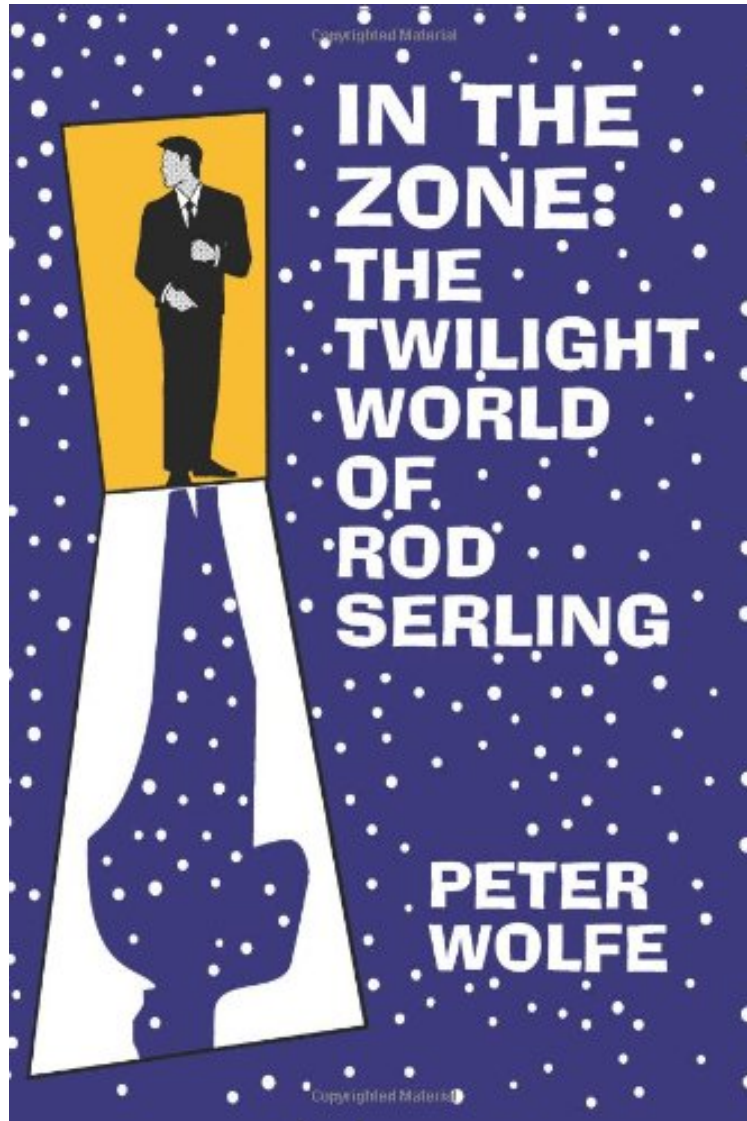


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In the Zone: The Twilight World of Rod Serling

Peter Wolfe

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Peter Wolfe : In the Zone: The Twilight World of Rod Serling before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised In the Zone: The Twilight World of Rod Serling:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Not For the Faint Hearted By USC Trojan Girl This paperback book is very well written. It is not written for the faint hearted, meaning this is not light reading. Professor Wolfe is very well versed and he shows it. This book is a must have for any 'thinking' Twilight Zone fan. Professor Wolfe invites you to 'think' with him and he does. He got his point across. I liked this book so much I even wrote to the author and

