

A few months back, Lionsgate set a November 2013 release date for *Catching Fire*, based on the second novel in the hit *Hunger Games* series. Now, with the first installment hitting theaters next month, the studio is looking for someone to write the script. *Deadline* is reporting that, after director Gary Ross declined to write the script (due to post-production on the first film), Lionsgate is courting Simon Beaufoy (*Slumdog Millionaire*, *127 Hours*) to pen the script for the sequel. Though negotiations haven't started yet, the studio is pushing hard to get Beaufoy to write the script. The mini-major is courting Oscar-winning *Slumdog Millionaire* scribe Simon Beaufoy to write *Catching Fire*, the second installment of the three book series that tracks the life and death adventures of Katniss Everdeen. I'm told that Gary Ross, who directed *The Hunger Games*, is coming back for the sequel. He originally intended to write the outline

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