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The Book Of Alien



Synopsis

In 1979, a movie was released that was to capture the imagination of the world, and become a science fiction classic... Alien. This exciting book takes you right behind the scenes of Alien and talks to the key people involved, including H. R Giger and director Ridley Scott. It shows every creative stage, through designs and sketches, models and costumes, that went into such a unique vision of the future, and graphically demonstrates why the movie won an Oscar for its visual effects.

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Customer Reviews

If this book was written today, it would be one of those "The Art Of...." books. It is full of conceptual drawings and art for the movie, from the space suits, equipment, spaceships, interiors of both the Nostromo and the Alien ship, and much more. There are a lot of color pictures as well, of the many sets used. This book gives you a good idea of how the initial concepts formed and morphed into the classic film we know today. Great names in art are represented here, from FOSS, to MOEBIUS, GIGER, to Ron COBB. Some of their art work here I have never seen anywhere else. If you are into scifi-art, you will really appreciate this book beyond just the movie tie-in.

I bought this book way back in 1979-80 along with another book published by Futura Publications Limited. I'll talk about The Book of Alien first, the first few pages give details about where O'Bannon got his idea for the story from, what he was doing prior to writing it (namely working on a version of Dune which didn't work out leaving him living on his friends (Shusett) sofa and needing to get back to work), and how the major players, Ridley Scott, Brandywine (Gordon Carroll, David Giler and

Walter Hill), as well as Giger, Ron Cobb and other designers came to be working on the film. So it does give a brief idea of how it came about, however the book is primarily a visual record of the art work, from the Nostromo (interior and exterior), the costume's, and of course Giger's work on the planet, derelict spaceship, the space jockey, and of course the 3 versions of the Alien itself. Quite frankly I love this book, I love looking at the photos and paintings, to see the imaginations of these people at work. Well worth buying in my opinion as I love all this sort of stuff, makes me wish I had this kind of imagination. So if you love these sorts of books then really worth getting. I've also purchased several other books over the years, one is Giger's Alien, was a little bit expensive at the time but again well worth it just for his designs and paintings. The man has a truly bizarre, frightening but incredibly beautiful visual style, and his designs for the film are incredible. The second book by Futura was simply a movie novel, it took stills (1000's of them) from the film and turned the film into a book, if you can find a copy of that then also worth getting. The last book was by John L. Flynn called Dissecting Aliens Terror in Space, where he writes about ALIEN, ALIENS and ALIEN3, giving in depth accounts of the production of each film in turn and worth picking up if you can find it.

Paul Scanlon and Michael Gross (Burt Gummer!?!) offer very little text about the actual making of the movie. There is a token segment about the genesis of the script but the rest of the book is focused strictly on the visual aspects. No comments from cast, production crew, or composer Jerry Goldsmith are offered. Those (like me) expecting an in depth look at the making of a genre milestone will be a tad disappointed. Nonetheless, the countless conceptual drawings (both for used and unused concepts) from the pre-production of the motion picture and the generous amounts of stills will get the mouth of any Alien fan watering. An essential for the drawings and stills, but the text is strictly behind the scenes filler that is lacking both depth and insight.

I have wanted to own this book for years and years, I finally got around to purchasing a used copy on . I will be straight to the point with this one, if you're a fan of Alien, I really highly recommend you own this book! Not only is it packed with tons of concept art, and behind the scenes shots, but it's also got some excellent captions and the text accompanying the photographs is really in-depth as well. There are dozens and dozens of concept art pieces, many black & white and color photographs, and many sketches and paintings in the book. I believe another reviewer put it this way, if the book was marketed today it would be printed as a "Making Of.." book. I was lucky enough to find a cheap copy on here and I'm glad that I did. If you're an Alien fan, check it

out. Layout 10/10 Content 10/10 Cool Factor 8/10 Overall 9.5/10 Pros: Really fascinating book about the making of and design of the first Alien film. Plenty of cool pictures, rare concept art pieces I have never seen before as an Alien fan of almost 15 years, and it's a very in-depth, easy read. Cons: Book is pretty short in length, weighing in at just over 110 pages. But I imagine if you wanted an even more in-depth look at the movie, Alien Vault would be a smarter choice.

This book gives a little more details in to the ALIEN world. It gives a little more insight into the design of the alien world and the movie. But not as much as some of these newer books beeing put out now.

Great re-release of the making of Alien book released when the movie first came out. If you want to get the feeling of Alien just having been released and studied over then this book is for you. It has loads of development photos, stories and art from many of the leading sci fi illustrators of the time and of course from Giger. And it does it in a fairly compact form. So it's streamlined but just packed efficiently and effectively.

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