

Its Always Sunny In Philadelphia The 7 Secrets Of Awakening The Highly Effective Four Hour Giant Today

In an age of proliferating choices, television nevertheless remains the most popular medium in the United States. Americans spend more time with TV than ever before, and many 'new media' forms, such as blu-ray movies, Hulu videos, and Internet widgets, are produced and delivered by the world's most lucrative and powerful television industry. Yet that industry has undergone profound changes since the 1980s, moving from a three-network oligopoly to a sprawling range of channels and services dominated by a handful of major conglomerates. Viewers cannot access hundreds of channels at all hours of the day and can search and select from hundreds of thousands of individual programmes on video and Internet services. This diversity has fragmented the size of television audiences and transformed relationships between viewers and television companies. Unlike the first fifty years of television, today's industry leaders can no longer rely on mass audiences and steady revenue flows from big-budget advertisers, and this in turn affects their programming and production strategies.

No advertisers to please, no censors to placate, no commercial interruptions every eleven minutes, demanding cliffhangers to draw viewers back after the commercial breaks: HBO has re-written the rules of television; and the result has been nothing short of a cultural ground shift. The HBO Effect details how the fingerprints of HBO are all over contemporary film and television. Their capability to focus on smaller markets made shows like *Sex and the City*, *The Sopranos*, *The Wire*, and even the more recent *Game of Thrones* and *Girls*, trigger shows on basic cable networks to follow suit. HBO pioneered the use of HDTV and the widescreen format, production and distribution deals leading to market presence, and the promotion of greater diversity on TV (discussing issues of class and race). The HBO Effect examines this rich and unique history for clues to its remarkable impact upon television and popular culture. It's time to take a wide-angle look at HBO as a producer of American culture.

"The Gang" from *It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia* attempts their most ill-conceived, get-rich quick scheme yet: publishing a "self-help book" to hilarious, sometimes dangerous, and often revolting, results. The Gang may have finally found their golden ticket. Left alone to close down Paddy's Pub one night, Charlie Kelly inadvertently scored himself, and his friends, the opportunity of a lifetime—a book deal with a real publishing company, real advance money, and a real (ly confused) editor. While his actual ability to read and write remains unclear, Charlie sealed the deal with some off-the-cuff commentary on bird law and the nuances of killing rats (and maybe with the help of some glue fumes in the basement with an unstable editor on a bender). While *The Gang* is stunned by the news, and the legally binding, irrevocable contract left on the bar, they are also ready to rise to the task and become millionaires—and of course, help Charlie actually write the book. In their own inimitable voices, Charlie, Mac, Dennis, Sweet Dee, and Frank weigh in on important topics like Relationships, Financial Success and Career, Fashion and Personal Grooming, Health and Diet, and Survival Skills, providing insane advice, tips, tricks, and recipes (Rum Ham anyone?) as only they can. Fans of *It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia* rejoice and welcome the most influential work in the history of the written word (or at least since the script for *The Nightman Cometh*): *The 7 Secrets of Awakening the Highly Effective Four-Hour Giant, Today*.

Sociopaths are pervasive in contemporary television, from high-brow drama all the way down to cartoons -- and of course the news as well. From the scheming Eric Cartman of *South Park* to the seductive imposter Don Draper of *Mad Men*, cold and ruthless characters captivate us, making us wish that we could be so effective and successful. Yet why should we admire characters who get ahead by being amoral and uncaring? In his follow-up to *Awkwardness*, Adam Kotsko argues that the popularity of the ruthless sociopath reflects our dissatisfaction with a failed social contract, showing that we believe that the world rewards the evil and uncaring rather than the good. By analyzing characters like the serial killer star of *Dexter* and the cynical Dr. House, Kotsko shows that the fantasy of the sociopath distracts us from our real problems -- but that we still might benefit from being a little more sociopathic.

