

THE ART AND MAKING OF
HANNIBAL
THE TELEVISION SERIES



JESSE McLEAN

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The Art & Making of Hannibal: The Television Series is a detailed look at the making of this highly original, critically lauded, and visually stunning series. Released ahead of the start of the 3rd season, this book will bring Fannibals into the world of secrets, lies, and intrigue of their beloved show.

With stars including Mads Mikkelsen, Hugh Dancy, Laurence Fishburne, Caroline Dhavernas and guest spots by Gillian Anderson, Eddie Izzard and Michael Pitt, Hannibal is one of the most elegant, engrossing and deliciously haunting shows on television today. *The Art & Making of Hannibal: The Television Series* celebrates all aspects of this unique show. A highly stylized illustrated book featuring extracts of the shooting scripts of the first and second seasons, exclusive cast and crew interviews, behind-the-scenes photography, production notes, storyboards, alongside Hannibal's sketches and music notations.

Hannibal Lecter was a brilliant psychiatrist in the employ of the FBI. His task: to help an unusually gifted criminal profiler, Will Graham, who is haunted by his ability to see into the minds of serial killers.

The Art and Making of Hannibal: The Television Series Details

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From Reader Review The Art and Making of Hannibal: The Television Series for online ebook

Kyle Warner says

I think that NBC's 'Hannibal' is the best show on TV right now. The writing is dark and intriguing. The performances from Mads Mikkelsen, Hugh Dancy, Laurence Fishburne and others are all top-notch, portraying complicated characters with surprising subtlety. I think that their portrayals of these popular characters should be considered the definitive representations by now (Anthony Hopkins is great as Hannibal, but Mikkelsen's Hannibal is deeper, more human). The show is also the most visually interesting thing on television. Though this book spends time on multiple aspects of the show, its primary focus is on the visuals and the behind the scenes of how they brought those visuals to life.

It's often surprising how much 'Hannibal' is able to put on TV. This is a gory show. 'The Walking Dead', TV's other extremely gory show, mostly shows nasty bites and heads getting pulverized. 'Hannibal' is inventive with its bloody set pieces, not only pushing the boundaries of what's allowed on TV, but also pushing the people working on the show to do their very best on schedules that are less than ideal.

If you've not seen Seasons 1 & 2, you should do so before beginning this book. Basically every episode and every major crime scene of the first two seasons is covered in detail. We get concept art, BTS photos, and final shots taken from the show. Added to that are many interesting comments from the cast and crew. These are smart, creative people and they offer some interesting insights, not just to the 'making of' aspects but also to storytelling and characterization.

The show picks and chooses how to incorporate sections from Thomas Harris' books. Instead of going for a direct adaptation that follows the books from point A to point B, Bryan Fuller and his writers like to surprise people about what comes next. For example, certain portions of the third novel appear in the show before parts of the first novel do. This 'making of' book kind of does the same thing in that it does not begin with episode 1 and continue on from there. The book and its writer Jesse McLean cover every episode, but with no discernable order; not chronological, and certainly not based on dramatic importance. The final major chapter of the book focuses on the Lance Henriksen episode with the human totem pole. I personally consider the episode to be among the more forgettable episodes of Season 1, but it does feature that incredible set piece of the human totem pole. So it makes perfect sense to close out this book – a book about dead bodies. Well, it's more than just that, of course. But the fact that the totem pole is given extra treatment at the end should make it clear that the makeup and effects work are the primary focus of this book.

Since only the first two seasons are covered here, this book is bound to feel somewhat dated within a year's time. That can't be helped, as Season 3 began just the other day. Perhaps we can hope for a Volume 2 sometime in the future? If this book is any indication, there are going to be many more stories to tell. 'Hannibal' is my favorite show on TV. So dark, so weird, so good. And I think this book is a decent companion piece to the show.

Kate says

I've basically said it to anyone who will listen but Hannibal was the best show on TV and it still pains me

that it was cancelled. I hold onto hope for a fourth season someday or a movie or something but at the same time it ended beautifully.

Moving right along into the actual text of this book, I loved it. It was a fantastic look to see how this was made. Someone describes it as a show you wake up from rather than finish watching and that is just so true. The show is such a dark fairy tale, horror, gothic sort of thing and it was done so wonderfully. It's wonderful to look at even though you know it's something horrific. The gore is not there for gore's sake and the ramifications of violence are so very important. There is a heck of a lot of time, and care, and love in this show and I'm grateful to get a look at that and that it all came together to even exist. There's no way this show would have ever been allowed on the air 5-10 years ago and I'm just glad that NBC took a chance on it and that we got three fabulous seasons out of it.

I'll try to stop fangirling. I really just loved the experience of reading this and the insights from everyone involved. I love especially when my attention is drawn to things I'm not the best at noticing (like colour scheme and the fact that the only steady lighting in this show is in the morgue). It's all just awesome. A must read for all Fannibals. :)

Loederkoningin says

Holy hell, I need this.

Melda says

<3

Tatiana says

Amazing and beautiful book dedicated to the equally as awesome TV show *Hannibal*. Definite must read if your a fan of the show.

