

Synopsis

Is *The Wire* better than *Breaking Bad*? Is *Cheers* better than *Seinfeld*? What's the best high school show ever made? Why did *Moonlighting* really fall apart? Was the *Arrested Development* Netflix season brilliant or terrible? For twenty years—since they shared a TV column at Tony Soprano's hometown newspaper—critics Alan Sepinwall and Matt Zoller Seitz have been debating these questions and many more, but it all ultimately boils down to this: What's the greatest TV show ever?

That debate reaches an epic conclusion in *TV (THE BOOK)*. Sepinwall and Seitz have identified and ranked the 100 greatest scripted shows in American TV history. Using a complex, obsessively all-encompassing scoring system, they've created a Pantheon of top TV shows, each accompanied by essays delving into what made these shows great. From vintage classics like *The Twilight Zone* and *I Love Lucy* to modern masterpieces like *Mad Men* and *Friday Night Lights*, from huge hits like *All in the Family* and *ER* to short-lived favorites like *Firefly* and *Freaks and Geeks*, *TV (THE BOOK)* will bring the triumphs of the small screen together in one amazing compendium. Sepinwall and Seitz's argument has ended. Now it's time for yours to begin!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

TV (The Book) is a fun, zany read featuring the greatest TV hints of all time. The authors, Alan Sepinwall and Matt Zoller Seitz are funny writers, and they add a lot of interesting information to the mix. For each show listed, the authors explain their reasoning on why the show deserves to be in the top-hit. The reader might notice that few older shows appear in these pages. The authors explain why: "For the first twenty, maybe thirty, years of its existence, television was more of an

appliance or advertising delivery mechanism than an artistic medium.â •The writing duo had originally wanted to be movie criticsâ ”not lowly television buffs: â œMovies were an adventure; TV was the thing that everyone said was going to rot our brains . . . Movies were art; TV was the vast wasteland.â •Well, Iâ™m glad these two spent so much time in the â œwasteland.â • They know a ton about these shows, and they share some interesting tidbits about each hit. For example, in the original Star Trek series, I had forgotten that after season two, Nichelle Nichols (Uhura) had threatened to leave the show, but was talked out of it by the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr!As another example, The Lucy Show, besides being one of the all-time great shows, also spawned an entertainment empire. Starting in 1951, Desilu was then sold to Paramount Television in 1967. It produced 31 shows, many great hits: â œThe Untouchables; Star Trek; Mission: Impossible; I Spy; The Dick Van Dyke Show; The Lucy Show; My Favorite Martian; Gomer Pyle, U.S.M.C.; Family Affair; Hoganâ™s Heroes; That Girl; and Mannix.â • I had no idea that â œLucyâ • was responsible for all these great shows.I was delighted to find many of my all-time favorites on the hit list.

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