"It's a startling and disconcerting read that should make you think twice every time a friend of a friend offers you the opportunity of a lifetime." —Erik Larson, #1 New York Times bestselling author of *Dead Wake* and bestselling author of *Devil in the White City* Think you can't get conned? Think again. The New York Times bestselling author of *Mastermind: How to Think Like Sherlock Holmes* explains how to spot the con before they spot you. "[An] excellent study of Con Artists, stories & the human need to believe" —Neil Gaiman, via Twitter A compelling investigation into the minds, motives, and methods of con artists—and the people who fall for their cons over and over again. While cheats and swindlers may be a dime a dozen, true conmen—the Bernie Madoffs, the Jim Bakkers, the Lance Armstrongs—are elegant, outsized personalities, artists of persuasion and exploiters of trust. How do they do it? Why are they successful? And what keeps us falling for it, over and over again? These are the questions that journalist and psychologist Maria Konnikova tackles in her mesmerizing new book. From multimillion-dollar Ponzi schemes to small-time frauds, Konnikova pulls together a selection of fascinating stories to demonstrate what all cons share in common, drawing on scientific, dramatic, and psychological perspectives. Insightful and gripping, the book brings readers into the world of the con, examining the relationship between artist and victim. *The Confidence Game* asks not only why we believe con artists, but also examines the very act of believing and how our sense of truth can be manipulated by those around us.

This lighthearted and eye-opening book explores the role of comedy in cultural and political critiques of American society from the past century. • Provides a context, vocabulary, and perspective to better appreciate and understand American humor • Connects historical developments to cultural changes • Includes both academic references and popular works • Covers a wide range of artists over a variety of media • Examines and explains general trends in American comedy

Hard to Believe! is the game-by-game story of the 2008 World Champion Philadelphia Phillies. Each game is captured in incredible detail combined with numerous photos and interviews that make this THE book on the Phillies drive to the World Series.

Navigating through the challenging process of writing a comedy pilot, this book will help screenwriters to create an original script for television. Practical and accessible, the book presents a step-by-step guide focusing on the key elements of the process. Incorporating both the history of TV comedy as well as its current evolving state in this age of the dramedy and an ever-increasing variety of broadcast and streaming platforms, the book will serve as a guide for the fledgling sitcom scribe. Author Manny Basanese breaks down the comedy pilot writing process from what may be perceived as an overwhelming, time-consuming mission into a series of much more manageable, smaller steps (from logline to outline to 1st, 2nd and polished draft).

Utilizing his experience in Hollywood's sitcom trenches, the author offers real-world advice on such topics as building the comedy pilot "world," creating memorable comic characters, sound sitcom structure, and the importance of crafting an emotional through line in a comedy pilot. Finally, there is also practical career guidance for marketing this just-completed script and breaking into the industry with advice on various topics such as the value of networking as well as gaining representation in the competitive Hollywood jungle. It is ideal for students of screenwriting and aspiring comedy screenwriters.

It works! Trust us! Warning: Following the "advice" contained herein could get you arrested, maimed, or killed. No \$\$Money\$\$ Back Guarantee! Friendless? Poor? Ugly? Need help luring the woman or man of your dreams onto a boat? Hungry for Rum Ham but don't know how long to cook it? Confused as to the legality of keeping birds as pets in your particular home state? Look no further, loser. The gang from Paddy's Pub have combined forces to weigh in on life's most important topics: • Relationships • Financial Success and Career • Fashion and Personal Grooming • Health and Diet • Survival Skills Grab a beer, throw caution and common sense to the wind, and welcome the most influential work in the history of the written word (or at least since the script for The Nightman Cometh): The 7 Secrets of Awakening the Highly Effective Four-Hour Giant, Today.

In their own inimitable voices, Charlie, Mac, Dennis, Sweet Dee, and Frank weigh in on important topics like Relationships, Financial Success and Career, Fashion and Personal Grooming, Health and Diet, and Survival Skills, providing insane advice, tips, tricks, and recipes (Rum Ham anyone?) as only they can.

