



HURRY NOW.
RELAX WHENEVER.

COMFORT RUSH
35% OFF
STEALTHTECH[®]

*Restrictions apply.

ADVERTISEMENT

TV SHOWS

How HBO Max's Masterpiece Book Adaptation Can Run for 5 Seasons & Define the Rest of the Decade

By Ana Dumaraog

June 14, 2026, 12:30pm

In 2025, **HBO Max** debuted a masterpiece book adaptation that can continue for several more seasons to be a decade-defining project. Aside from revivals and reboots, looking at other forms of storytelling for live-action inspiration has become a Hollywood go-to when it comes to developing new projects. Some of the most-watched shows on TV right now were originally from print, such as Prime Video's *Reacher*, **CBS's *Tracker***, and even the upcoming Harry Potter remake, which will debut on HBO Max at the end of the year. That said, one aspect of the adaptation sandbox that is quietly growing revolves around romances.



Videos by ComicBook.com



The respective success of Netflix's *Bridgerton* and, most recently, Prime Video's *Off Campus* series proves that. Amidst this wave, there's one book adaptation that best exemplifies how book adaptations should be done — *Heated Rivalry*. Originally a Crave production, the show was picked up by HBO Max for broader distribution. Based on Rachel Reid's book of the same name, *Heated Rivalry* has a straightforward story that follows pro-hockey arch-rivals Shane Hollander and Ilya Rozanov as they develop a multi-year secret romance.



ADVERTISEMENT

Heated Rivalry season 1 was both a critical and commercial hit for HBO Max, posting an average of 10.6 million viewers per episode in the U.S., per Warner Bros. Discovery. Beyond that, its appeal transcended those who loved Reid's books. Creator Jacob Tierney was able to reach the perfect balance of honoring the source material while also taking creative liberties to keep the show fresh and interesting, even to those who read the book.



Read Next

[HBO Max Releases Full List of 93 New Movies and TV Shows Coming in June 2026](#)

How Heated Rivalry Can Run For At Least Five Seasons



HEATED RIVALRY

Considering the immediate success of *Heated Rivalry*, HBO Max and Crave have already guaranteed a sophomore year. In terms of narrative, this makes sense, as Shane and Ilya's story continued in the books with *The Long Game*. For context, their story is only a part of a bigger universe that Reid created with the *Game Changers* series that focused on different characters. However, instead of dedicating a season to a variety of couples, Tierney has already confirmed that *Heated Rivalry* season 2 will still have Shane and Ilya at the center of its storytelling.



Assuming that it will be able to maintain its popularity, which it likely would, considering that it is maintaining its creative team, *Heated Rivalry* season 3 will have new material to cover, as Reid has announced a third book about the couple called *Unrivaled*. However, if Tierney and his team want to really spend time with these characters and delve deeper into their characters, he also has the option to split the events of *The Long Game* and *Unrivaled* into two seasons each, which mean that at the end of it all, *Heated Rivalry* can run for five seasons.

For what it's worth, the second book is a lot more dense and emotional than the original, so it would make sense for it to be broken into a couple of seasons. As Shane and Ilya's story become more serious and mature, it's possible that *Unrivaled* will also be dense, fully justifying the approach.



ADVERTISEMENT

Heated Rivalry is available to stream on HBO Max.

What do you think? Leave a comment below **and join the conversation now in the ComicBook Forum!**



7 Best Modern TV Couples, Ranked

TV has never had this many people falling in love, but not every couple deserves the hype. These days, pretty much every show tries to sell romance like it's a mandatory ingredient (sometimes just to pull in a bigger audience), but real chemistry can't be forced. The best modern TV couples are the ones that ... [Continue reading](#)



ComicBook.com

0

Tagged:

ANSWER FEATURE, HBO MAX, HEATED RIVALRY

Follow Us On Discover

Make Us Preferred In Top Stories

NEXT ARTICLE

X-Men '97 Season 2 Breaks Record for Marvel's Highest Rotten Tomatoes Score as Early Reviews Revealed



What do you think?

