 2011 interview conducted by Scholastic, JK Rowling was asked why she thought the Harry Potter series was such a huge success.

Now, In past interviews, her typical answer had been something akin to:

"... the idea of this hidden world is so appealing,"

After talking to thousands of fans over the years though,

she now adds that her success is primarily because, as she puts it:

"... people fell in love with the characters."



Truth is - it takes both those elements,
and a third, to have a chance at the kind
of success

The 3 Essential Elements to writing like Rowling:

1. Flawed protagonists...
2. Increasing conflict on the path

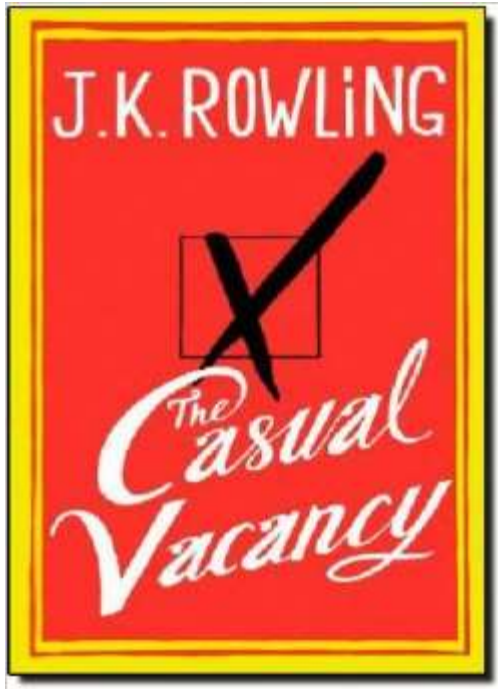
to a worthy goal...

3. In an interesting world.

But what happens after the end of a historic 7-book series run?

What does she do for an encore?

Well, up until recently, nothing much.



JK Rowling took a foray into mystery novels in 2012... with ***"The Casual Vacancy"***.

It got mixed reviews, with most fans clamoring for JK to return to the world of Potter.

But JK insists that Harry's story is over!

It has reached its logical conclusion!

(A writer knows when the story's over.)

So does that mean that Harry Potter fans must forevermore settle for tired, pedestrian fare like ***"The Casual Vacancy"***? (ugh.)

Or will one of the most successful authors of all time, somehow revisit the universe that created her own real-life rags-to-riches story?

In fact, she has. :)

Although Harry's story is truly over *(JK isn't going back to it...)*



...remember the 3 Essential

Elements to writing like Rowling?

1. Flawed protagonists...
2. Increasing conflict on the path to a worthy goal...
3. In an interesting world.

A lot of indie authors nail #1 and #2... which gives them that first successful series.

But without #3... **it can be difficult to EXTEND that series** beyond the original characters.

JK couldn't resist finally extending the Harry Potter franchise, but in a way nobody expected.

There'll be a new movie coming out in 2016, based on the world of Harry Potter,

...70 years before Harry's story began. (*Harry Potter won't even be mentioned in it ONCE!*)

How??

To pull this off, JK Rowling employed “The Text Book Method”, to extend the most successful book series of all time, into an entire NEW (*but deliciously familiar*) series.

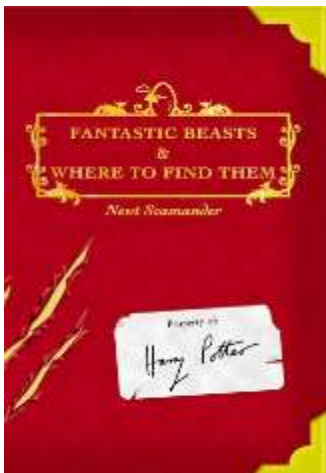
JK Rowling developed a SPINQUEL.

Yes - even JK Rowling is leveraging the powerful method.

But she’s doing hers in a slightly different fashion...

The Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them is being transformed into a three-film series, similar to The Hobbit, which will be set in New York seven decades before the Harry Potter's adventures and follow the "magizoologist" Newt Scamander

J.K. Rowling's *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them* is set to become an onscreen trilogy.



Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them is a 2001 book written by J. K. Rowling.

The book is about the magical creatures in the Harry Potter universe. It purports to be Harry Potter's copy of the textbook of the same name

mentioned in **Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone**, the first novel of the Harry Potter series.

Rowling stated that she chose the subject of magical creatures because it was a fun topic for which she had already developed a lot of information in earlier books. Rowling's name does not appear on the cover of the book, the work being credited under the pseudonym "**Newt Scamander**". *(This is important. More on this in a bit...)*

On September 12, 2013, Warner Bros. and Rowling announced they will be producing a film inspired by the book, being the first in a new trilogy.

Here are some video clips on “Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them”:

- [Daniel Radcliffe talks about “Fantastic Beasts](#).
- [Unofficial Trailer for “Fantastic Beasts”](#) (it’s in German!)
- [“Fantastic Beasts” Unofficial Guide to the Book](#)
- [AMC News - Fantastic Beasts to be a Mega-Trilogy](#) (3 films!)

The story will feature Newt Scamander as a main character and will be set in New York, 70 years before Harry's story starts.

Newton Artemis Fido "Newt" Scamander is the fictional author of *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*, born in 1897.

According to the "About the Author" section of the book, Scamander became a magizoologist because of his own interest in fabulous beasts and the encouragement of his mother, an enthusiastic Hippogriff breeder. In Hogwarts, he was sorted to Hufflepuff.

In the film version of Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban, Newt Scamander's name appeared on the Marauder's Map.

That was the only mention of Newt Scamander in the entire Harry Potter series.



Um... WOW?! You mean - you can actually create spinquel based on a character that never even appeared in the original book?

I mean - Newt's name appeared on the cover of a text book for a few seconds.

But I can see you pulling this off even with a name/character that was NEVER mentioned in the original series.

How?

Simply by referencing the universe, the history, the rules, and the characters of the original book... but basing the new book on a different time.

This is GENIUS!

This means the door is WIDE OPEN for your going in almost any direction!

I can tell you that I was THRILLED when I found precedence of this, and from the most commercially successful author in history.

You got your marching orders, friend. The only limit is your imagination.

You can use the smallest of scraps of intrigue, from your existing story, to create a BRAND NEW CHARACTER, unconstrained by any previous character development.

You can basically take the parts of your original series that intrigued people the most, go into the past (or the future), and expand that infinitely.

Thrilling.

Note that NONE of the original characters will appear in this spin-off.

And yet - the entire Harry Potter fanbase is SURE to show up for "Fantastic Beasts".

Be sure to watch the movie when it comes out.

Looks like they just picked the [leading man](#) for the movie (comes out in 2016...)

[Okay. Pick up “The Fantastic Beasts” book here!](#)

NEXT STEPS:

Let your mind wander across the landscape of your current book series.

What are 5-to-7 items, legends, places, or books within your story, that you can build a brand new adventure around?

1. Item #1
2. Item #2
3. Item #3
4. Item #4
5. Item #5
6. Item #6
7. Item #7

Rick Riordan Launches Percy Jackson Spinoff, The Heroes of Olympus, on October 12



We first told you about Rick Riordan's plans to write a Percy Jackson spinoff series, The Heroes of Olympus, last June. The first book in the new series, The Lost Hero, will be released on October 12.

Chapter 12: The “Half-Blood”

Obsession [Method 10]

The Heroes of Olympus is a sequel series, also based on Camp Half-Blood and the Greek mythology and Roman mythology universe.

The first book The Lost Hero was released on October 12, 2010.

Like the first series, there are five books.

Heroes of Olympus is a spinquel from the very successful “Percy Jackson” book series, that took middle schoolers (and some adults) by storm, a few years ago.

Rick Riordan very cleverly mined a rich and fertile ground for stories - Greek legends.

Like his original protagonist (Percy Jackson), Rick Riordan grew up with dyslexia, and ADHD.

But as early as the second grade, Rick’s Dad had introduced him to Greek mythology.

And the rest, as they say, his history.

Rick brought Greek mythology into a contemporary setting, and featured young adult protagonists. The result was some seriously addictive storytelling for his target audience!

But after 5 books, as planned, Rick felt Percy Jackson's story had been told to a satisfying completion. he didn't want to keep dragging Percy's story out, just because readers wanted more.

So what did Rick do?

