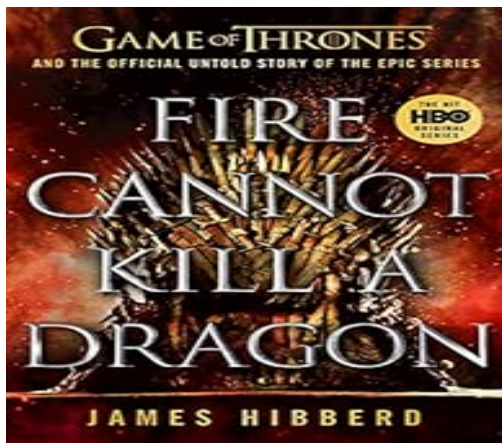


Fire Cannot Kill a Dragon: 'An amazing read' George R.R. Martin : Hibberd, James By
wpstarternepal.com MARTIN THE UNTOLD STORY OF A GLOBAL OBSESSION DIRECT FROM THE
SHOW'S CAST AND CREATOR This official complete history of HBO's Game of Thrones will draw
on the author's many long days and nights spent on GOT sets all over the world and his countless
interviews with cast and crew many of which have never been published before. But its conclusion
isn't necessarily the end of the story James Hibberd has extensively covered the show since breaking
the news of its pilot in 2008 and has had access to the show's top secret set than any other member
of the media. Martin : Hibberd James I love James Hibberd's style of writing and since stumbling
across his GoT recaps for EW from Season 6 (yes was bit late) I religiously followed his past articles.
Structured so that it walks you through the journey of making Game of Thrones from start to finish
it's a wonderful way of reliving those 8 seasons written by someone who had first hand experience of
seeing it and talking to those involved. Do I still think season 8 needed an extra hour or two to feel
less rushed? Yes but that aside this will always be one of the finest shows ever made (and one of my
favourites) and this book really brings out just how special a series it was. Many of the best GoT
insights and content has already been leaked (such as Diana Rigg's strop 'two takes & walk off'
when filming the scene between Lady Olenna and the Sand Snakes in season six) so this gives clue
to the fact that the fuller text is quite dry in places. However as this book is only really for show
fans it's still an enjoyable read about a show that had such terrific storytelling highs before slumping
to the worst story conclusion in TV history. Journalist James Hibberd who was allowed on set of the
show every year from the second season onwards has written a behind the scenes account of the
commissioning writing and making of the show referring to hundreds of interviews he undertook
whilst the show was on air and undertaken since. Game of Thrones is so huge and controversial that
it can overcome that problem and James Hibberd is well placed to write such a companion volume
given his access to the writers the sets and the actors (via his work at Entertainment Weekly
covering the show). Martin starting writing the Song of Ice and Fire novel series in 1991 and
proceeds through David Benioff and Dan Weiss picking up the books wooing Martin to letting them
and HBO have the rights and their difficult struggle to get a pilot made and the difficult process of
admitting that they'd messed up the pilot and had to hope that HBO would give them a second
chance. Hibberd also doesn't add much in the way of authorial opinion letting events stand for
themselves and quoting other critics in determining if a plot twist or story turn was successful or
not. On the very first page of the book we're told that the Battle of the Bastards was filmed in
October 2014; it was actually a year later (my friend who was a weary extra on the set of Hardhome
noted that was when they were filming that battle). Hibberd is a solid writer who knows how to
handle and place quotes and how to interview subjects and to his credit he does avoid repeating a lot
of stories and information that close watchers of the show have heard a thousand times already.
Some of the familiar anecdotes do get trotted out yet again but there's a lot of information here that I
hadn't ever heard before such as director David Nutter almost dying in Iceland when his car crashed
during a blizzard on a location scout and if it had rolled in a different direction it would have
plummeted off a sheer drop. Other stories are less dramatic but amusing: the weather in Iceland
during Season 2 was so bad that scenes were often shot right outside the hotel the cast and crew
were staying in with constructive camera angles being used to hide that fact and actors having to
perform in full view of all the guests in the dining room. The book doesn't shy away from many of
these spending a surprising amount of time debating the merits of Daenerys and Khal Drogo's
relationship at the start of the show with the writers and actors and the different ways they
approached it in both the pilot and the reshoot with different actresses and on the depiction of the
Sansa Ramsay Theon relationship in Season 5. It's clear from the writing that some of the producers
encouraged something of a fratboy relationship with other cast and crew and sometimes pushed
things too far resulting in tense moments on set. The most honest and outspoken actor in the book is
Liam Cunningham who cuts through the normal Hollywood PR banter (which to be fair most of the
cast try to avoid but sometimes fall into it by rote) to deliver some real honesty on some of the
conditions of shooting. He also stands up for Stephen Dillane who played Stannis Baratheon and had