Featuring nerdy recipes for both alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, The Geeky Chef Drinks is your chance to sip your way through your favorite sci-fi and fantasy worlds—Game of Thrones, Legend of Zelda, Star Trek, and more. Author Cassandra Reeder has created authentic real-life drinks and cocktails inspired by your favorite fantasy drinks. So, if you've found yourself craving Shimmerwine from Firefly, Black Frost Beer from Buffythe Vampire Slayer, Swanky Panky from Bob's Burgers, or Butterbeer from Harry Potter, you're about to quench your thirst in a galaxy far, far away. Featuring more than 60 original cocktail recipes, you'll also learn edgy cocktail tricks, such as creating a "shimmer effect" in your liquor, giving a sparkle rim to your glass, and adding fire or mist to a cocktail, along with concocting simple syrups and ice-cube effects. Easy step-by-step instructions and fun-themed photos make these creative recipes perfect for your next party, season premiere get-together, or your standing reservation for a party of one. And for all you designated drivers, don't despair: The Geeky Chef has plenty of imaginative tricks for making these yummy drinks alcohol-free. Whether you're thirsting for adventure or just need your mana restored, The Geeky Chef Bartender has you covered!

Very Special Episodes examines how the quintessential "very special episode" format became a primary way in which the television industry responded to and shaped social change, cultural traumas, and industrial transformations. With essays covering shows ranging from the birth of Desi Arnaz, Jr. on I Love Lucy to contemporary examples such as a delayed episode of Black-ish and the streaming-era phenomenon of the "Very Special Seasons" of UnReal and 13 Reasons Why, this collection seriously and critically uses the "very special episode" to chart the history of American television and its self-identified status as an arbiter of culture.

The Liberty Bell, Gettysburg, and Independence Hall may stand out as prominent Pennsylvania features, but the Keystone State is also home to bizarre places, personalities, events, and phenomena. These unique and quirky aspects are humorously displayed in Pennsylvania Curiosities, a cross between a wacky news gazette, an almanac, and a humorous travel guide. Blackness is a prized commodity in American pop culture. Marketed to white consumers, it invites whites to view themselves in a mirror of racial difference, while remaining "wholly" white. From sports to literature, film, and music to investigative journalism, Eric Lott reveals the hidden dynamics of this self-and-other racial mirroring.

Wake up, donkeys, the gang is back! Paddy's Pub continues to bring out the absolute worst in Mac, Dennis, Dee, Charlie, and Frank. One of the funniest and most original sitcoms on television, It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia further appalls and delights its audience with every absurd, foul-mouthed adventure. * Simultaneously hilarious and edgy, and veering wildly from high satire to low blows, It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia is one of those "cult hits" that everybody loves. * Featuring fan-favorite scenes and quotes from the latest season, It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia 2012 Wall Calendar will be in stores just as the season 6 DVD boxed sets are released. It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia (tm) and (c) 2010 FX Networks, LLC.

Sip your way through the most legendary cocktails from the worlds of science fiction, fantasy, and more, with over 70 recipes of the most delicious and nerdiest drinks as realistically imagined by Cassandra Reeder aka The Geeky Chef. Whether you binge sci-fi TV shows, rewatch cult films, get addicted to MMORPGs, or read all the fantasy book series, The Geeky Bartender Drinks has your fictional beverage fantasies covered. For super fans of every variety, this leveled-up cocktail book will soon have you unlocking achievements behind the bar, no matter if you're mixing drinks for yourself, a friend, or even a viewing party. And for all you nondrinkers, don't fret: this book has a nonalcoholic chapter along with plenty of imaginative tricks for making drinks alcohol-free. So, if you love Game of Thrones, Legend of Zelda, Doctor Who, World of Warcraft, Final Fantasy, Star Wars, or any other inspiring work of nerd content, get ready to restore your mana. Let your love for sci-fi or fantasy shine with The Geeky Chef series by creating food and drinks from your favorite shows, movies, and video games. Your cool, homemade, fiction-themed spread will make you the life of the party. Incredibly fun and creative, and colorfully designed, The Geeky Chef books make the perfect gift for the geek in your life who lives in a world of their own. Other titles in this series include: Geeky Bartender Drinks, Geeky Chef Cookbook, Geeky Chef Drinks, and Geeky Chef Strikes Back.

Based on a popular blog, a humorous guide with 50 photos details all the mainstream things hipsters have come to loathe, including "places that have become a scene," "people who dance in bars," "other hipsters" and many more. Original.

