

THE BIBLE IN FICTION: DEFINITION AND REMUNERATION

The bible is the original and founding reference document for a series. It determines and describes the elements necessary for the writing by various authors of all the episodes of a television work. It is the tool that gives the authors collaborating on the work the keys to its carrying out and coherence.

The bible should not be confused with a simple idea for a series, a general concept, a project designed to appeal to a buying body, or with the specifications defined by a producer or broadcaster.

The bible must provide all the permanent elements essential to the development of the series: it is a written document of at least 8 pages describing in detail the general framework in which the series' main recurring characters will evolve, and must include several elements from the following list:

- a note of intent;
- the general setting in which the main characters evolve, i.e. the arena, locations, atmosphere;
- the series' narrative principles, tone, style and point of view;
- the characterisation of recurring main and secondary characters, and their relationships;
- the plot or pitch of the first episode (or pilot episode) or the plots or pitches of various episodes (a few lines per episode) for a almost completed series;
- a season's trajectory for a mainly serialised series (5 pages maximum);
- examples of dialogues, limited to 3 pages.

The bible will only be acknowledged as such if it is validated by a complete dialogue-filled episode using the elements defined above and providing the rhythm and tone, to which any author called upon to collaborate on the series at a later date can refer. This episode will be the first to be written, not necessarily produced.

The authors of the bible and of the first episode as defined above may claim, up to a maximum of 10%, a share of the royalties in all episodes of the series, on the basis of a mutual agreement between them.

If the reference document for a series is a broadcast TV film, this will be treated as a bible. The scriptwriters of this broadcast TV film may claim, up to a limit of 10%, a share of the royalties in all episodes of the series.

In the event that the broadcast TV film is followed by the writing of a bible, the scriptwriters of the broadcast TV film and of the bible may claim a share of the royalties in all episodes of the series up to a maximum of 10%.

Finally, in the case of a series without a bible followed by a 2nd season using the recurring characters from season 1 and the general framework in which they will evolve, the scriptwriters of the 1st episode of season 1 may claim, up to a limit of 10%, a share of the royalties to all episodes from the 2nd season onwards.

The writing of story arches is not eligible for bible rights.

When a series is adapted from a pre-existing non-television work, the remuneration of the bible will be calculated solely on the part reserved for the adaptation, i.e. a maximum of 10% of the adaptation royalties.

Adaptations of pre-existing television works are not eligible for bible rights.