

Lady of the Flies?

- 1 Last week, Warner Bros. unveiled plans to make a new film adaption of the classic 1954 novel *Lord of the Flies*, with one controversial adjustment. The main characters will be girls instead of boys. According to screenwriter Scott McGehee, the aim is to "help people see the story anew". But many commentators took to Twitter to express their disapproval, arguing that the story is supposed to be an exploration of "toxic masculinity".
- 2 In the book, a group of schoolboys is marooned on a desert island after a plane crash, leading to a power struggle that ultimately turns bloody. Yet if the lead characters were female would this even happen? One Twitterer suggested girls would "set aside their differences", another that they'd keep "apologising to each other" until "everyone's dead". The book's author William Golding revealed in a 1993 interview that he wrote the work as a bitter critique of male-controlled society. Yet anyone who suggests women are fundamentally nicer than men clearly hasn't seen films such as *Mean Girls* and *Heathers*, said Erin Gloria Ryan on *The Daily Beast*. Women can be just as beastly as men, though it may be "in a different way".
- 3 Warner Bros. aren't motivated by a passion for gender equality, said Emine Saner in *The Observer*. 7 In the past two years, "female-led" movies have outperformed those with mainly male protagonists at the box office by 11% on average, and the suits at the studios have taken note. Hence the trend for gender-reversing remakes. Last year we had an all-female *Ghostbusters*. And coming shortly is a female version of *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, titled *Nasty Women*, and a new take on the 1984 comedy *Splash*. This time round, the love interest isn't a beautiful mermaid, but a fishy-tailed Channing Tatum as a hunky merman.



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Tekst 4 Lady of the Flies?

- 1p 5 What is the reason for making a new version of “Lord of the Flies” according to paragraphs 1 and 2?
- A to provide the public with fresh insights into the themes of the original story
 - B to put an end to the debate that has been going on about the old version
 - C to show the film industry has noticed the relevance of the modern-day feminist movement
 - D to underline the idea that girls tend to be more social and peaceful than boys

“the story is supposed to be an exploration of ‘toxic masculinity’”
(paragraph 1)

- 1p 6 Who of the following persons mentioned in the article is most likely to agree with this remark, judging from the text?
- A Scott McGehee (paragraph 1)
 - B William Golding (paragraph 2)
 - C Erin Gloria Ryan (paragraph 2)
 - D Emine Saner (paragraph 3)

- 1p 7 Which of the following fits the gap in paragraph 3?
- A In fact, they oppose it.
 - B It’s all about the money.
 - C It’s a risky experiment.
 - D So much for artistic freedom.

“a new film adaption of the classic 1954 novel *Lord of the Flies*, with one controversial adjustment” (alinea 1)

- 1p 8 Hoeveel andere voorbeelden van films waarvan een nieuwe versie is of wordt uitgebracht, worden in deze tekst genoemd?
Noteer het aantal.

Bronvermelding

Een opsomming van de in dit examen gebruikte bronnen, zoals teksten en afbeeldingen, is te vinden in het bij dit examen behorende correctievoorschrift, dat na afloop van het examen wordt gepubliceerd.