In Write to TV (third edition) industry veteran Martie Cook offers practical advice on writing innovative television scripts that will allow you to finally get that big idea out of your head and onto the screen. With this book you'll learn to craft smart, original stories and scripts for a variety of television formats and genres, including comedy, drama, pilots, web series, and subscription video on demand. This new edition has been updated with expanded coverage on writing for global audiences, content creation for streaming services such as Netflix, Amazon and Hulu, as well as writing the web series, podcasts and utilizing free platforms such as YouTube. It also features new chapters on writing for niche markets; breaking into the writers' room; creating binge-worthy series and how to accompany pilot scripts with a series pitch document. Plus, expanded information on creating complex and compelling characters including writing anti-heroes and strong female protagonists and much, much more. Including information directly from studio and network executives, agents, and managers on what they're looking for in new writers and how to avoid common pitfalls, advice from successful creators and showrunners on creating original content that sells, and tips from new writers on how to get into a writers room and stay there. This book contains information from more than 20 new interviews, access to sample outlines, script pages,

checklists, and countless other invaluable resources, and is the ideal book for anyone who wants to break into the TV writing industry.

Visit historic battlefields, share the road with horse-drawn buggies, and explore two vibrant cities on the rise. Inside Moon Pennsylvania you'll find: Strategic itineraries like a 7-day spin through the best of the state, weekend trips, and tips for history buffs, families, and outdoor adventurers The top sights and unique experiences: Sneak a peek at the Liberty Bell and museum-hop in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. Hike, camp, or show off your snowboarding skills in the Poconos, spot roaming elk in the Pennsylvania Wilds, and relax on the shores of Lake Erie. Learn about American history at Gettysburg, marvel at Frank Lloyd Wright's masterpiece in the Laurel Highlands, or take a horse-drawn buggy through Amish country. Find the best Philly cheesesteak, indulge in all that Hershey has to offer, and try a "Pittsburgh-style" sandwich stuffed with fries Suggestions for day trips from Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, including Bucks County, Amish Country, Moraine and McConnells Mill State Parks, Fallingwater, and Cook Forest State Park Local tips from Philadelphia local Rachel Vigoda on when to go, how to get around, and where to stay Thorough background information on the landscape, wildlife, climate, and local culture Focused coverage of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Dutch Country, the Pocono Mountains, Pittsburgh, the Alleghenies, the Lake Region, and Pennsylvania Wilds With Moon Pennsylvania's practical tips and local insight, you can experience the best of the Keystone State. Staying in the city? Try Moon Pittsburgh or Moon Philadelphia. Exploring more of the East Coast? Try Moon Virginia & Maryland or Moon Washington DC.

This second edition of Professional Techniques for Video Game Writing is updated with new chapters and new authors, but it's still a no-nonsense guide to the professional craft of writing for video games. Not only does the text cover story and narrative elements, but it also addresses dialogue, documentation, and strategy guides. Seasoned video game writers each address a different topic, including the best way to break into the video game industry, how to be an efficient part of a team, and the principles of narrative design. The book also offers script samples, technical writing advice, effective writing tips, and suggestions for how to innovate in game narrative. Key Features Comprehensive enough for veterans and accessible enough for novices Goes into detail about how to write tutorials, script doctoring, and writing for AAA games Delivers invaluable experiences directly from writers in the games industry Full of practical advice from industry pros on how to get a job, and then how to get the job done Author Bio Wendy Despain has more than two decades of experience spearheading digital media projects. She has worked with teams around the world as a writer, narrative designer, producer, and consultant on interactive experiences ranging from video games to augmented reality. She's worked with EA, Disney, Ubisoft, Cartoon Network, PBS, Marvel, and Wargaming. Currently, she's a Production Director at ArenaNet, makers of the Guild Wars franchise. Her books include: Writing For Videogame Genres: From FPS to RPG Talking to Artists/Talking to Programmers 100 Principles of Game Design The Eight Characters of Comedy is the "How-To" guide for actors & writers who want to break into the world of sitcoms. It has become a staple in acting classes, writers' rooms, casting offices and production sets around the world. Now, in it's exciting SECOND EDITION, renowned acting coach and bestselling author, Scott Sedita, gives you even MORE advice and exercises for breaking down comedy scripts, writing jokes and delivering them with comedic precision. Plus, you'll find in-depth REVISED sections on Sitcom History, The Three Pillars of Comedy, Auditioning for Sitcoms, and his acclaimed comedic technique "The Sedita Method!" Most importantly, you will be introduced to his famous sitcom character archetypes, which will help you build your niche in half-hour comedy... The Eight Characters of Comedy! Who is normally cast as The Logical Smart One? Why do we love The Lovable Loser? Why is The Neurotic a favorite for actors and writers? How do you play The Dumb One smart? Who are the biggest Bitch/Bastards? What drives The Materialistic Ones? Why is The Womanizer/Manizer so popular? How can you realistically write and play someone In Their Own Universe? The Eight Characters of Comedy answers all these questions and more, with UPDATED EXAMPLES from current & classic sitcoms, and from many of the greatest sitcom characters & actors of all time! After reading this book, you WILL be ready to work in the exciting world of situation comedy!