He kept that very rich and fertile backdrop (Greek legends colliding with contemporary, current-day school age kids), and decided to follow a completely new set of characters!

The Heroes of Olympus is centered around a prophecy, introduced in The Last Olympian (last book in the Percy Jackson & the Olympians book series), that predicted seven demigods would unite to protect the earth from Gaea, who plans to destroy it.

Pretty simple way to drag readers right into a brand new series, isn't it!

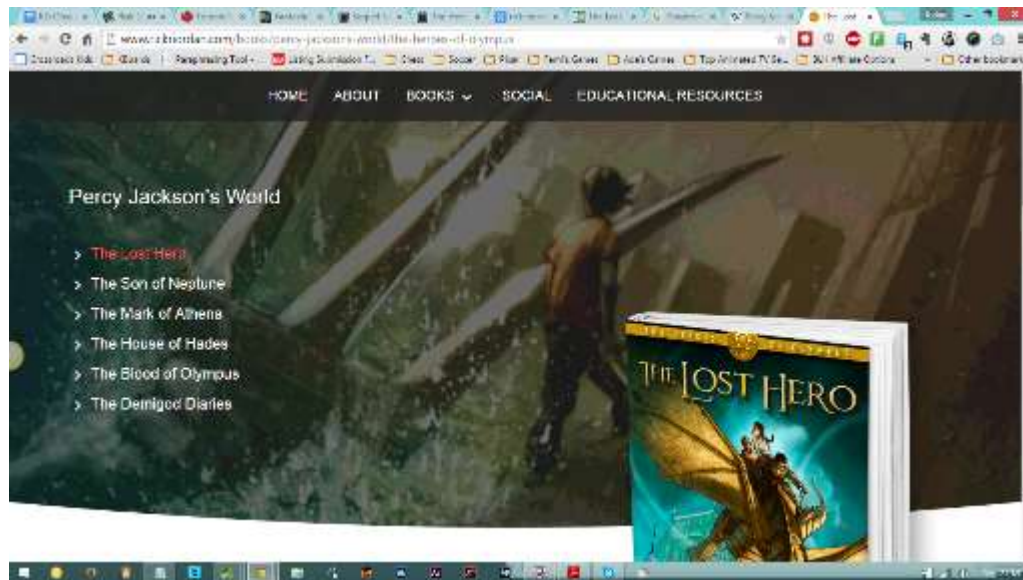
Same universe, same backdrop, same rules, same history, but COMPLETELY NEW SET OF PROTAGONISTS.

This one is easy to use, and it has the added benefit of ending your original series in a cliffhanger. Very powerful. Use with care

Q: How many books are in the Percy Jackson series, and would you please write more than that?

A: Percy Jackson & the Olympians is a five book series. The main story that started in The Lightning Thief is wrapped up in The Last Olympian. I believe it's important for a series to have a strong ending, and I always knew that Percy's story would be five books. I'm so glad everyone enjoyed the series, but if I tried to keep it going longer it just would not be as exciting. All good things must end, guys!

Having said that, I had a ton of ideas from Greek mythology that I could not fit into the Percy Jackson series, and there were many other stories about the characters at Camp Half-Blood that I wanted to explore. Because of this, I launched the Heroes of Olympus series, starting with The Lost Hero in October 2010. Many of your favorite characters from PJO appear again in those books, but there is also a cast of new main characters. I know you're thinking it's not the same, but that's exactly the point. I didn't want it to be the same. A story has to keep developing to be fresh, and if the author gets bored, the reader will get bored too. If you haven't read Heroes of Olympus yet, try it! I promise it's not the end for Percy and the gang; it's a new twist.



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www.BookMarketingEngine.com

Chapter 13: The “Twilight” Obsession. [Method 11]

Boy, do I have a treat for you.

So as a writer, particularly as an indie writer, you are undoubtedly familiar with the Twilight Saga. Stephenie Meyer burst onto the scene back in 2005, as a first-time author, with Twilight. She published part 2 (Eclipse) in 2007, and part 3 (Breaking Dawn) in 2008.

The trilogy went on to be made into wildly successful movies, turning the young actors who featured in the movies into overnight superstars.

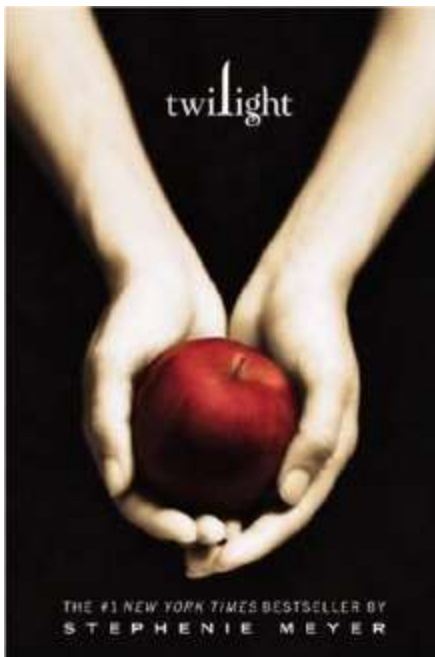
Stephenie Meyer’s four “Twilight” books have sold more than **120 million copies worldwide**.

The five resulting films (the final book, “Breaking Dawn,” was told in two cinematic parts) took in **\$3.5 billion worldwide** (after accounting for inflation).

Most of the books are told from the standpoint of Bella, the main protagonist.

Need a recap? Here you go:

Twilight (Part 1):



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www.BookMarketingEngine.com

Bella Swan moves from Arizona to live with her father in Washington. This is to allow Bella's mother to travel with her new husband, a baseball player.

After moving, Bella finds herself drawn to a mysterious, handsome boy, Edward Cullen.

She soon learns that he is a member of a vampire family who drinks animal blood rather than human blood. Edward and Bella fall in love, while James, a sadistic vampire from another coven, is drawn to hunt down Bella.

Edward and the other Cullens defend Bella. She escapes back to Arizona, is pursued by James, and is seriously wounded. But Edward rescues her and they return to Washington.



New Moon (Part 2):

Edward and his family leave Forks because he believes he is endangering Bella's life. Bella goes into a depression until she develops a strong friendship with Jacob Black, whom she discovers can shape-shift into a wolf.

Jacob and the other wolves in his tribe must protect her from Victoria, a vampire seeking to avenge the death of her mate James.

Due to a misunderstanding, Edward believes Bella is dead.

Edward decides to commit suicide in Volterra, Italy, but is stopped by Bella, who is accompanied by Edward's sister, Alice.

They meet with the Volturi, a powerful vampire coven, and are released only on the condition that Bella be turned into a vampire in the near future. Bella and Edward are reunited, and she and the Cullens return to Forks.



Eclipse (Part 3):

Victoria has created an army of "newborn" vampires to battle the Cullen family and murder Bella for revenge.

Meanwhile, Bella is compelled to choose between her relationship with Edward and her friendship with Jacob.

Edward's vampire family and Jacob's werewolf pack join forces to successfully destroy Victoria and her vampire army.

In the end, Bella chooses Edward's love over Jacob's friendship and agrees to marry Edward.



Breaking Dawn (Part 4):

Bella and Edward are married, but their honeymoon is cut short when Bella discovers that she is pregnant. Her pregnancy progresses rapidly, severely weakening her.

essed With Your New Book... Before You Even Write It.
www.BookMarketingEngine.com

She nearly dies giving birth to her and Edward's half-vampire-half-human daughter, Renesmee. Edward injects Bella with his venom to save her life and turns her into a vampire.

A vampire from another coven sees Renesmee and mistakes her for an "immortal child". She informs the Volturi, as the existence of such beings violates vampire law.

The Cullens gather vampire witnesses who can verify that Renesmee is not an immortal child. After an intense confrontation, the Cullens and their witnesses convince the Volturi that the child poses no danger to vampires or their secret, and they are left in peace by the Volturi.

Okay. So now you're all caught up.

The way Book 4 ends, Stephenie Meyer could conceivably continue right where she left off. But it seems Stephenie tired of telling the story from that perspective.

So does that mean the end of the Twilight saga, forever?

As fate would have it... no. It doesn't.

And this is where the Twilight Saga makes a sharp left turn, and Stephenie Meyer jumps head-first into spinquels.

Twilight Spinquel 1: Midnight Sun.

Midnight Sun is an unreleased companion novel to the book Twilight.

