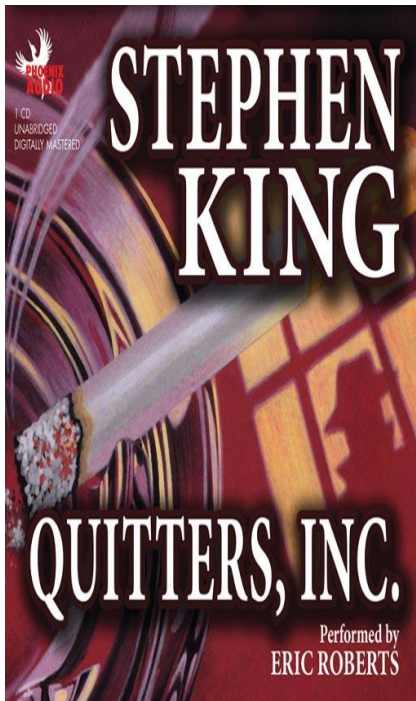


Quitters, nc.

Quitters, Inc. is a terrifying short story written by the American author Stephen King. It has his first adaptation in the cinemas when the movie *Cat's Eye* came out. The story and the film are both amazing, full of *suspense* and creativity, but there are some differences between them that we can clearly notice.

I honestly prefer the book to the film. Probably it helped reading it first and only watching *Cat's Eye* after knowing the whole story, but there are way more factors that made me enjoy the book better.



There are some points that were changed in the film but didn't make any difference, like the fact that the main character has a daughter instead of a son and the animal used in the electric shocks treatment is a cat and not a rabbit. Even the fact that the beginning of the story was totally shortened could be considered not a big deal. Still, I believe that the initial conversation between *Richard Morrison* and *Jimmy McCann* at the airport should have been represented in the horror film directed by Lewis Teague. It was important to know about the changes *McCann* went through and, especially, to observe the way *Morrison* was so skeptical about the treatment his friend told him about.

The significant differences start at *Quitters, Inc.* reception when *Morrison* gets there. He immediately sees a man suffering in the waiting room. When a woman appears, we found the he was suffering because of his wife who is visible affected like someone who received electrical shocks. *Morrison* knows right away that something strange happens in that place and so does the viewer. I suppose it is better when *Dick* believes that *Quitters, Inc.* is just another institution convinced that it's possible to make everyone quit smoking. Well, the first meeting with *Vic Donatti*, the responsible for his treatment is also very elucidative in the film. In the book, *Morrison* only knows what's going to happen to him at the second meeting and I believe that when things are not rushed, the reader/spectator can enjoy the story in a different way. I was also surprised when, while watching the film, I noticed that they had reduced the ten steps of treatment to only four. The way *Vic Donatti* tells *Morrison* about the possible

punishments he (and his family) will get if he smokes seems to be more intimidating and frightening as it is described in the written short story. However, Alan King does a great job playing such a creepy role like *Donatti*.

We can also perceive some significant changes in the film when *Richard Morrison* almost smokes in his own house and then, when he finally commits the first offense in a traffic jam. In the first scene, he goes to a room with windows everywhere. It was rainy and dark outside but when he starts thinking that maybe someone can be watching him, he gives up the idea of smoking and even opens the closet where he believes someone is hiding in. In the book the scene is not very different but the room he is in doesn't have any windows and that makes it easier to understand why he thinks about failing his treatment. The scene in the traffic jam is also a bit different. While in the book *Morrison* is stuck in a dark tunnel, in the film he is in the middle of a bridge under the sunlight. Too much stress in his head and a pack of cigarettes lost in the glove compartment were enough to make this man light one. Pretty stupid for someone who is under constant supervision, I would say. At least, he regrets having that cigarette a few drags after...



Well, he also stops because the traffic starts moving on. However, while in the book he believes no one sees him smoking because of the darkness in the tunnel, in the film he sees another man clearly staring at him. Then again, the way it happens in the book will give the reader a sort of doubt about the following scenes and a bigger *suspense* about the whole plot.

The rest of the story is very similar in both versions. The final scene is a bit different, since instead of meeting *Mr. and Mrs. McCann* in the theater, *Dick* and *Cindy* (his wife) are having dinner with them. It is not an important detail, though. I believe the main objective of this scene was to impress with that creepy image of *Mrs. McCann* without her little finger.

Despite not being identical, the book and the film are both great. I would absolutely recommend the book firstly, but for those who really enjoy an intriguing story in the big screen, *Cat's Eye* is an excellent choice.