(FAQ Lifestyle). Here is a no-nonsense guide to the world of beer, answering many burning questions about the diverse array of styles, ingredients, and international brewing and drinking traditions that drive the world's most popular beverage. Beer FAQ features insight not only on how it's made, but how it makes the journey from the brew house floor to the drinker's glass. The book offers a touch of history, a bit of globetrotting, and a look at the companies and enterprising individuals leading the modern brewing renaissance. It also offers a nostalgic look at beer's evolving role in pop culture from advertising to television to movies over the past century. After reading Beer FAQ , readers will have a better understanding of not just what kinds of beers to drink, but the best places to drink them and the best ways to enjoy them, from the ideal packaging to the proper drinking vessels.

What is it actually like to live today? It's an era where world politics play out on Twitter, and where the gig economy has made the nine-to-five job an object of aspiration rather than dread. Rates of mental illness are soaring, inequality predominates everything and much of life is contained in our phones. The core idea of this book is that we can only understand what life is like now by comparing it to previous times to see what has changed, what is genuinely new, and what is a continuation of existing trends. Providing original analyses of a range of seminal works of 90s pop culture, this book extracts a core set of concepts--such as irony, branding, and media--that defined the 90s. It demonstrates how these concepts are expressed in both those works and in the art of today. Presenting close history in a new light, this book helps us understand today by framing it in terms of yesterday.

Need a new show to binge? Want to learn behind-the-scenes insights about your favorite series? Then Mental Floss: The Curious Viewer is for you! From Mental Floss, the premier online destination for curious minds, comes a deep dive into the greatest television shows from the last 20 years. Filled with little-known facts and lists of must-see shows, this fascinating collection includes: The hardest role to cast on Game of Thrones • The DEA's involvement in Breaking Bad • The lost Black-ish episode deemed too divisive for TV • The real-life inspiration for Mad Men's Don Draper • The identity of "Ugly Naked Guy" on Friends • When George Lucas sued Battlestar Galactica • How Curb Your Enthusiasm saved a man from the death penalty • When Doctor Who's TARDIS went to court • The story behind Law & Order's iconic "dun-dun" sound effect Mental Floss: The Curious Viewer also contains many of Mental Floss's famously fascinating lists, such as Actors Who Asked for Their Characters to Be Killed Off, The Most-Watched TV Series Finales Ever, TV Characters Who Were Inspired by Real People, Bizarre TV Crossovers, Amazing One-Season Shows, Important Moments in LGBTQ+ History on TV, and Unforgettable Television Cliff-Hangers.

Answering the eternal question... WHAT TO WATCH NEXT? Looking for a box set to get your adrenaline racing or to escape to a different era? In need of a good laugh to lift your spirits? Hunting for a TV show that the whole family can watch together? If you're feeling indecisive about your next binge-watching session, we've done the hard work for you. Featuring 1,000 carefully curated reviews written by a panel of TV connoisseurs, What To Watch When offers up the best show suggestions for every mood and moment. During the "Must See TV" 1990s, Americans enjoyed such immensely popular sitcoms as Friends, Seinfeld, Home Improvement and The Drew Carey Show. Shows that did not make the ratings cut numbered in the hundreds--the emergence of new networks and cable channels airing original programming resulted in a vast increase in short-lived sitcoms over the previous decade. Some of these "flops" were actually quite good and deserved a better fate. The author revisits them--along with the "dramedies" of the

day--with detailed entries providing production and broadcast information, along with critical analyses, and recollections by cast and crew members. A subsection highlights sitcoms that returned for an abbreviated second season. Dozens of cast and crew photographs are included.