had him sign my book for me. Thank you again, Professor Wolfe, for an extremely thought provoking little book. 41 of 43 people found the following review helpful. For Zone addicts only and maybe not then By lisatheratgirl Don't even bother to read this book unless you have seen all or most of the TV shows and/or have memorized Marc Scott Zicree's Twilight Zone Companion. The author presumes extensive knowledge on the part of the reader. I've been a fan of Rod for almost 40 years, and I found this book difficult. The author does make some interesting points and new insights, but they get drowned in his stream-of-consciousness style that is constantly jump-cutting from show to show and point to point without continuity. The book struck me as disorganized, even though he has chapters with names. Another irritant is his criticism of production errors, when his own writing and editing is inexcusably sloppy. He constantly gets details wrong, especially characters' names. This is important because he seems to find meanings in each person's name that I'm not sure Serling even thought of. He expounds on the meaning of the name Christopher, when the character is actually named Christian. In an episode involving two brothers, he mixes up the names repeatedly in discussing the plot. A character named "Jeff" he often refers to as "Jess"; unfortunately there is another episode with a main character named Jess, in which the same actor starred. He nitpicks about background noises from microphones and bandaids on actors' fingers until it makes you crazy. I also disagree with some of his premises. I think Serling did want the show to be about the paranormal rather than everything being projected in the characters' own minds. I believe in the paranormal; I get off the train right where Willoughby is supposed to be. Part of the wonder of the show is that the paranormal exists side by side with a very normal setting--the point is the episode could happen to you, with a little imagination. The author seems to lack this quality. 5 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Waste of Paper By Troy F. This book just rambles on with poorly explained ideas about a show I feel Wolfe barely watched. I found it very hard to read and understand. Please reconsider buying the other books mentioned above. Night Gallery: After Hours is very well researched (the authors were used for commentary on the Season 2 DVD set) and the Marc Scott Zicree Companion or the amazingly detailed "Unlocking the Door" Book by Grams are well worth the money. "Dimensions Behind the TZ" by Stanyard is also fun with many behind the scenes photos and interviews. But, beware, this book is the pit of your fears.

The classic television show The Twilight Zone explored the possibilities inhering in the ordinary. A Twilight Zone episode moved us by being poignant and intimate, rambunctious or thought provoking. But whether it takes place on an asteroid, in a city pool room, or in the backwoods, it will usually convey both a folklorist's eye for detail and the born raconteur's sense of pace. Rod Serling, the show's originator, main scriptwriter, and artistic director, knew how much burden he could place on his rhetorical and dramatic gifts. Deservedly celebrated as a pioneer fiction writer for television, Serling always grounded his work in the human condition: he wrote movingly about history and loyalty, the grip of everyday reality, and the dangers of both forgetting about one's ghosts and giving them the upper hand.

The Twilight Zone explores the possibilities inherent in the ordinary. A Twilight Zone episode can move us by being poignant and intimate, rambunctious or thought provoking. It can also be orchestrated as a set of intertwined plot developments or as a serial progression. But regardless of whether it takes place on an asteroid, in a city pool room, or in the backwoods, it will usually convey both a folklorist's eye for detail and the born raconteur's sense of pace. Rod Serling (the show's founder, main scriptwriter, and artistic director) knew how much burden he could place on his rhetorical and dramatic gifts. In The Zone is a tribute to one of the celebrated pioneers in television science fiction and a "must read" by every fan of the still popular series. -- Midwest Book From the Back Cover The Twilight Zone explores the possibilities inhering in the ordinary. A Twilight Zone episode can move us by being poignant and intimate, rambunctious or thought provoking. It can also be orchestrated as a set of intertwined plot developments or as a serial progression. But regardless of whether it takes place on an asteroid, in a city pool room, or in the backwoods, it will usually convey both a folklorist's eye for detail and the born raconteur's sense of pace. Rod Serling, the show's founder, main scriptwriter, and artistic director, knew how much burden he could place on his rhetorical and dramatic gifts. Deservedly celebrated as a pioneer in TV science fiction, he also writes about history and loyalty, the grip of everyday reality, and the dangers of both forgetting about one's ghosts and giving them the upper hand. About the Author Peter Wolfe, professor of English at the University of Missouri- St. Louis, has written widely about modern literature and culture. In the Zone is his fifteenth book. His most recent title for the Popular Press, Alarms and Epitaphs: The Art of Eric Ambler, was awarded the first annual Armchair Detective award for the best scholarly work in the mystery genre for 1993. Mr. Wolfe also won the University of Missouri President's Award for Research and Creativity in 1995.