The work retells the events of Twilight, but **from the perspective of Edward Cullen** (not Bella Swan). instead of that of the series' usual narrating character Bella Swan.

Woah. Wait. Twilight was re-written?

From Edward's perspective?

Yes.

And it would have been a published book... perhaps eventually even a movie!

If OBSESSED FANS (this could happen to you, if you keep using these methods), found, stole and leaked the incomplete story!

Stephenie was so upset, that she published the incomplete draft to the internet.

She stated, "If I tried to write Midnight Sun now, in my current frame of mind, James would probably win and all the Cullens would die, which wouldn't dovetail too well with the original story. In any case, I feel too sad about what has happened to continue working on Midnight Sun, and so it is on hold indefinitely."

Stephenie made the twelve-chaptered draft available on her website.

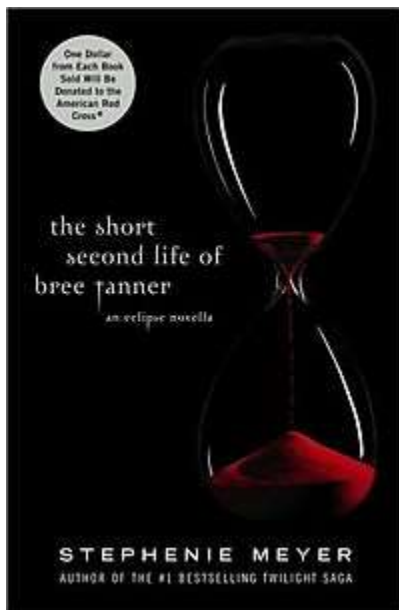
And yes, I got it for you.

You can read it [here](#).

This idea of re-telling the same story, from a different character's perspective, is a paraquel. And it's used more commonly than you might realize. Precisely because it's so powerful.

This is an ace up your sleeve. But note what can happen when you work your readers into a frenzy. They might try to steal your work before you publish it. A word is enough for the wise...

Twilight Spinquel #2: The Short Second Life of Bree Tanner.



The Short Second Life of Bree Tanner is a companion novella to the Twilight series by author Stephenie Meyer. It tells the story of a newborn vampire, Bree Tanner, who is featured in the third book of the series, Eclipse.

The book is written from the viewpoint of Bree, as opposed to the rest of the series which is predominantly narrated by character Bella Swan.

15-year old Bree is featured in the Twilight series briefly... (there is a scene where Bree encounters Bella, and has trouble resisting the urge to drink her blood.) Stephenie Meyer took this tiny little scene, and blew it out into an entire book!

According to Stephenie Meyer, she began writing the story while she was editing Eclipse. Later, she planned on including it in the upcoming The Twilight Saga: The Official Guide. The resulting story became too long to be included in the Guide, and so it became a stand-alone book.

Before you think that this was just some throwaway book -- here are some of its results:

- Two weeks after its release, The Short Second Life of Bree Tanner was on USA Today's best-seller list.
- About 700,000 copies were sold in the United States, and 75,000 people read the entire book online for free.
- Bree Tanner also became one of the fastest selling books in the UK having sold 89,549 copies, at an average of 79 copies per minute, in less than nineteen hours.
- It is also the third fastest selling hardback title in the UK, behind Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows and The Lost Symbol.
- In its first full week in the UK, it sold 136,995 copies and was described as an *"incredible achievement for a book that has been free to view online"* and making Meyer the second most successful young fiction author in the UK market, behind JK Rowling.

Boom. All from an almost afterthought spinquel.

Twilight Spinquel #3: The 5 Upcoming Twilight Movie Shorts.

According to [the report](#), Lionsgate and "Twilight" author Stephenie Meyer will select "five aspiring female directors" to helm short films centered on the characters of the "Twilight" universe.

As for using Facebook as the platform to launch the new “Twilight” movies, Lionsgate’s Michael Burns said: *“We think Facebook is a great way for us to introduce the world of ‘Twilight’ to a whole new audience while re-energizing existing fans.”*

He added that these **“*Twilight*” mini-movies are “just the beginning — a template, if you will.”**

Hear that?

Now - will these mini-movie simply feature the existing stars of the Twilight saga?

Unlikely. Kristen Stewart and Robert Pattinson are not expected to return to the social media screen. The mini-movies will instead feature new actors... and each focus on a different character from the story.

Stephenie Meyer is using spinquels to re-launch one of the most successful movie properties in recent memory.

And she’s doing it in multiple directions!

Get your thinking cap out. It’s time to leverage some of these methods for your own story universe.

Chapter 14: The “Panem” Obsession. [Method 12]



So by now just about everyone and their mother has read, watched, or at least heard of, the phenomenon known as The Hunger Games.

I remember hearing about the book a couple of years before the first movie came out, and being intrigued. At the time a middle schooler and his class were reading it... and several of the parents had found the concept so compelling, that THEY WERE READING THE BOOK AS WELL!

Well, since then Suzanne Collins' Hunger Games trilogy has taken the world by storm.

The Hunger Games universe is a dystopia set in "Panem", a country consisting of the wealthy Capitol and twelve districts in varying states of poverty. Every year, children are chosen to participate in a compulsory annual televised death match called The Hunger Games.

The series follows young characters Katniss Everdeen and Peeta Mellark as they battle through a deadly battle royale and face the results of their every action.

Now - even though The Hunger Games was written as a trilogy, the author (Suzanne Collins) created so many compelling characters that... you can already see where this is going... the potential for spinquels in multiple directions, especially considering the original trilogy has been so successful... is highly likely.

In fact - fans are so OBSESSED with the concept - that they've actually started writing the spinquels themselves!



The world of Panem is actually chock-full of spinquel possibilities.

A recap:

The Hunger Games series takes place at an unspecified point in the future.

At this time, following mass death and destruction, the nation of Panem rules North America in place of the governments of Canada, the United States and Mexico.

Panem's seat of power is a superficially utopian city called the Capitol located, in the Rocky Mountains (Not in Washington DC, as some believed).

Outside of the Capitol, the nation is divided into 12 districts, under a totalitarian dictatorship, led by the tyrannical President Snow. A thirteenth district had existed, but was destroyed by the Capitol seventy-five years prior to the beginning of The Hunger Games. This

The Capitol developed the Hunger Games as an annual event to punish the citizens of Panem for their rebellion and to remind citizens of consequences for rebelling against the absolute power of the Capitol.

Okay. Now - wondering where the spinquels may come from?

Check out these 5 ideas, from MoviePilot.com.

You'll get some amazing ideas - not just from these fan-generated spinquel plots, but also from the comment section on each of the pots!

- [The Hunger Games Movies Might Not Be Over... Wait, What?](#)

- [Hunger Games Spinoff: Possible Plot #1:](#)

Sequel: New series following Katniss, Peeta, and their kids.

- [Hunger Games Spinoff: Possible Plot #2 :](#)

Prequel: The backstory of President Alma Coin and District 13.

- [Hunger Games Spinoff: Possible Plot #3:](#)

Prequel: Origin story for District12 and Katniss' parents.

- [Hunger Games Spinoff: Possible Plot #4:](#)

Prequel: The year that Haymitch won the 50th Hunger Games:

How he won, and what happened to make him a brooding drunk.

- [Hunger Games Spinoff: Possible Plot #5:](#)

Sequel: President Snow's granddaughter (and other Capitol children)
get sent into the Hunger Games.

Wow! If you've read the books or watched the movies, I know that you are already intrigued by these possibilities! Being a fan of the series I would LOVE for these stories to be told...

Get this - even if they weren't told by Suzanne Collins!

That's how admittedly "obsessed" I and other fans are with the Hunger Games world, and characters.

Just reading through these will give you tons of ideas as to how you can generate spinquels from your own existing work.

So there's the method.

By having an original series with lots of interesting characters, and by starting the series “in media res” (in the middle of things), you will have avid fans BEGGING for you to go back and flesh out the details for any number of characters, places, and occurrences!

Brilliant.

Chapter 15: The “Divergent” Obsession. [Method 13]

Also known as the paraprequel.



Like The Hunger Games, Divergent seemingly overtook the world’s consciousness overnight. Another Young Adult fantasy series, this one written by Veronica roth, Divergent is a trilogy of books (and movies) set in a dystopian future.

Divergent features a post-apocalyptic version of Chicago.