Long form scenic improv began with the Harold. The comic philosophy of this form started an era of comedy marked by support, trust, and collaboration. This book tells of the Harold, beginning with the development of improv theatre, through the tensions and evolutions that led to its creation at iO, and to its use in contemporary filmmaking.

There's only one reason to compare the largely amoral bar keepers that populate FXX's It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia with the serene '50s vibe of The Adventures of Ozzie and Harriet: With its 13th season premiering on September 5 and a 14th season already ordered, It's Always Sunny will soon tie Ozzie as the longest-running live-action comedy sitcom in the history of television. Before that milestone, the gang of Paddy's Pub still has a 13th season to get through without succumbing to the effects of sniffing gasoline.

Check out some facts on the show's history, its alternate-universe Dee, and how the production almost killed national treasure Danny DeVito.

Some of us visit science fiction. Zak Standridge kinda lives there! From the obscure (1968's The Prisoner) to the mainstream (1966's Star Trek) to the in-between (1970's Doctor Who) to the over-looked (1990's Quantum Leap & 2000's Firefly/Serenity) to the modern (American Gods in 2020), Mr. Standridge has spent decades distilling here for you his cherry-picked FAVS of SCI-FI!

The cultural critic questions how modern people understand the concept of villainy, describing how his youthful idealism gave way to an adult sympathy with notorious cultural figures to offer insight into the appeal of anti-heroes.

Philosophers wittily and expertly uncover amazing philosophical insights from the endlessly fascinating TV show, It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia. Littmann shows how the values of the gang are the same as those of Homeric heroes. Ketcham argues that the Church should make Charlie a saint, partly because It's Always Sunny is "all about free will." Hamer shows how closely the gang's activities comply with the scientific method. Alkema and Barkman analyze the way the gang perceives happiness and how they try to get it. Leonard proves beyond doubt that the game of Chardee MacDennis reveals everyone's unconscious desires. King examines the morality of the gang's behavior by the standard of how they respond to extreme suffering. Chambers agrees that each of the five central characters is a terrible person, but argues that, given their circumstances, they are not truly to blame for their actions. Tanswell demonstrates that many of the gang's wrong actions result not from immoral motives but from illogical thinking. Aylesworth uses examples from It's Always Sunny to bring out some of the moral problems with real consent to sex. Jones reveals that Nietzsche foresaw everything the gang at Paddy's Pub would do.

"This book offers a straightforward and vibrant approach to the study of criminal behavior and contemporary criminal justice issues through the use of popular TV shows.

Students, researchers, and anyone else interested in crime will find this book an accessible and informative resource for understanding the causes of crime and how society responds to crime"--

Television's Community follows the shenanigans of a diverse group of traditional and nontraditional community college students: Jeff Winger, a former lawyer; Britta Perry, a feminist; Abed Nadir, a pop culture enthusiast; Shirley Bennett, a mother; Troy Barnes, a former jock; Annie Edison, a naive overachiever; and Pierce Hawthorne, an old-fashioned elderly man. There are also Benjamin Chang, the maniacal Spanish teacher, and Craig Pelton, the eccentric dean of Greendale Community College, along with well-known guest stars who play troublemaking students, nutty professors and frightening administrators. This collection of fresh essays familiarizes readers not only with particular characters and popular episodes, but behind-the-scenes aspects such as screenwriting and production techniques. The essayists explore narrative theme, hyperreality, masculinity, feminism, color blindness, civic discourse, pastiche, intertextuality, media consciousness, how Community is influenced by other shows and films, and how fans have contributed to the show.

(FAQ). TV Finales FAQ is the first book devoted exclusively to television's most memorable series finales. From Mary Richards' heartfelt goodbye to the WJM-TV newsroom in the classic finale of The Mary Tyler Moore Show to the puzzling conclusion of the enigmatic adventure series, Lost , to the tumultuous final hours in the life of Breaking Bad 's Walter White, TV Finales FAQ takes an up close, insightful, and entertaining look at the most memorable final episodes of television's most popular prime time, daytime, and late night series. Crafting the final episode to a long-running television series can be challenging for producers and writers who want to remain faithful to the show's characters and history, yet, at the same time, satisfy the high expectations of its loyal fan base. TV Finales FAQ offers television viewers the inside story on the creation, broadcast, and aftermath of the most famous (and infamous) final episodes of over 50 television series from the 1960s through the present day. The books features such shows as Dexter , Roseanne , Will & Grace , X-Files , The Sopranos , and some classic talk and late-night programs such as The Oprah Winfrey Show and The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson , and many others.

