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Wonder Woman 1984: Monkey's Paw Connection (& Changes) Explained

Wonder Woman 1984's Dreamstone presents a new riff on the classic short story "The Monkey's Paw"; here are the connections and changes explained.

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Wonder Woman 1984's Dreamstone presents a new riff on the classic short story "The Monkey's Paw"; here are the connections and changes explained. Directed by Patty Jenkins, *Wonder Woman 1984* takes place during the 1980s Cold War, with the titular hero (Gal Gadot) facing off against Barbara Minerva (Kristen Wiig) and Maxwell Lord (Pedro Pascal) for control of a wish-granting artifact called the Dreamstone. While the Dreamstone exists within DC's comic book continuity, its properties don't really line up with the movie's interpretation. Instead, *Wonder Woman 1984*'s Dreamstone is more akin to the titular monkey's paw of the short story, but with some major changes made to its classic mythology.

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Written by English author W. W. Jacobs and published in 1902, "The Monkey's Paw" is one of the most famous short stories of all time. It tells the story of a family granted three wishes by an ancient monkey's paw artifact, only to see their wishes granted in devastating ways as punishments for interfering with fate. The father wishes for money but receives it as payment when his son dies in a factory accident. Distraught, the parents wish their son back to life, only for him to return as a shambling zombie. The dad makes his final wish, returning his son to the grave, and the parents are left devastated. While *The Monkey's Paw* is certainly a left-field source of inspiration for a mainstream [superhero movie](#), the story has been adapted many times - with notable riffs featuring in [The Simpsons](#), [Rick and Morty](#), [Inside No. 9](#), and [The Twilight Zone](#).

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In *Wonder Woman 1984*, the Dreamstone is portrayed as a monkey's paw-like device; granting wishes to those who hold it, but throwing unintended consequences their way by taking away something dear in return. As in "The Monkey's Paw," [Wonder Woman](#) uses the [power](#) of the Dreamstone to bring a dead loved one back to life, reviving Steve Trevor (Pine), who died during the climax of 2017's *Wonder Woman*. As a result, her powers start to fade. Barbara Minerva wishes to become an "apex predator," transforming into a cheetah-human hybrid as part of the Dreamstone's toll, giving up her human process, and villain Maxwell Lord wishes to "become" the stone, but his body begins to deteriorate under the artifact's influence and he almost loses his son. While these w

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largely different from those featured in Jacobs' short story, the idea of wishes having twisted consequences is very much lifted from that original work. In case the influence wasn't clear, Steve directly references "The Monkey's Paw" in the scene where they realize the Dreamstone's wishes come with a price.



Wonder Woman 1984's Dreamstone differs from the monkey's paw in a few key areas. The paw grants three wishes in the original story, but the Dreamstone grants each user only one wish. While wishes made to the paw are irreversible, users can renounce their wishes made to the Dreamstone individually, or else destroy it to reverse every wish. Though *Wonder Woman 1984* features the revival of Steve Trevor, this is a far less grisly affair than the son's

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The Monkey's Paw but comes with its own sinister twist that has caused some controversy amongst viewers.

Whether Wonder Woman 3, which is reportedly set in the modern era, will find inspiration in any other works of classic literature remains to be seen. Regardless, "The Monkey's Paw" will likely receive a popularity boost as a result of Wonder Woman 1984, which should be seen as a silver lining amid the film's relatively lackluster reception.

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Joe Gillis is a writer and cynic based in New Zealand. He likes piña coladas, getting caught in the rain, and referring to himself in the third person. Alas, them's the breaks.

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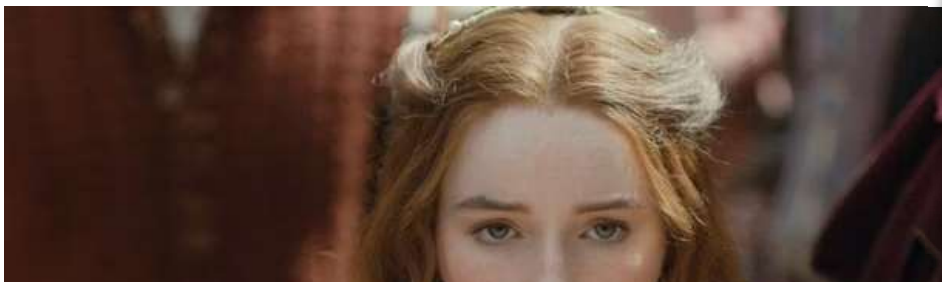
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