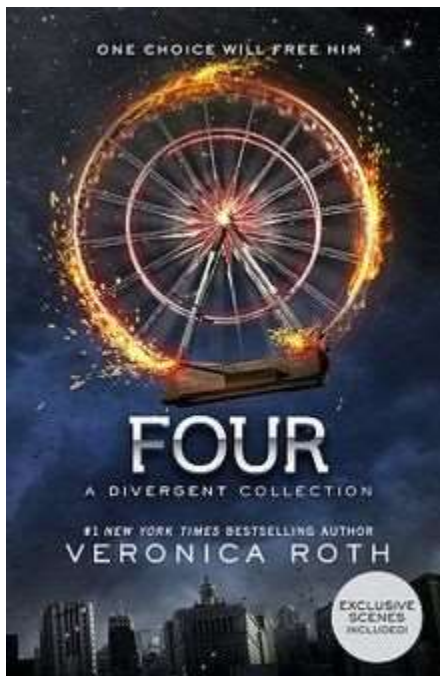
In a post-apocalyptic Chicago, survivors were divided into five factions based on their dispositions:

- **Abnegation**, for the selfless;
- **Amity**, for the peaceful;
- **Candor**, for the honest;
- **Dauntless**, for the brave; and
- **Erudite**, for the intellectual.

Each year, all sixteen-year-olds take an aptitude test that describes the faction for which they are best suited.

After receiving the results, they can decide whether to remain with their family's faction or transfer to a new faction. Those who do not complete initiation into their new faction become "Factionless" and are forced to live in poverty on the streets of the city.

The story follows Beatrice "Tris" Prior as she explores her identity within this conformist society, find some sinister forces behind the conformity, and falls in love with one of her instructors in the Dauntless faction, nicknamed **Four**.



After concluding the trilogy, Veronica Roth went on to write a spinquel series!

“**Four: A Divergent Collection**” is a collection of five short stories from the Divergent trilogy, told from Tobias Eaton's (Four) perspective.

It serves mostly as a prequel, but also a little bit as a paraquel (there is some overlap with the Divergent trilogy).

According to Roth, these stories serve as a prequel to the Divergent trilogy.

She said that "The e-shorts address Tobias's backstory and some of the mysterious things going on in the world before Tris chose Dauntless. Together, they form a kind of Tobias-centered Divergent prequel, though there is some overlap."

Now - give a listen to what author Veronica Roth said about writing a spinquel:

"...I also know, from many tweets and blog comments and in-person comments, that Divergent readers are interested in hearing more of his voice, which made him an obvious candidate!

My readers have given me so much enthusiasm and honesty and wisdom.

The opportunity to write something that I knew they wanted to read was really appealing to me."

-- Veronica Roth, author of the Divergent Trilogy, and the Four short story collection.

But that's not all.

The CEO of LionsGate (the movie house behind the Divergent movies, and also behind The Hunger Games and Twilight), is thinking about spin offs for all three movie properties!

[Lionsgate CEO hints at spinoffs for Divergent and the Hunger games](#)

Don't underestimate the power of a paraquel - telling the same story from the perspective of another character. Even more distinct to this method: You can combine a prequel (how did we get here) with a paraquel (what did I see while XYZ was happening?)

Chapter 16: The “Trekkie” Obsession. [Method 14]

There is perhaps no other story universe that has fans as OBSESSED as **Star Trek**.

Known as “Trekkies”, these fans go ALL OUT!

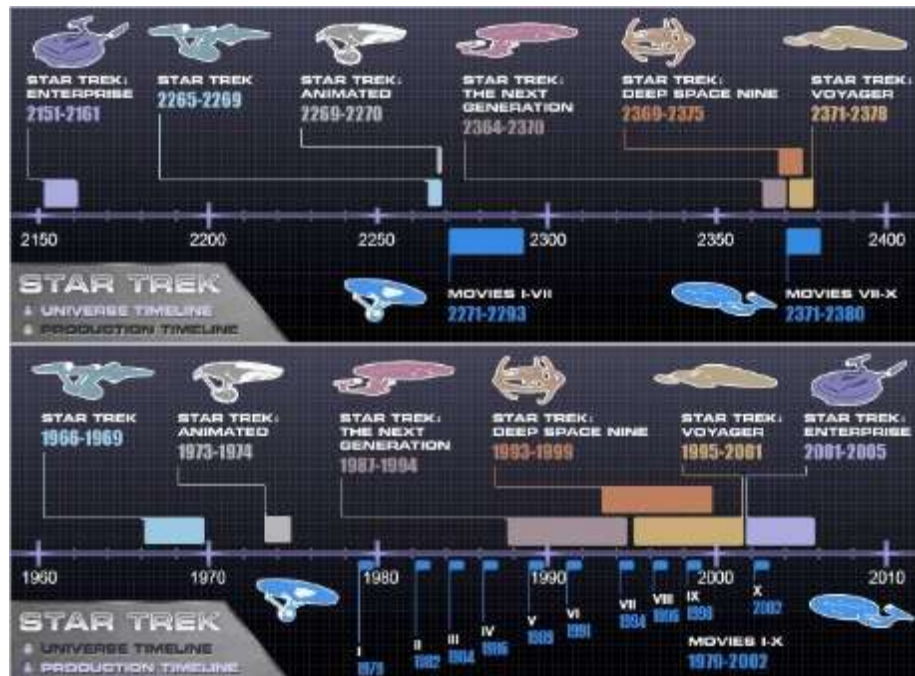
- They wear the costumes.
- They learn the obscure languages.
- And they know the Star Trek universe’s history, backwards and forwards.

For 50 years, Star trek has dominated fandom. Star Trek is noted for its influence on the world outside of science fiction. It has been cited as an inspiration for several technological inventions such as the cell phone. Wow. So what exactly is this Star Trek thing about?

Star Trek is an American science fiction entertainment franchise created by Gene Roddenberry. His original story has spawned books, TV series, movies, conferences, games, and a whole lot more.

Let’s see how these 5 different and disparate Star Trek TV series, follow the spinquel model.

1. [Star Trek: The Original Series](#)
 2. [Star Trek: Enterprise](#) (Prequel. 100 years before the original series)
 3. [Star Trek: The Next Generation](#) (Sequel: 100 years after the original series)
 4. [Star Trek: Deep Space 9](#) (Sequel: 104 years after the original series)
 5. [Star Trek: Voyager](#) (Sequel: 106 years after the original series)
-



(You can watch trailers for all the show intros [here](#), in chronological order.)

1. [Star Trek: The Original Series](#)



The first series, now referred to as **The Original Series**, debuted in 1966.

It followed the interstellar adventures of James T. Kirk and the crew of the starship Enterprise, an exploration vessel of a

23rd-century interstellar "United Federation of Planets".

Although Gene publicly marketed it as a Western in outer space—a so-called "Wagon Train to the Stars" (like the popular Western TV series)—

he privately told friends that he was modeling it on Jonathan Swift's Gulliver's Travels, intending each episode to act on two levels: as a suspenseful adventure story and as a morality tale.



2. [Star Trek: Enterprise](#)

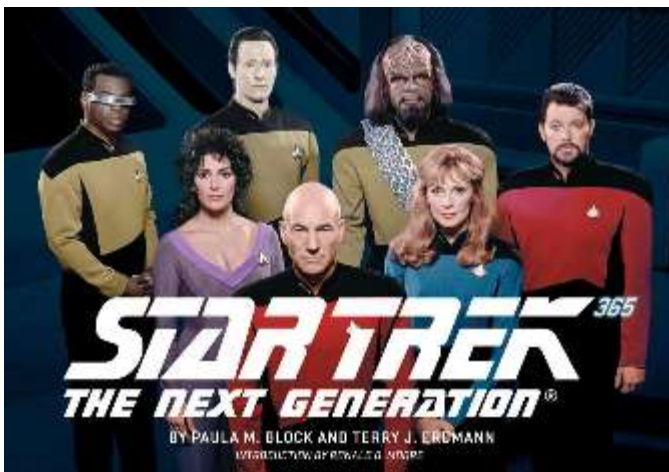
Star Trek Enterprise is set more than 110 years before **The Original Series**, and is arguably a spinoff of The Original Series, The Next Generation, or both.

The series takes place aboard the starship Enterprise NX-01, Earth's first

warp-5-capable ship, which has been designed for long-range exploration of the galaxy.