`Als Indiana Jones econoom zou zijn, zou hij Steven Levitt heten. Freakonomics leest als een detective. Wall Street Journal Wat is gevaarlijker: een pistool of een zwembad? Wat hebben sumoworstelaars en schoolmeesters gemeen? En waarom wonen drugsdealers bij hun moeder? Het zijn vragen die je niet gauw van een econoom zou verwachten. Maar Steven Levitt is geen typische econoom. In Freakonomics onderzoekt hij met co-auteur Stephen Dubner de verborgen kant van de dingen om ons heen. De geheimen van de Klu Klux Klan, bijvoorbeeld. Of de waarheid over vastgoedmakelaars. En, stelt hij, heeft het dalen van de misdaadcijfers in plaats van met een goed draaiende economie niet

eigenlijk alles te maken met de legalisering van abortus? Freakonomics is het leukste en verhelderendste boek over economie dat je je kunt voorstellen. Een mix van essentiële feiten en een meeslepende vertelling, die onze blik op de moderne wereld voorgoed verandert en verscherpt. `Een fascinerend en belangrijk boek, leesbaar, compact en barstensvol informatie over de wereld om ons heen. Wie dit boek over de raadsels van het alledaagse leven heeft gelezen moet wel concluderen: economie is belangrijk, interessant en erg leuk. de Volkskrant `Levitt stelt ongewone vragen en geeft provocatieve antwoorden. Slim, precies en tot in detail. New York Times

Seinfeld and the Comic Vision analyzes the television situation comedy Seinfeld to form a theory of comedy—the comic vision—arguing that comedy should not be seen merely as entertainment, but deserves to be taken seriously as expressing a philosophical worldview. Whitley Kaufman demonstrates how in Seinfeld, and in comedy on a larger scale, characters are given license to violate social norms and to fail to live up to societal ideals in a way that shows they remain fundamentally decent people. Kaufman examines how comedy can be seen as a celebration of the “lower” aspects of human nature—our more animal or bodily side—but argues that the comic vision is not cynical or pessimistic, but rather fundamentally affirmative of human nature and of life, despite the many human limitations. Scholars of television studies, media studies, pop culture, and philosophy will find this book particularly useful.

Reaching back to the beginnings of television, The Greatest Cult Television Shows offers readers a fun and accessible look at the 100 most significant cult television series of all time, compiled in a single resource that includes valuable information on the shows and their creators. While they generally lack mainstream appeal, cult television shows develop devout followings over time and exert some sort of impact on a given community, society, culture, or even media industry. Cult television shows have been around since at least the 1960s, with Star Trek perhaps the most famous of that era. However, the rise of cable contributed to the rise of cult television throughout the 1980s and 1990s, and now, with the plethora of streaming options available, more shows can be added to this categorization. Reaching back to the beginnings of television, the book includes such groundbreaking series as The Twilight Zone and The Prisoner alongside more contemporary examples like Crazy Ex-Girlfriend and Hannibal. The authors provide production history for each series and discuss their relevance to global pop culture. To provide a more global approach to the topic, the authors also consider several non-American cult TV series, including British, Canadian, and Japanese shows. Thus, Monty Python’s Flying Circus appears alongside Sailor Moon and Degrassi Junior High. Additionally, to move beyond the conception of “cult” as a primarily white, heteronormative, fanboy obsession, the book contains shows that speak to a variety of cult audiences and experiences, such as Queer as Folk and Charmed. With detailed arguments for why these shows deserve to be considered the greatest of all time, Olson and Reinhard provide ideas for discussion and debate on cult television. Each entry in this book demonstrates the importance of the 100 shows chosen for inclusion and highlights how they offer insight into the period and the cults that formed around them.

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