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It Ends With Us.

Colleen Hoover's work has been an important topic of discussion on social media since 2016, when her book, "It Ends With Us," was released and immediately became popular, maybe for some of the wrong reasons. Hoover's novel tackles some very heavy topics, including domestic violence and the cycles of abuse, in a way that almost romanticizes the horrific realities of the story itself. Lily Bloom, Hoover's protagonist, is a well-rounded female character who is, in a way, recycling the abuse she'd experienced from her father into her current relationship with Hoover's antagonist, Ryle Kincaid. The story is pretty heartbreaking when viewed from this lens; however, the novel does a rather problematic job of telling it. Hoover proves how difficult it can really be to balance the line between true experience and what is going to get the audience's attention. Details such as the point of view the story is being told in, and the lack of consequence for the abuser at the novel's end emphasize why it is important to point out such inaccuracies in popular media. And just in case you thought the novel's telling of events wasn't controversial enough, the film adaptation is much worse.

Throughout this feature, I am hoping to emphasize not only the normalization of stereotypical and inaccurate portrayals of domestic violence in this film adaptation in particular, but also regarding larger entertainment media today. For example, films such as "The Notebook" (2004) and "Love Actually" (2003) illustrate situations that replicate domestic abuse, but outwardly propose that there is nothing wrong with this behavior, and this is what everyday love looks like. I'd also like to compare films such as these and "It Ends With Us" to accurate portrayals of domestic violence in our popular

media. For example, “Maid,” a mini-series released in 2021, is a true telling of a survivor’s story and calls upon the survivor’s written memoir. Taking these crucial steps and researching with care is what ultimately led to the series’ success; I feel that with the same level of preparation and knowledge, Hoover could have made the same impact with her work, but ignorance and a know-it-all attitude can only get you so far.