The first two seasons of Star Trek: Enterprise depict the exploration of interstellar space by the crew of an Earth ship able to go farther and faster into outer space than any humans had previously gone.

A recurring plot device is the Temporal Cold War, in which a mysterious entity from the 27th century uses the Cabal, a group of genetically upgraded creatures, to manipulate the timeline and change past events.



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3. [Star Trek: The Next Generation](#):

The series is set about 70 years after the final mission of the original Enterprise crew.]

The Federation has undergone massive internal changes in its quest to explore and seek out new life, adding new degrees of complexity and controversy to its methods, especially those focused on the Prime Directive.

(The Prime Directive, used in four out of five Star Trek-based series, prohibits Starfleet personnel from interfering with the internal development of alien civilizations. This conceptual law applies particularly to civilizations which are below a certain threshold of technological, scientific and cultural development; preventing starship crews from using their superior technology to impose their own values or ideals on them.

Since its introduction in the first season of the original Star Trek series, it has served as the focus of numerous episodes of the various series. As time-travel became a recurring feature in the franchise, the concept was expanded as a Temporal Prime Directive, prohibiting those under its orders from interfering in historical events.)

The Klingon Empire and the United Federation of Planets have ceased wartime hostilities and become galactic allies, while more sinister foes like the Romulans and the Borg take precedence on the series.



5. [Star Trek: Voyager](#):

The spinoff picks up almost immediately after the conclusion of its predecessor, and although it does not feature any continuing characters it does continue various stories and themes originating from The Next Generation.

It follows the adventures of the Starfleet vessel USS Voyager, which becomes stranded in the Delta Quadrant while pursuing a renegade Maquis ship.

Due to the great distance from Federation space, the Delta Quadrant is unexplored and Voyager truly is going where no human has gone before.

As the ship sets out on its projected 75-year journey home, the crew passes through regions belonging to various species indigenous to the Delta Quadrant, such as the barbaric and belligerent Kazon; the organ-harvesting, disease-ravaged Vidiians; the nomadic hunter-race the Hirogen; the fearsome, scorpion-like Species 8472 from a fluid-space realm; and most notably the Borg.

Each Star Trek series featured few crossovers, apart from one at the beginning of each spinoff as a symbolic "passing the torch".

- The first episode of **The Next Generation** included a cameo appearance by an aged Dr McCoy;
- The pilot of **Deep Space 9** prominently featured Captain Picard;
- The first scene of **Voyager** included a cameo by DS9's Quark;
- The first episode of Enterprise showed a video recording of Dr Zefram Cochrane, a major character in the "The Next Generation" film, "**Star Trek: First Contact.**"

Gene Rodenberry has provided an amazing blueprint for creating 50 years of storytelling that fans can obsess over. all from the idea of having "a western in space".

Chapter 17: The “Walking Dead” Obsession. [Method 15]



The Walking Dead is an American horror drama television series, based on the comic book of the same name.

The show's lead character, sheriff's deputy Rick Grimes, awakens from a months-long coma to confront a new, apocalyptic world overrun by flesh-eating zombies.

Grimes reunites with his family and becomes the leader of a group he forms with some of the many other survivors whom he encounters in his quest for a safe haven.

Together they are forced to survive in a world filled with zombies and certain humans who are even more dangerous than the zombies themselves.

Into its 5th season now, The Walking Dead has been an unprecedented HIT:

Even as the cable TV network AMC has renewed “The Walking Dead” for a 6th season, there have been rumors, and reports, of a spinoff (spinquel) for the walking dead being developed.

According to reports, “**Fear the Walking Dead**” will have no connection to the original show, other than existing in the same world (a paraquel).

Then... few months ago, this tweet broke the Internet for Walking Dead fans.



Well, more specifically, it implied that contrary to previous reports that the Walking Dead spinquel would have no characters in common with the existing, wildly popular show...

it appears that one character from season 1, who hadn't been seen in 4 seasons, isn't dead after all!

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larketingEngine.com

It shows how hungry fans are to have at least one common character, in a lot of instances.

(Note that if you are doing a big time jump with your spinquel, there are still a lot of precedents of that working.)

The Walking Dead spinoff will focus on two small families as well as another character, comprising the six central figures in the spinoff series.

- There will be the Cabreras, a father and son;
- The Tompkins, a single mother with two teenaged children; and
- Andrea Chapman, who is reeling from her own personal tragedy.

Here are the full character descriptions:

- SEAN CABRERA: A Latino male in his early 40s, Sean is a good man trying to do right by everyone in his life.
- CODY CABRERA: Sean's whip-smart and rebellious teenage son. Known as the angriest kid in town.
- NANCY TOMPKINS: A thirtysomething single mom to two kids, Nancy looks like the girl next door, but there's an edge to her.
- NICK TOMPKINS: Nancy's screwed up teenage son. He's too old to stay home, too scared to flee.

- ASHLEY TOMPKINS: Nancy's mostly level-headed teenage daughter. Her ambition is in direct proportion to her older brother's failures. She loves her mom but it's time to get out of Dodge.
- ANDREA CHAPMAN: A somewhat wilted flower child, fortysomething Andrea — (another Andrea) — has retreated to the outskirts of the city to recover after a horrible marriage.

Note that the familiar universe is important -- but that alone is not enough.

If it were, it would suggest that any old zombie show put on TV would work.

No.

The Walking Dead is more of a character drama residing in a horrific world than a cut and dry horror series. It seems the Walking Dead companion will uphold the character-focused tradition by putting familial drama at the forefront of the series.

This is why The Walking Dead has so many fans that aren't necessarily fans of the horror genre. It has crossed over big time.



Chapter 18: The “Valley High Vampire” Obsession. [Method 16]

Richelle Mead – Vampire Academy → Bloodlines.

Richelle Mead is a New York Times and USA Today bestselling author of urban fantasy books for both adults and teens.

Richelle lives in Seattle, Washington where she works on her three series full-time.

Vampire Academy is a New York Times and USA Today bestselling series that follows the war between two races of vampires, living and undead.

Rose Hathaway, a 17-year old half-vampire, is training to be a bodyguard for the living vampires and finds her life complicated by the dangers that involves, as well as an illicit romance with one of her teachers.

Bloodlines is a spin-off of her Vampire Academy series. This is where Richelle uses the spinquel formula masterfully. In fact, across her two vampire series, Richelle has sold over ONE MILLION COPIES IN HARDCOVER.

Pretty impressive!

And who woulda thought - she used the Spinquel approach to do it?

Here's how Richelle tied Vampire Academy and Bloodlines together.

Rose's story might have wrapped up in the Vampire Academy series, but there's still lots more to tell about the other characters from that world.

This spin-off series centers around Sydney the Alchemist, a human teen who's part of a group to keep the existence of vampires secret from the world. Sydney's spent her entire life being taught that vampires and dhampirs are evil and unnatural, but all that's about to change when she's forced into hiding with Jill, **Adrian (carryover character)**, and Eddie...

One reviewer said:

"If you're a fan of the Vampire Academy series, go get Bloodlines. Seriously.

I must confess I wasn't really a fan of Sydney [carry-over character, new protagonist] until Bloodlines, but Richelle Mead certainly knows how to draw you to a story—and I totally could relate to Sydney when it's about coffee addiction. If you miss Rose [main protagonist from the first series] and Dimka, good news: they show up on this spin-off!"

And here's how Entertainment Weekly reviewed Bloodlines:

Richelle Mead has graduated from *Vampire Academy*, her popular YA series that wrapped up in December with the release of its sixth and final book, and now she's moving onto new territory. Well, somewhat new: *Bloodlines* will be a spin-off of VA, moving the previously tertiary character Sydney, a human alchemist, from the sidelines to the forefront. It will also be set in a sunny Californian high school instead of that rigid, preppy-bloodsucker academy, which I imagine will be like transferring from the *Undead Poets Society* to Bayside High.

Check out the finalized cover for the first book of the series—that's Sydney with the filigreed face, by the way—and watch a video after the jump of Mead talking about how it will differ from *Vampire Academy*. *Bloodlines* is set to hit shelves on August 23.

Two things to emphasize in that review:

- First - note how they emphasize the change in protagonist:

A “*previously tertiary character*”.

Yes. Just more validation that even the most minor of characters can carry their own series! Good news for us!