0 Responses



Upvote



Funny



Love



Surprised



Angry



Sad

0 Comments

Login ▼

G

Start the discussion...

LOG IN WITH

Login

OR SIGN UP WITH DISQUS

Name

Email

Password

This comment platform is hosted by Disqus, Inc. I authorize Disqus and its affiliates to:

- Use, sell, and share my information to enable me to use its comment services and for marketing purposes, including cross-context behavioral advertising, as described in our [Terms of Service](#) and [Privacy Policy](#), including supplementing that information with other data about me, such as my browsing and location data.
- Contact me or enable others to contact me by email with offers for goods or services
- Process any sensitive personal information that I submit in a comment. See our [Privacy Policy](#) for more information

☐ Acknowledge I am 18 or older





MORE TV SHOWS

- 1. Family Guy's Seth MacFarlane Shares Major Update on New Movie**
- 2. Paramount Series That Was Originally a Yellowstone Spinoff Just Became a Major Netflix Success**
- 3. New Spider-Man TV Series Update Confirms Season 2 Is "Complete" & Coming Soon**
- 4. Disney Just Cancelled Its Classic Throwbacks Event Due to "Low Ratings," Fans Claim**
- 5. Netflix's Masters of the Universe Season 3 Gets a Surprising Update (But It Will Frustrate Fans)**



ALL THE BEST GEEK NEWS IN YOUR INBOX

Get access to exclusive stories on new releases, movies, shows, comics, anime, games and more!

Subscribe

By signing up, you confirm that you have read and agree to the [Terms of Use](#) and acknowledge our [Privacy Policy](#).



**Quality you trust
at prices you love**



**Fresh Sweet Bourbon Atlantic
Salmon on a Cedar Plank**

Shop Now

It's an  thing.

ADVERTISEMENT

Bold black accents.
None of the sacrifice.
inside and out.

ADVERTISEMENT

ADVERTISEMENT



ADVERTISEMENT

Most Viewed



TV SHOWS 2 days ago

New Stranger Things Season 5 Release Officially Confirmed for Next Month



GAMING 2 days ago

Classic GameCube Game Is Free on Xbox One and Series X



GAMING a day ago

PlayStation Gives Away Major PS5 Game for Free in PSN Error



GAMING a day ago

Banned PS5 Game Made Free With PlayStation Plus



TV SHOWS a day ago

Star Trek Star Addresses New Captain Kirk Spinoff Chances



ANIME 2 days ago

The End of This 400+ Episode Anime Will Bring Us Closer to Solving One of Shonen's Biggest Debates



GAMING a day ago

PS1 RPG From 2001 Getting New Remaster Later This Year



ANIME a day ago

Demon Slayer: Infinity Castle Unveils New Look At The Best Characters For Upcoming Release



Comics

[Comic News](#)[Comic Reviews](#)[Marvel](#)[DC](#)

Movies

[Movie News](#)[Movie Reviews](#)[Masters of the Universe](#)[Avengers: Doomsday](#)

Image

IDW

BOOM! Studios

Spider-Man: Brand New Day

Supergirl

Clayface

Superman: Man of Tomorrow

TV

TV News

TV Reviews

The Boroughs

Spider-Noir

House of the Dragon

Lanterns

Vought Rising

VisionQuest

Anime

Anime News

Dragon Ball

Demon Slayer

Jujutsu Kaisen

Naruto

My Hero Academia

One Piece

Collectibles

Forum

Contact Us

Advertising

About

Careers

Terms of Use

Gaming

Gaming News

Video Game Reviews

Nintendo

Xbox

PlayStation

PC

Franchises

DC

Marvel

Star Wars

Star Trek

Power Rangers

Grand Theft Auto

Shop

Privacy Policy

Copyright 2026 ComicBook.com. All rights reserved.