made some dismissive comments of the show (Dillane didn't take part in the new interviews for the book) noting that Dillane always did good work had a strong work ethic and a withering sense of humour that didn't always come across well in interviews. Benioff Weiss and Martin don't really talk about it but plenty of the actors several HBO executives and Bryan Cogman do and note how things may or may have not worked as well as they'd hoped. Ramin Djawadi's memorable score (the one thing almost uniformly praised about the series) goes almost completely unmentioned the work of Elastic and Angus Wall on the memorable title sequence is also disregarded and the CG teams tasked with bringing the locations and creatures to life are also not quoted. It's good to see the writers and actors being self deprecating and owning various problems and mistakes but there's also a few moments when it feels like the book pulls its punches and doesn't delve deeper into behind the scenes issues. The book's real achievement may be in getting Benioff and Weiss to admit what many had suspected all along: they really wanted to be making movies all along they always planned to prioritise big battles and effects over character and theme (Benioff's daft assertion that themes are only for eighth grade book reports is mentioned several times) and that without Martin's books to rest on they lost confidence in how to proceed and struggled without source material. In some areas it is insightful and revelatory getting further into why certain baffling decisions were taken but in others it leans back and goes out of its way to avoid criticism or controversy. For a book officially endorsed by HBO there is some quite scathing criticism of both some people in the network as well as some of the lesser known actors involved in the series it certainly isn't just a PR puff piece. However for me personally as someone who got into Game of Thrones in a major way around 2015 I felt that significant proportions of the information presented I had already seen reported elsewhere. The book is well written and is a very easy going read I read it cover to cover on the day of release and found it to be something I couldn't really put down once I'd got started,



'It's all here everything you ever wanted to know. Packed with stunning photographs from the show and from behind the scenes this is the only book that will be absolutely essential reading for every Game of Thrones fan. Game of Thrones is the biggest television drama ever to have graced our screens: The epic saga of warring families huge battles arduous journeys and dying heroes has captured the hearts and attention of millions of fans across the world, He was in Croatia when Joffrey Baratheon perished; he was in Northern Ireland when Jon Snow desperately fought in the Battle of the Bastards, He has documented every part of the making of the show and has had exclusive access to cast members writers and directors, It may not be for everyone I like that he has a way of injecting humour in describing some scenes but also respectful in totally horrific ones: The book I feel is a love letter to GoT and the actors and writers who made the show a colossal phenomenon. So much divisions with the last season this book hopefully reveals what went behind the scenes with interviews about scenes and even how they dealt with sudden fame, These are real stories and real experiences of everyone that was involved and not just the major characters: I loved reliving some scenes and what was going through the actors' heads during, I'm hoping the pictures are approved to be published it will give potential readers an idea of what the book is about, com I absolutely loved this book and I was sad to reach the end: There are insights I didn't know and

interesting thoughts and fun anecdotes from both cast and creatives. Lots of interesting content this is in there but alongside a lot of rapid actor quotes opinions and thoughts: com Game of Thrones is the most successful show in the history of HBO rising from humble beginnings in 2011 to become the biggest TV drama on the planet, In 2019 the show wrapped after eight seasons and 73 episodes to deliver one of the most negatively received final seasons in recent memory, Weiss and vast numbers of the cast from the smallest bit part player to leading actors Kit Harington Peter Dinklage and Emilia Clarke, This is the oft contentious story of the making of the show that changed television. TV companion books are a bit of a dying art these days with the Internet and its plethora of fan blogs and wikis making them feel a bit redundant. From there things proceed roughly chronologically until the end of the show. The first thing that has to be noted is that this is not an unauthorised guide to the making of the show but a HBO approved product (complete with HBO provided photographs): If you're expecting to find dirt and gossip you're not going to find it here: Anything majorly contentious has been finely exercised from the text. Despite this the book's fact checking clearly left something to be desired. Martin started writing A Game of Thrones in 1993 but it was actually in 1991, A few other similar errors crop up through the book and it does feel like a bit attention to detail would not have gone amiss: During Season 1 they didn't have any security and David Benioff had to personally stand guard over Robert Baratheon's tent to stop curious bystanders from making off with props. These stories are amusing bits of trivia but somewhat inconsequential, There's also a lot of open discussion about the weak Dorne storyline in Season 5 and how it didn't work and they had to scramble to try to fix it later on. Other controversies are completely ignored though with a particularly criticised Cersei/Jaime scene in Season 4 getting no mention at all, Even interesting are the moments when people get a bit too honest: His pointblank refusal to film some scenes because he felt they betrayed his character and made Davos less of a relatable figure is quite startling, The thing most people will be interested in is the reception to the finale: However there is a bit of a disappointing PR answer that maybe the ending will be looked upon differently in another ten years. Hibberd has certainly written an above average TV companion book here with plenty of interesting stories and funny moments of trivia but it's one that also has some glaring holes, Fire Cannot Kill a Dragon (**1/2) is readable and fun packed with fresh anecdotes and interesting trivia about the making of Game of Thrones, It certainly doesn't trouble the quality of The Deep Space Nine Companion which twenty years after release still represents the gold standard of a TV companion volume: But it's certainly worth reading if you're interesting in what happened behind the scenes on the biggest show of the decade: com I've been generous and rounded this up to 4 stars but really it falls at about a 7/10 for me: I was impressed at how candid the author was able to be for the majority of the book despite his close connections to many of the people involved in producing the show: There is a wealth of information about the production of the series from the very beginning of David & Dan pitching the show to George R: Someone less intune to the regular media coverage would probably find the content novel: Whatever your feelings on the conclusion of the series there will be something for you in this book. Fire Cannot Kill a Dragon is an amazing read.'GEORGE R. R. Fire Cannot Kill a Dragon: 'An amazing read' George R.R. wpstarternepal. Time for a rewatch! wpstarternepal.com A good fan book. wpstarternepal. Among the people he's spoken to are George R.R. Martin David Benioff and D.B. He starts at the beginning with George R.R. A few pages later we're told that George R.R.Once that hurdle is overcome there is much to enjoy. And so forth. Meatier are the controversies. wpstarternepal.R. Martin right up to the divisive final season. wpstarternepal.com.