- **Second** - note the change scenery. The concept (Vampires in school) remains the same. But by changing the location, the scenery the landscape... immediately different interactions and colors and plot details and nuances are possible!



Fantasy writer Richelle Mead understands the allure of a bad boy. Honorable, duty-bound Dmitri may be the hero of her best-selling young adult series *Vampire Academy*, but readers have always had a weakness for Adrian, the impudent scamp. Now her fans may get their wishes answered with *Bloodlines*, the first book of a new young adult series featuring minor characters from *Vampire Academy*. Adrian is back (although Mead isn't revealing exactly how), and the new heroine is Sydney Sage, an alchemist trained to conceal the supernatural world and protect ordinary humans. Known for her robust and resilient female leads, the prolific writer (18 books in six years) also helms the adult fantasy series *Georgina Kincaid* and *Dark Swan*. Mead reveals to Goodreads her thoughts on vampire popularity and feminine characters with oomph.

But here's a 3rd thing you may not have picked up.

If you [watch the Entertainment Weekly video](#) featuring Richelle, she shares a gold nugget about the difference between Rose (Vampire Academy) and Sydney (Bloodlines).

- Rose (Vampire Academy)
 - Impulsive
 - Rash
 - From a darker background
 - Wants to be more controlled, but finds it difficult

- Sydney (Bloodlines):
 - Timid,
 - Overthinks everything.
 - From a sunny, California high school
 - Wants to be bolder, stand up for herself more

This is also validation of what we've seen in other spinquels...

by taking a background character that is very different from your original protagonist, you can instantly (even with the same universe, same history, and a few of the same people) take the story in an entirely new direction.

Now. What opposite tertiary character are you about to launch into the limelight?



Chapter 18: The 8 Worst Spin-offs of all Time:

1. [Joey \(from Friends\)](#)

According to Matt LeBlanc, who played Joey:

Joey, was canceled, a result, he thinks, of sending the character in a wrong direction. “Joey had become a guy who is feeling sorry for himself, got to California, didn’t have his ‘Friends’—oh, woe is me. That was never the character. Who wants to see that?”

One online reviewer pointed out:

“As an idiotic buffoon, he was primarily a great comedic foil for the other characters, especially Chandler, and occasionally would have a solid storyline showcasing that side of him.

But it was the episodes showing that his heart was bigger than his brain, that gave Joey real depth and gave viewers a real reason to love the character.

Joey was just 1/6th of the equation, and the character was only asked to carry 6-10 minutes of any given episode, at the most. Here, they're trying to make Joey carry the entire 24 minutes because, as it stands now, the supporting characters aren't compelling enough to warrant strong independent storylines of their own. And we haven't seen enough of the scenes that show Joey's heart.”

In other words - just because you're spinning off a secondary character, it doesn't mean you shouldn't give that character DEPTH! (See the “*Iceberg Method*” chapter.)

2. Joanie Loves Chachi:



Here's what one reviewer said, about Joanie Loves Chachi:

"Strange as it seems, the decision to have Joanie and Chachi headlining their own series was a sound one - Baio and Moran were both appealing, energetic performers with good comic timing and nice chemistry.

The problems came with the central "rock band" concept (although Moran could carry a tune nicely, Baio couldn't sing).

The initial four Joanie Loves Chachi episodes coasted by on sheer novelty and Baio's dreamy teen-idol looks (annoyingly, the studio audience screams every time he first appears).

Very quickly, however, it became apparent that it takes more than a captive audience of Teen Beat readers to sustain interest over the long haul."

Moral of the story:

Attractive stars with good chemistry aren't enough to carry a series.
Give them substance!

1. Conflicted characters with lots of depth to explore...
2. Worthy goal, lots of conflict to get there,
3. and an interesting setting.

3. The Brady Brides:

The Brady Brides, Reviews

American TV program

★★★★☆ 5.8/10

IMDb · 115 votes

The Brady Brides

American TV program

Marcia and Jan Brady each get married, then share a house.

First episode date: February 6, 1981

Network: NBC

Program creator: Sherwood Schwartz

Language: English



[Feedback](#)

["The Brady Brides" Reviews & Ratings - IMDb](#)

[www.imdb.com/title/tt0081813/revIEWS](#) - Internet Movie Database

The first three weeks of the show, in which the Brady girls were getting ready for their wedding, did quite well. The show started to falter in the ratings after these episodes and was then canceled. When you think about it - this was a pretty flimsy premise on which to base an entire new series...

Moral of the story:

Even the most popular characters, when given a flimsy premise or goal, will wilt in the spotlight.

4. Baywatch Nights:

Baywatch Nights, Reviews

American television series

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ 3.7/10

IMDb 861 votes

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ 6.3/10

TV.com 147 votes

Feedback

Baywatch Nights (TV Series 1995–1997) - IMDb

www.imdb.com/title/tt0111692/ - Internet Movie Database -

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ Rating: 3.7/10 - 861 votes

Reviews: 11 user. In this far less successful, hence shorter-lived Baywatch spin-off, Mitch Buchannon, the reliable lieutenant in charge of an LA county beach's

Baywatch Nights

American television series

Baywatch Nights is an American police and science fiction drama series that aired in syndication from 1995 to 1997. Wikipedia

First episode date: September 30, 1995

Final episode date: May 16, 1997

Networks: Sat 1, Broadcast syndication

Program creators: David Hasselhoff, Douglas Schwartz, Michael Bark

Episodes



Baywatch Nights is a spinoff from the uber-popular show, Baywatch.

The original premise of the show was that, during a midlife crisis,

Sgt. Garner Ellerbee, (the resident police officer of Baywatch since the beginning of the series), decides to quit his job as a police officer and form a detective agency.

During the second season, facing slipping ratings which were never as good as the original series, the producers decided to switch to a science fiction format (inspired by the success of The X-Files).

Seriously. They just... up and SWITCHED to science fiction!!!

The new format did not help the series and it was canceled after the second season.

(Big surprise.)

Moral of the story:

Um, kinda obvious, but "DON'T SWITCH GENRES IN THE MIDDLE OF THE SERIES!"

5. Top of the Heap:

Top of the Heap, Reviews
American television program

★★★★☆ 5.9/10
IMDb · 95 votes

★★★★☆ 4.7/10
TV.com · 28 votes

[Feedback](#)

Top of the Heap (TV Series 1991–) - IMDb
www.imdb.com/title/tt0101222/ · Internet Movie Database ·
★★★★☆ Rating: 5.9/10 · 95 votes
A spinoff with characters from the "Married...with Children" series. Intellectually ...
Reviews: 3 user. A spinoff with ... Search for "Top of the Heap" on Amazon.com ...

"Married with Children" Top of the Heap (TV Episode 1991 ...
www.imdb.com/title/tt0642421/ · Internet Movie Database ·
★★★★☆ Rating: 6.4/10 · 288 votes
... attend a high society fund raiser in this pilot for the short-lived TV series, "Top of the Heap" ... Contact the Show Creators on IMDbPro ... Reviews: 3 user






Top of the Heap - TV.com
www.tv.com/shows/top-of-the-heap/ · TV.com ·
★★★★☆ Rating: 4.7/10 · 28 votes
Mar 14, 2014 · Top of the Heap: Watch full length episodes & listen online. Don't the

Top of the Heap
American television program

Top of the Heap is a 1991 Fox television sitcom that was a spin-off from Married...with Children. Though it lasted only seven episodes, it was nonetheless the most successful of three attempted ... Wikipedia

First episode date: April 7, 1991
Final episode date: May 19, 1991
Theme song: Puttin' On the Ritz
Network: FOX
Program creator: Ron Leavitt

Cast

				
Matt LeBlanc Vince Verdetti	Joey Lauren Adams Mony Miller	Joseph Bologna	Rita Moreno Alexandra Stone	Leslie Jordan

Spin-off of: "Married... with Children" (1987-1997)

"Joey" wasn't Matt LeBlanc's only unsuccessful spin-off. Poor Matt LeBlanc!

He also appeared in "Top of the Heap," a show spun off from a "Married... with Children" episode. The spin-off only lasted a total of seven episodes.

It was that... bad.

