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Steampunk: An Illustrated History Of Fantastical Fiction, Fanciful Film And Other Victorian Visions



Synopsis

Steampunk is the hottest science fiction counterculture, alive in fantasy novels, films, arts and crafts, fashion, comic books, music, computer games, even architecture. Enter a world of Victorian technology, where steam power meets space travel. From Jules Verne and H. G. Wells to Alan Moore, Hayao Miyazaki, and Philip Pullman, the genre has captured imaginations around the globe. Here's the first grand, illustrated history of the counterculture movement in a book fittingly stylish in its design, package, and artwork. From the fastest dirigible and steam-powered ray guns to fashionistas Lady Gaga and Alexander McQueen, the whole story of the gaslight romance is here.

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Customer Reviews

This is certainly a rather well presented, sumptuous volume easily suited to the coffee table; I do, however have a few minor issues with it. Firstly; if you already own a copy of "The Steampunk Bible" several of the images in that book re-appear here; that's fairly unavoidable given the iconic status some book-jacket covers have taken on, though some of the costume photos and film-stills could have been more varied and better identified; I also think that publication still gives the more rounded account and overview of the genre to date. This volume does, however, make a very good companion to the "Bible" and is in an impressively larger format. Robb's book provides an excellent in-depth, authoritative exploration of the literary element of the genre, its origins and antecedents, key works, authors, themes, etc., he also goes into detail with subjects such as graphic novels, the Japanese scene, music - all the diverse elements that come under the Steampunk heading - the

only unsatisfactory topic for me is in the definition of what constitutes Steampunk influence in film, TV and video games, which at times can be a little tenuous; this arises from the basic problem that there has yet to be a truly defining Steampunk drama, a successful, iconic movie or series aficionados can unanimously agree on. That's hardly the fault of the author though and other Steampunk books deal with this territory with much the same inconclusive outcomes. A useful quotation from Abney Park's lead singer is illuminating; "We've had Steampunk movies for as long as we've had movies...It's just been recently given a name.

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