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Firefly: Still Flying, A Celebration Of Joss Whedon's Acclaimed TV Series



Synopsis

NEW STORIES. UNSEEN PHOTOS. SHINY. “We have done the impossible, and that makes us mighty.” Since its short-lived appearance on TV in 2002, Joss Whedon’s Firefly has indeed done the impossible. It’s sold over a half a million copies on DVD, spawned the hit movie Serenity, and most remarkably, inspired a loyal fan following – the Browncoats – whose numbers are still growing to this day. Still Flying is a brand new celebration of all aspects of the show, featuring a wealth of rare and previously unpublished images – including storyboards, production design art and candid behind the scenes photos – memories from the cast and crew, a tribute to the Browncoats, and, as a special bonus: EXCLUSIVE NEW FIREFLY FICTION BY WRITERS OF THE ORIGINAL TV EPISODES FUN WITH DICK AND JAYNE written and drawn by Ben Edlund WHAT HOLDS US DOWN by Jane Espenson CRYSTAL by Brett Matthews TAKE THE SKY by Jose Molina

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Customer Reviews

"If you've ever wanted to crawl inside the world of Firefly, both the universe that the characters live in and the behind-the-scenes world of making the show, then Firefly: Still Flying is a must-read." --i09.com "The presentation is beautiful" --TV Verdict "It's the best companion book for any TV series that I have seen in a long time." --SF Universe

Joss Whedon is the creator and guiding light behind Buffy the Vampire Slayer, Angel, Firefly and

Dollhouse. He also wrote and directed the movie *Serenity*.

I'm sure you've had the experience of finding a box of mementos in your attic. While the items have little meaning to anybody else, the apparently-random collection is a "memory box" for you. A copy of the poem you wrote in 8th grade, a lost earring from a set you wore in high school, a dorky knick-knack that was once precious to you because it was a gift from a friend. Such boxes don't have much organization, but they can elicit complete sensory recall of an earlier time of your life. *Still Flying* is such a collection for *Firefly* fans. It's more like a "high school yearbook" than it is a set of short stories (there are a few, and they're good). Each cast member shares stories from the TV show, from how they got the part to their appreciation of the *Browncoats* fans to tales from the set. It's not just the actors; there's also input from behind the scenes people such as the stunt guy. Lots of photos of memorabilia, like the head of Jayne's statue or the Lassiter gun (which, I learned, was named after the Lassiter guy who started Pixar, apparently a friend of Joss' -- see, good trivia too). If you're a *Firefly* fan who is enthusiastic enough to identify the episodes by name (which I confess I am), you will enjoy this book. It's good bathroom reading, and I mean that in the nicest way; it's unlikely you'll want to read everything in one fell swoop. And like the memory box in your attic, sometimes it's more fun to contemplate and savor one item at a time. You don't NEED this book. But I think you'll like it.

Firefly: Still Flying: A Celebration of Joss Whedon's Acclaimed TV Series by Joss Whedon is catnip for all *Firefly* addicts. I don't know why they took off such a wonderful show but it is my favorite and always has been. This book goes behind the scenes and tells more for all us crazy fans that want that little extra. Great photos, info, bits about the props, places, people, characters, and more. I occasionally still binge watch the whole series when I am missing it... Awesome book to go with that awesome series.

If I could have, I would've given "*Still Flying*" a 3.5 -- but I erred on the side of swinging higher, if only because it's, you know, "*Firefly*!" The parts I liked about the book are the same things I liked about the first two books from Titan--great photographs of characters, sets, and props; intriguing behind-the-scenes interviews (this time with a costume designer and a double, among others); and some great collections of quotes from the actors, harvested from different interviews and appearances at conferences. That last is part of my "not so great" angle, though. Parts of this felt more like aggregation than original work. As for the original work--the four new stories! First, I

wouldn't count Edlund's "Fun with Dick and Jayne" as an "original story" -- it's two comic panes illustrating Jayne in childhood (with some dialogue), and that's it. So okay: Three new stories? My favorite was the first, by Jayne Espenson, set before the movie *Serenity*, throwing Kayli and Wash into an action adventure those two characters rarely got to experience on the show. Another, by Brett Matthews, shows River's point of view--also pre-"*Serenity*"--in which she has a premonition of what is to come, which I also enjoyed. The last, by Jose Molina, struck me as a particularly depressing spoiler alert for anything else ever to happen to these characters... unless it was just an alternative future, in which case I hope someone corrects me. I would love to see Whedon okay (and perhaps edit, or at least approve) "*Firefly*" novels, like the popular novel series about "*Star Wars*" characters and the "*Star Trek*" series. I want to see these stories and characters continue--in adventures and romance and snappy dialogue--rather than simply dwelling on what they once were. "*Still Flying*" focuses, for me, a little too much on the latter.

Firefly gets the celebration it deserves in this book. The book has several parts, including interviews with cast and crew, background on story and prop design, and new original short stories by the scriptwriters. The interviews with cast and crew are mainly collected from previously published sources. It's great to have them all in one place, but no new material. Still, the interviews are insightful and the case is refreshingly open. Some of the background on the story development and prop designs really add depth. We only saw some of the items a handful of times so seeing them again was great. I particularly liked the section on the ships. A lot of thought went into the design of the Alliance ship, which only appeared briefly in *Safe*. The short stories are probably the reason to buy this book. Two of them are great. "*What Holds Us Down*" by Jane Espenson and "*Take the Sky*" by Jose Molina really add character depth. Molina's story shows the fate of Mal and the rest of the crew. It's not a happy ending, but it fits the tone of the series. "*Crystal*" has some nice development for River, but it takes place too much within the shadow of the movie "*Serenity*" (I won't explain what that means for fear of revealing spoilers, but the entire story foreshadows the movie). "*Fun with Dick and Jayne*" is a short cartoon about Jayne as a kid. Cute, but nothing special. If you are a diehard fan and want the full TV scripts as well, I recommend getting *Firefly: A Celebration (Anniversary Edition)*, which contains everything, including "*Firefly: Still Flying*". I prefer this book because it is cheaper and contains the most interesting parts.

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