Michael Cook says

[3.5 out of 5 stars, but I rounded it up to 4 because a simple 3 was too low]

The Art and Making of *Hannibal* is a nice little behind the scenes look at how *Hannibal* was made. While not as comprehensive as some of Titan Books' other offerings in this category, it's still an entertaining and informative read, even if it never really goes much deeper than surface fluff with tidbits of information. The design and photos featured throughout the book are beautiful as promised, however a number of other features were lacking. The original description for the book promised musical notations and script excerpts and these are nowhere to be found within the roughly 170 pages of the book. While this isn't a major deal as all the scripts have been published on the LivingDeadGuy website, it's still frustrating for a book to say it will include something and then not include it.

That being said, it's still a nice read and a wonderful gift for any fan of the show.

Brigi says

I became a *Hannibal* (the TV show) fan very early, after episode 2 of season 1. It was clear that it was special, amazing, completely different from any TV show out there. It very soon sucked me in, and I remember telling a friend in October 2013 that I wanted a book like this. It finally became true! So you can imagine that when it finally arrived I was like this:

and

I enjoyed it a lot. Reading books about how TV shows and films are made always remind me of the incredible effort of many people, and not just the producer and the cast. Therefore, I liked the interesting things revealed by the prosthetic, special effects, design etc. departments. Perhaps even more interesting were the chapters dedicated to food and the food specialists. **In fact, I think we need a whole book on all the dishes served on *Hannibal*!!!**

There are some small flaws that bug me a bit. Firstly, the text on dark pages is not legible enough. Maybe a bolder font would solve this? Secondly, I think I would have structured the book differently. The murders and the chapters on characters are mixed - I think I would have preferred them separately, but it works this way too. Thirdly, some things are missing, like the character Matthew Brown (Jonathan Tucker) and his... deeds and ~~pies of his beautiful abs~~. I know he was only in one episode, but I felt that he changed completely the relationship dynamics of the show. There was also nothing on the S2 finale?! My feelings about this lack:

The pictures, drawings and designs/plans are all amazing and high-quality. All in all, I am a happy Fannibal, and I hope to see a book on the food and one on the next seasons too. Thank you to Bryan, the cast and crew and everyone involved for such an outstanding show!

Chia-Tung says

A gore-geous book with loads of pictures about the poetic and artistic show *Hannibal*.

Debra Parks says

A must-have book for Fannibals who want a look at the production of the show. The book captures the creation of some of the dark art of the show and gives behind the scenes details as well as multiple

photographs. At 175 pages, it still isn't enough. What fascinated me about the show was how beautifully dark, or darkly beautiful it was. I was both fascinated, and horrified by that fascination with Hannibal's dark art. So much so that I needed this book to remind me that beauty resides everywhere, even in the grotesque.

Jennie says

Love this show.

Celeste says

An interesting book that would have been even better if it included the final season. Also, some of the text was difficult to read because it blended in with the background.

Cat says

Swooning. I'm so sad that this show was cancelled because it was so well done! I still have hopes *someone* will pick it back up...

This book goes into grave detail about the entire show from room layouts to the crime scenes and food dishes Hannibal creates.

Every department in that show deserves an award- from makeup to costuming to actual filming and editing.

Simon Bruce says

I absolutely adore the content of this book, however I feel it's quality lets it down. Firstly, it's not a hardcover. The print quality is slightly questionable and if I'm honest I would have loved more interior information. With that being said, it's a book on possibly one of the greatest television shows ever made. Buy it, read it, love it. Eat the rude.

Lina says

First of all, Hannibal is my favourite TV show (and if you haven't watched it yet, you bloody well should) and for that reason alone, I'm glad to have this book in my possession.

What this book does well is provide an overview of the storyline from series one and two of Hannibal, information on the production design, prosthetics etc., as well as give some insight into possible motivations for the characters' actions.

However, if you're an avid fan of the show and have seen and read your fair share of interviews with the

creators and cast, I'd say you'd most likely already be familiar with most of the background "insider information" in this book, which was a bit disappointing. Also, for a show that prides itself on outstanding visual design/cinematography and creativity, the design of this book is rather uninspired. A large portion of the pictures is just production stills, which are not in the highest resolution either, and the text is difficult to read at times. The witty, thoughtful writing of the show isn't reflected in here either; the order of the topics seems sort of random, I don't really see the intention behind it, and the writing itself is at times halting/incoherent.

That said, I still enjoyed going over all the major themes and everything in my mind whilst reading this and simultaneously rewatching the show. I just wish the book had been on a par with the show's quality.

Bob Ryan says

This book is for fans of the short-lived television show. Its organized like a meal. First the Aperitif, then the Entrée, the Main Course and so on. The Main Course is divided into three subsections, one for each of the three leading characters, Hannibal, Jack Crawford and Will Graham. Those are divided into smaller chapters that profile the supporting characters or other subjects, like the food and wardrobe. An inventive way of telling this story, I thought.

But the star of the book are the pictures. Pictures from the shows themselves and pictures taken while scenes are being set up of the actors and crew. Color pictures of the victims, sometimes full page, explaining how the props were staged and the how the grisly effects were created. In the subsection of the supporting characters usually the pictures are of how that character met his or her end at the hands of Hannibal. Again, an inventive method of showcasing the actors.

I had two complaints about the book. First, the author must assume the reader has full knowledge of the individual episodes. Some of the episodes are referred to in the subsection about the supporting characters, but its been a while since I've seen the show, a recap of the episodes would have been a nice addition. Secondly, there are several pages where the text is printed in white on a page with a black or dark blue background. The font size is small and its very hard to read.

I enjoyed the book. It was fun to revisit the characters and get some insight on how the show was put together. It makes me want to buy the DVD set.
