



The Ultimate Encyclopedia of Fantasy

David Pringle (Editor) , Terry Pratchett (Foreword)

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With a foreword by Terry Pratchett, this essential reference has been revised and updated for 2008. Lavishly illustrated and expertly informed it details everything the novice needs to know about the genre and everything the well-read fan is calling out for. This encyclopedia divulges just what constitutes fantasy and where the parameters lie, and celebrates the finest and lesser-known works that make up the genre, be they books, movies, television shows or iconic images.

The Ultimate Encyclopedia of Fantasy Details

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bluetyson says

The Ultimate Encyclopedia of Fantasy by David Pringle (2006)

Chris says

Of necessity list-based, this was still a fascinating look at the world of Fantasy. The authors looked at all types of fantasy, including novels, magazines, TV, films and games. They also covered the fantasy authors, the worlds they created, and the characters. A wonderful introduction for anyone interested in the subject, or for ideas for where to start if you are new to it.

Marc the Darc says

Although it is dated now by almost 20 years, this "encyclopedia" provides an extensive catalog of fantasy literature, authors, film, television, famous locales and creatures and more, up to the year 2000. It has a definite Western slant, and is a British publication, but there is no lack of American content. The influences of other cultures and common Eastern fantasy elements are recognized, but unless an Eastern film or show had notable penetration or a clear influence in the West, it will not appear here.

The delineation between 'fantasy' and 'science fiction' is powerful, and you will not find the latter here, as it is reserved for a separate publication by the same editor.

Flipping through this oversized book will bring back memories of shows and movies that you have not given thought to in many years. Or, if you are a younger reader, it may guide you to explore older media titles to enhance your fantasy cultural immersion. In fact, this is where the book really shines; it provides a well-rounded education about the fantasy genre through history. The introduction provides a perfect summary of fantasy literature through history, dating back many centuries, and highlights all of the significant influences that led to the current state of the genre. It is scholarly and accessible. It has certainly prompted me to build up my 'to-read' list with some foundational works.

Going further than the editor, the introduction by Sir Terry Pratchett examines the development of fantasy in *PRE*-history, no easy task.

In my opinion, there was perhaps an effort to be *too* inclusive in the catalogs. For example, the fantasy authors section includes many names that have no real impact or recognition; some of them had simply had a couple of fantasy books out in the 1-2 years prior to this book's publication. If anything, this serves to highlight the relative dearth of fantasy then, compared to the explosion of current publishing, if it was worth listing even very minor authors.

The listings of TV and film in particular provide mini-reviews, which were often amusing. The authors were not afraid to be critical and personal where appropriate.

BookLever says

Not really a reading book but a wonderful reference book of all things fantasy - movie, tv, books, authors and worlds. Probably getting a bit dated now (2018) but I think a must have for fantasy bookaholics. And of course any book that adds more words to any library by the brilliant and missed Sir Terry Pratchett is a must.