6. The Tortelli's (from Cheers):

About 181,000 results (0.40 seconds)

The Tortellis, Reviews

American TV program

★★★★☆ 5.7/10

IMDb 77 votes

★★★★☆ 4.5/10

TV.com 15 votes

Feedback

The Tortellis

American TV program

The Tortellis is an American sitcom that aired from January to May 1987 on NBC. The first spin-off of the hit series Cheers, The Tortellis stars Dan Hedaya and Jean Kasem. [Wikipedia](#)

First episode date: January 21, 1987
Final episode date: May 12, 1987
Network: NBC
Program creators: James Burrows, Ken Estin

Episodes



The Tortellis (TV Series 1987) - IMDb

www.imdb.com/title/tt0092467/ - Internet Movie Database -

★★★★☆ Rating: 5.7/10 - 77 votes

The Tortellis (1987) ... Reviews: 4 user ... the show's producers offered NBC two pitches: one by Ken Estin, which involved the Tortelli family, and another pitch ...

Now THIS is funny!

Cheers turned out one classic spinoff (Frasier), and one DUD!

Watch clips of these shows on YouTube... or read up their synopses on Wikipedia.

it's not difficult to see where these spinquels went horribly wrong.

Let this be a cautionary tale.

Not every spinquel idea is a good one!

Use the rules we've shared here, and you'll have no problem.

But do it all willy-nilly, without planning or direction...

and you might end up on a list like this one.

Chapter 19: Fifty Plus Spinquel Examples.

Angel was a spinoff from **Buffy the Vampire Slayer**, based on the character of Angel.

The series ran for five seasons.

Private Practice was a spinoff of **Grey's Anatomy**, recounting the life of Dr. Addison Montgomery. The spin-off itself, introducing the show's cast, was set up during a season three episode of Grey's Anatomy. The series ran for six seasons.

All in the Family is responsible for several spin-offs.

Maude and The Jeffersons both featured characters that began on All in the Family.

Good Times was later spun off from Maude, making it the first spin-off of a spin-off.

The Mary Tyler Moore Show spun off **Rhoda and Phyllis**, based on supporting characters, as well as several unsuccessful series pilots and one TV movie.

Hercules: The Legendary Journeys spun off **Young Hercules**, which relates the adventures of Hercules during his teenage years.

And more notably, sister show **Xena: Warrior Princess** emerged from Hercules, eventually outlasting and out-rating its parent programme.

The animated series **Count Duckula** was a spin-off of **Danger Mouse** and featured an anthropomorphic vampire duck named Count Duckula (a loose parody of Count Dracula).

The series **A Different World**, a spin-off from **The Cosby Show**, was originally created as a vehicle for Lisa Bonet's character, Denise Huxtable. Even though Bonet was written out of A Different World after the first season and returned to The Cosby Show, A Different World thrived – for another five seasons without her.

BBC series **Doctor Who** is **the show with the most spun off media**, with nine in total.

- The first, in 1981, was an unsuccessful pilot featuring Sarah Jane Smith, called **K-9 and Company**.
- **Wartime** (1987) is about the adventures of some of the UNIT personnel.
- The 1995 film **Shakedown: Return of the Sontarans** features one of Doctor Who's antagonist races, but for licensing reasons not the Doctor himself.
- In the 1990s, Reeltime distributed **PROBE**, a series of five made-for-video movies featuring Caroline John as her Pertwee-era character, Dr. Elizabeth Shaw.
- BBC produced and released a series of movies based on one of Dr. Who's villains: **Auton, Auton 2: Sentinel and Auton 3**.
- In 2006 the BBC launched another spin-off, **Torchwood**, aimed at a more adult audience and featuring Captain Jack Harkness from the newer series.
- The Sarah Jane Adventures and K-9 are more child-oriented than Doctor Who.
- There is also an animated serial The Infinite Quest.

The Daily Show correspondent Stephen Colbert received his own show **The Colbert Report**, a parody of shows like The O'Reilly Factor.

Family Guy supporting character Cleveland Brown was given his own show called **The Cleveland Show**.

The Andy Griffith Show is an example of several different types of spin-offs. The show itself was a spin-off of **The Danny Thomas Show**, through a backdoor pilot episode in which Thomas' character was stopped by Sheriff Andy Taylor (Andy Griffith) for speeding in the fictional town of Mayberry, North Carolina. When **The Andy Griffith Show** proved successful, the supporting character of Gomer Pyle (Jim Nabors) was spun off into **Gomer Pyle, U.S.M.C.**

When Lauren Conrad left the reality series **Laguna Beach: The Real Orange County**, she began a new reality series **The Hills**, which in turn spawned **The City** when Whitney Port moved to New York.

Family Matters is a spinoff of **Perfect Strangers**. Carl Winslow, the main character of **Family Matters**, was featured in an episode of **Perfect Strangers**. His wife Harriet Winslow was a regular cast member as the elevator operator in **Perfect Strangers**.

The Originals is a spin-off to the mystery series **The Vampire Diaries** focusing on the former supporting characters Klaus, Elijah and Rebekah Mikaelson.

Frasier is one of the most critically acclaimed and popular spin-off series of all time, based on the character Dr. Frasier Crane from the American sitcom **Cheers**. The series ran for eleven seasons (the same number as **Cheers**).

The Mary Tyler Moore Show spun off **Lou Grant**. This series was notable for being a rare example of a change in genre, from the original comedy to a drama.

Joey was spun off from long-running show **Friends** after the show's final season. The show focused on the character Joey Tribbiani moving to **Los Angeles**.

Cory in the House was spun off after the series **That's So Raven** ended. It involves Cory and Victor moving to the White House; Raven has appeared as a guest-star.

Highlander: The Raven was spun off from **Highlander: The Series**, featuring the recurring character of Amanda. **Highlander: The Series** was itself a spin-off from **the Highlander film** franchise, featuring a relative of the film's protagonist.

After the AMC series **Breaking Bad** concluded, Saul Goodman (portrayed by Bob Odenkirk), Walter White's lawyer-accomplice, earned his own prequel spin-off series, **Better Call Saul**. Shows from segments/episodes of anthology series.

The longest running and by far most successful spin-off is **The Simpsons**, which was created as a series of animated segments for the sketch series **The Tracey Ullman Show**, and featured the voices of four cast members.

The Yogi Bear Show (1961) was the first animated spin-off, Yogi Bear having first appeared in 1958 in **The Huckleberry Hound Show**.

The Cartoon Cartoon Show, then called The What a Cartoon! Show, featured a number of pilots for possible animated series on the Cartoon Network.

- **Dexter's Laboratory** was the first of those pilots to get its own show followed by:
- **Johnny Bravo**,
- **Cow and Chicken**,
- **The Powerpuff Girls** and
- **Courage The Cowardly Dog**.

Happy Days, a spin-off from Love, American Style, also spun off multiple shows:

- **Laverne & Shirley**,
- **Blansky's Beauties**,
- **Mork & Mindy**,
- **Out of the Blue** and
- **Joanie Loves Chachi**.

These shows resulted in spin-offs of their own:

- the animated series **Laverne & Shirley in the Army**,
- **The Fonz and the Happy Days Gang**, and
- **The Mork & Mindy / Laverne & Shirley / Fonz Hour**.

Both the animated series **Beavis and Butt-head** and **Æon Flux** were spun off of the MTV variety series **Liquid Television**. **Daria** then spun off from **Beavis and Butt-head**.

Rugrats episode "All Growned Up" acted as the pilot for **All Grown Up**.

After **Da Ali G Show**, the three main characters all got their own spin-off movies: Ali G with **Ali G Indahouse**, Borat with **Borat: Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan**, and Brüno with **Brüno**.

Dallas, a hugely popular prime time soap opera, spawned its own successful spin-off series called **Knots Landing**.

EastEnders is a popular British soap opera that spawned several spinoffs:

- **Civvy Street** was a one-off prequel set during World War II.
- **Perfectly Frank** was a short-lived series following a popular character after he left the parent show.
- More recently there was **E20**, a spin-off show which focuses on the teenage characters (but had cameos from the main cast too).

The Green Green Grass and Rock & Chips are both spin-offs from the British sitcom Only Fools and Horses. Rock & Chips is a prequel to Only Fools and Horses.

NCIS is a spin-off with its characters originating from **JAG**, and has its own spin-offs in **NCIS: Los Angeles** and **NCIS: New Orleans**.

The Practice was a television series that ran for eight seasons on ABC and then was canceled. New characters who were introduced during the later seasons became so popular they became the main characters in a spin-off, **Boston Legal**, which ran for five more seasons—giving the franchise a 13-year total run.

