

February 4, 2025
Nhan Ngoc Thach (T)

The Most Dangerous Game

In Richard Connell's *The Most Dangerous Game*, both the short story and movie share a similar ending, but they have some different plot twists. I prefer the short story ending to the movie ending. In the short story, Rainsford surprise General Zaroff in his bedroom. It does not say exactly what happens, but we understand that Rainsford wins. The last line reads, "He had never slept in a better bed, Rainsford decided." (Connell, pg.15). This line is significant because it implies that Rainsford has defeated Zaroff and claimed his luxurious bed. This ending is clever and encourages the reader to think. Instead of clearly stating what happens. The story lets the reader imagine the ending, making it more interesting and memorable.

Meanwhile, in the 1932 movie directed by Ernest B. Schoedsack and Irving Pichel, the ending has more action. Rainsford defeated Zaroff, and his men over a period time through physically combat. Then Rainsford escapes the island with Eve, a character who does not appear in the original story. Finally, it causes Zaroff to fall out of a window, leading him to sleep with the dogs.

I tend to enjoy the short story ending more because it is mysterious. It makes me imagine what happened instead of showing everything. The movie's ending has more action, but it is too simple. The story's ending is short but strong, leaving a bigger impact. It demonstrates Rainsford truly outsmarts Zaroff in a clever way.

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Works Cited

Connell, Richard, *The Most Dangerous Game*, "Collier Magazine", 1924