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Contact: Kathleen Mattson
kathleen@millermattson.com
503-985-6004

The Gentleviewer's Obsessive Guide to Buffy the Vampire Slayer, Second Edition

Kathleen Mattson

Buffy the Vampire Slayer is an epic television program which spanned seven seasons from 1996 through 2003. Created by Joss Whedon, it still commands a loyal cult following today that crosses demographic lines. There is so much to enjoy: humorous cultural references, innovative storytelling, compelling characters, and some of the sharpest writing ever to grace our televisions.

The Gentleviewer's Obsessive Guide to Buffy the Vampire Slayer, Second Edition (Paisley Publications; December 2013; \$18.00; Softcover), by Kathleen Mattson, navigates the rich "BuffyVerse." Written for students and fans of *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, the book is an exhaustive listing of the cultural references that pop up throughout the show, peppered with trivia, music, episode cross-references, and more. It provides hours of trivia-obsession for fans of Buffy, Willow, Xander, Spike, Angel, and the rest of the Sunnydale residents.

This is the second edition of the book. "I was invited to discuss my first book at a class on *Buffy* at Portland State University in 2012," Mattson says. "It was there that I realized I needed to take the book to a higher level, one that would be useful to the academic as well as the rabid fan. I needed to get even more obsessive!" Inside, the book is packed with:

- ***Cultural References:*** More than 1,000 full-quote pop culture and general cultural references, listed in the order in which they occur—a 30% increase over the first edition.
- ***Character Arcs:*** New in the second edition: 13 pages of episode maps showing story arcs for the main characters and their relationships. Each begins with a brief narrative of each character's story, then lists the applicable episodes.
- ***Writer, Director, and Cast Tables:*** Tables show the writers and directors for each episode, followed by complete lists with episode names and page number reference. There is also a table of the cast and characters of the show.

- *Trivia, Music References, and Episode Cross References*: Greatly expanded in the second edition, the book includes 70 trivia references, citations of 140 songs from the show, and 190 episode cross references, including references to the spin-off show, *Angel*.
- *Season Tables*: Full-spread tables for each season provide an at-a-glance reference to episodes in which characters appear or leave the show and include page numbers, a “watchability” key (with blank spaces for readers to log their own opinions), and more.

The Gentleviewer’s Obsessive Guide to Buffy the Vampire Slayer, Second Edition is also a serious reference to the show for researchers and scholars of this phenomenal Whedon show.

It includes 43 pages of indexes, including separate indexes of film and television references, music played during the show, episode cross-references, and more. This is topped off with an academic-quality general index with over 2500 entries.

Mattson says of the new second edition of the book, “I knew I’d gotten it right when one of the reviewers said she’d wished it had been available when she was writing papers about the show for school.”

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Kathleen Mattson is a marketing project manager with strong nerd tendencies. To support her hefty film and television habit, she owns Miller & Mattson, a technical communications company outside of Portland, Oregon, through which she writes and edits API specifications, reference cards, and other documents for supercomputing and other high-tech clients. *The Gentleviewer’s Obsessive Guide to Buffy the Vampire Slayer, Second Edition* is her second book.

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Learn more about the book online at facebook.com/gentleviewer and at www.paisleypubs.com/btvs

To speak with Kathleen Mattson or to request a review copy, contact Kathleen at kathleen@millermattson.com or at 503-985-6004.