Star Trek: The Next Generation (itself a sequel to the 1966 Star Trek) had three spin-offs:

- Star Trek: Deep Space Nine,
- Star Trek: Voyager and
- Star Trek: Enterprise.

Stargate Atlantis, Stargate Universe and Stargate Infinity are spin-offs from the Stargate SG-1 television series, which was itself spun off from the film Stargate.

The Law & Order series has spawned a total of 10 spin-offs:

- Law & Order: Special Victims Unit;
- Law & Order: Criminal Intent; Crime & Punishment
- Trial by Jury;
- Conviction;
- Paris enquêtes criminelles, a French adaptation of Criminal Intent;
- Law & Order: UK;
- Law & Order: LA; and
- Law & Order: Cape Town
- Russian adaptations of Special Victims Unit and Criminal Intent.

CSI, the popular series produced by Jerry Bruckheimer, has produced three spin-offs:

- CSI: Miami,
- CSI: NY and
- CSI: Cyber.

CSI: Miami and CSI: Cyber are each connected to the original series by a crossover episode, while CSI: NY started in a crossover episode with CSI: Miami (Miami and NY have had further crossovers in later seasons, and a three-way crossover has been done).

Sabrina's Secret Life is a spinoff of **Sabrina: The Animated Series**, which itself was a spin-off of the 1996 version of **Sabrina, the Teenage Witch** which was a spinoff of **Sabrina and the Groovie Goolies** which was a spin-off of **The Archie Comedy Hour** which was a sequel to **The Archie Show**. (6 degrees of spin-offs!)

Strange Love spun off three seasons of **Flavor of Love**.

Additionally, **Rock of Love** can be seen as a conceptual spin-off of **Flavor of Love**.

Kourtney and Khloé Take Miami is a spin-off from **Keeping Up with the Kardashians**.

The Scorpion King is a spin-off of **The Mummy Returns**, in which The Scorpion King, an antagonist from **The Mummy Returns**, is protagonist.

The film **Puss in Boots** is a prequel spin-off to the **Shrek** films.

The Bourne Legacy is a spin-off to the **Bourne series**.

The film **Penguins of Madagascar** is a spin-off of the **Madagascar** films.

The film **Minions** is a prequel spin-off to the **Despicable Me** films.

Heroes of Olympus, a book series by **Rick Riordan**, is a spin-off of **Percy Jackson & the Olympians series**. The companion novels **The Demigod Files** and **The Demigod Diaries** are spin-offs of both series.

The short stories **The Son of Sobek** and **The Staff of Serapis** are both spin-offs and crossovers of the **Percy Jackson & the Olympians** and **The Kane Chronicles series**, both by Riordan.

Midnight Sun and **The Short Second Life of Bree Tanner**, a spin-off from Stephanie Meyer's **Twilight series**

Chapter 20: The 10 Rules for Writing KILLER Spinquels:

Who:

1. **Determine which characters in your original book have an intriguing story to tell, or a fascinating adventure to go on.** You can develop a spinquel around almost any character. Just make them not be boring. Your readers love the world you've created. So run with that - and create a new adventure for this secondary character.

2. **Pick secondary characters who have more room to be developed.**

I deally they'll have a different type of personality from your protagonist in the original story. See how Homer did that, in the Iliad (war hero - physically strong) versus the Odyssey (strong mind).

3. Make sure the spin-off characters behave consistently with how they were in the first series.

4. Ensure your secondary characters from the original series that is about to star in their own series - has sufficient quirks, intrigue, mystery, and contradictions... so they will have enough emotional depth and intrigue to carry their own spinoff series. Basically - they shouldn't be one-dimensional in the original book.

5. Feature some of the main characters from your original series. How much you do that is up to you.

Where:

6. Determine what aspects of your universe could use some exploring... and which secondary character might best mine that beautiful exploration.

7. Keep the rules of your universe consistent.

8. Have some overlap... people loved the world you created the first time. Give them more of that.

What:

9. Have a brand new storyline. What is this character's new conflict?

When:

10. Determine when in time you want to begin your story. Is this a prequel? A sequel? A paraquel? An interquel? Or does it happen concurrently with your first series?

Chapter 21: The KD Obsession Quick Reference Sheet.

PRINT THIS OUT FOR REFERENCE!

<p>Method 1: The “Epic” Obsession: Turn a prologue chapter into an epic.</p> <p>Method 2: The “Anakin” Obsession: How the villain became so evil, before redemption.</p> <p>Method 3: The “Scorpion King” Obsession: How the villain became so evilly invincible.</p> <p>Method 4: The “All In The Family” Obsession: Give every secondary character that passes the litmus test a spinoff.</p> <p>Method 5: The “Breaking Bad” Obsession. Slowly reveal the remaining 90% of the iceberg that is your quirky secondary character.</p> <p>Method 6: The “Steve Jobs” Obsession: Oh, one last thing... reveal the new character that will star in your spinquel.</p> <p>Method 7: “The Mortal Instruments” Obsession: Shared continuity, centuries apart. Featuring your protagonists’ ancestors.</p> <p>Method 8: The “Fantastic Beasts” Obsession. Random text book from your original series blossoms into its own spinquel.</p>	<p>Method 9: The “Half-Blood” Obsession: Shared continuity, same era. Use new characters in a new story arc.</p> <p>Method 10: The “Twilight” Obsession: Backstory to secondary character’s actions, from a pivotal scene from the original book.</p> <p>Method 11: The “Panem” Obsession: Explore history of people and places.</p> <p>Method 12: The “Divergent” Obsession: Tell the same story from a secondary character’s view... but also explore their past.</p> <p>Method 13: The “Trekkie” Obsession: Expansive Universe: Go both backwards and forwards, building out a rich timeline.</p> <p>Method 14: The “Walking Dead” Obsession: Keep your dramatic backdrop. But focus on your deeply conflicted characters.</p> <p>Method 15: The “Valley High Vampire” Obsession: Use an opposite, tertiary character in an opposite environment as your new protagonist.</p>
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Chapter 22: Conclusion.

Okay. You're now ready to totally blow your readers' minds...
using the concept of SPINQUELS described here.

You have the credibility of:

- Homer
- JK Rowling
- Stephenie Meyer
- Gene Roddenberry
- Suzanne Collins
- Veronica Roth
- George Lucas....

And the creators of shows like:

- Breaking Bad,
- The Walking Dead,
- All In The Family
- and more...

all behind you.

Think of it like this.

After Walt Disney built Magic Kingdom in Kissimmee, Florida...

and families loved it...

he didn't go create something like Universal Studios.

Or something like Lego World.

Or something like Six Flags.

Or something totally unrelated.

He (posthumously, through his company) created Hollywood Studios, and Epcot Center, and Animal Kingdom.

No. He stayed in that same world... that same universe he had created.

But each time, he introduced different story arcs (movies... animals... world of tomorrow...) within that same universe (childlike sense of wonder and exploration... with Mickey Mouse always somewhere in the background, but not always the main attraction.)

You are about to EXPAND YOUR STORY UNIVERSE.

By writing a prequel.

And I, for one, would be honored to be one of the first to read it.

Go get it. You go this.

And I'm proud of you.

Don't miss... [KD Addiction](#)! (The prequel to KD Obsession.)

Which would you like to see next?

1. **KD Delight** - How to write crossovers that delight your fans.
2. **1-800-DIAL-A-HERO** - Heroic story arcs in 1 hour or less.
3. **KD Once Upon** - How to write great story beginnings.
4. **KD Ricochet** - How to write inspired fan fiction.
5. **KD Captivation** - How to write haunting heroes.
6. **KD Loathing** - How to write delicious villains.

Shoot me an email at Support@BookMarketingEngine.com, and let me know!

Bolaji O.



Need Additional Help?

1. [Struggling to get people past book one in your series?](#)
2. [Trying to overcome author overwhelm?](#)
3. [Sick of book launches that go flat?](#)
4. [Tired of begging for those 1st 10 book reviews?](#)
5. [Are you one of the few authors without a readers list?](#)
6. [Fed up with spending so much time on book marketing?](#)
7. [Frustrated with stalled book reviews on your back library?](#)

We can help.

Got questions?

[Email support@BookMarketingEngine.com here.](mailto:support@BookMarketingEngine.com)

Here's to your success!

Bolaji O.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bolaji O." in a cursive, flowing script.