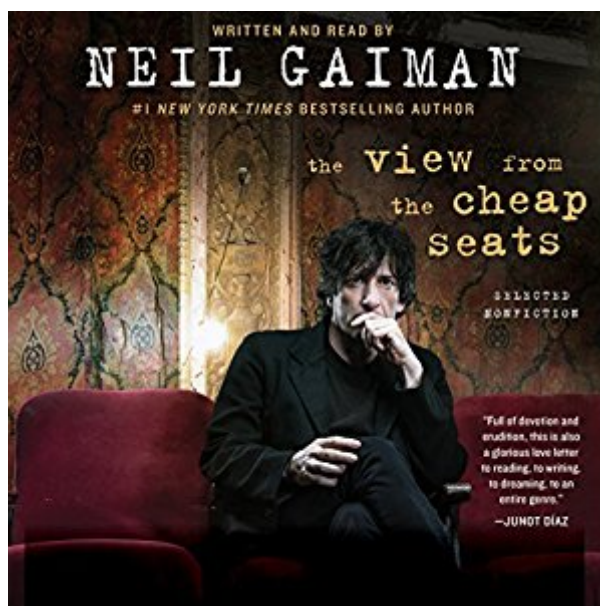


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The View From The Cheap Seats: Selected Nonfiction



Synopsis

An enthralling collection of nonfiction pieces on myriad topics - from art and artists to dreams, myths, and memories to comics, films, and literature - observed in award-winning number-one New York Times best-selling Neil Gaiman's probing, amusing, and distinctive style. An inquisitive observer, thoughtful commentator, and assiduous craftsman, Neil Gaiman has long been celebrated for the sharp intellect and startling imagination that informs his fiction. Now *The View from the Cheap Seats* brings together, for the first time ever, more than 60 works of his outstanding nonfiction on topics and people close to his heart. As Neil explains, "This book is not 'the complete nonfiction of Neil Gaiman'. It is, instead, a motley bunch of speeches and articles, introductions and essays. Some of them are serious, and some of them are frivolous, and some of them are earnest, and some of them I wrote to try to make people listen." In prose that's analytical yet playful, erudite yet accessible, Neil explores a broad range of interests and topics, including (but not limited to) authors past and present; music; storytelling; comics; bookshops; travel; fairy tales; America; inspiration; libraries; ghosts; and the title piece, at turns touching and self-deprecating, which recounts his experiences at the 2010 Academy Awards in Hollywood. Neil ponders the truth of fiction and the power of stories (and why we tell them) and offers his own profiles of and insights into writers who have influenced him, including C. S. Lewis, J. R. R. Tolkien, Ray Bradbury, Diana Wynne Jones, Stephen King, Rudyard Kipling, James Thurber, and his dear friend, Terry Pratchett. He offers unlikely perspectives on subjects as diverse as *The Bride of Frankenstein*, *Doctor Who*, *Batman*, *Tori Amos*, *Lou Reed*, *They Might Be Giants*, and *Amanda Palmer*. And he includes a moving essay on the plight of Syrian refugees in a United Nations camp in Jordan. Illuminating and incisive, witty and wise, *The View from the Cheap Seats* explores some of the issues, subjects, and people that matter most to Neil Gaiman - and offers a unique glimpse into the mind of one of the most beloved and influential writers of our time.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Not every writer [could pull off a book like this](#). It [is](#) a collection of random speeches, front matter from books (not his own), liner notes, and the occasional eulogy for individuals living and dead. While the book is organized into sections on topics like other authors, comic books, films, and music, it seems that organization derives organically from the topics on which Neil Gaiman is asked to comment--rather than a desire to tighten the book [around](#) a theme. If you [are](#) a Neil Gaiman fanboy/girl, you [will](#) need no excuse to read anything that he puts out (even though--if that is the case--you [probably](#) have read much of this before in separate outings.) So the question is why the rest of us [who](#) may enjoy Gaiman [is](#) writing tremendously but who don't [qualify](#) as fanboys / fangirls [should](#) read this. The reason that it [is](#) worth reading is that Neil Gaiman is funny, has a way of framing ideas that makes them thought-provoking and interesting, and frequently writes quotable bits of text that are essentially brain candy. The book [is](#) title comes from an essay on Gaiman [is](#) experience attending the Oscars from the upper balcony. As mentioned, the book is divided into thematic sections--ten of them to be precise. The book starts with ["Some Things I Believe,"](#) which presents speeches on the virtue of reading, libraries, books, and bookstores. The next section discusses people he has known and worked with [largely](#) writers and graphic artists. Then Gaiman offers thoughts on the nature of science fiction, again mostly through book forwards on seminal works from the genre. There is a section on films and Gaiman [is](#) experience with them [several](#) of his works have been made into films and many others have been considered. The next part is on comic books and the works and artists that influenced Gaiman. The next section bears the title ["Introductions and Contradictions"](#) and it offers introductions for various books (not Gaiman [is](#) but those written for other writers.) There [is](#) a musical section about a few recording artists including They Might Be Giants, Lou Reed, and [of course](#) Gaiman [is](#) wife

Amanda Palmer. Next, Gaiman presents some introductions and forwards for works of fantasy. One section includes only a solitary entry--a commencement speech entitled "Make Good Art." The final section is sort of a catchall of essays that includes the title piece and one on events in Syria. I'd recommend this book for those who enjoy reading (or writing) in the genres for which Gaiman is known. His comments offer interesting insight, and you may learn about some books and authors that you'd never heard of before.

Picked this up at the library, drawn by the authors name and my previous, absolute love of his other writings, but after my two weeks were up at the library, and I had only got through 100 pages (slowly reading and savoring each article and chapter), I downloaded the kindle version for further consumption. I am reading this slower than almost any other Gaiman book I've ever picked up, primarily because after he lauds and applauds a particular author or genre, I pause to pick up the suggested reading and have to wait until I've finished the book until this pick it up again. I don't read comics at all, and have never attempted to navigate graphic comics either, but learned some interesting things about those pioneering artists and authors. It's even made me think I should convert a few of my own short stories into comics as well. If you have read his far into the review, I'll offer Gaiman's own prologue advice, if a chapter isn't interesting, skip it. Not every chapter needs to be read, I've skipped over a handful myself, only scanning briefly in case some lucious oyster stands out and catches my eye.

This is a collection of Neil Gaiman's nonfiction which gives great insight into his thinking and writing. It's a great book, and the answers to the standard questions above do not give this read its due because it isn't a novel, it's a collection of Gaiman's nonfiction thoughts, speeches and writings. Since he gave up journalism in favor of an independent writing career which has catapulted him to the top of his trade, it is a must read for all Gaiman fans and aspiring writers, even those already published. A good read for young people who aspire to a writing career.

I don't even know where to Begin...a Life long Lover of the Written Word as being quite possibly the True Measure of Culture & Civilization...i Bow in Deep Respect to Neil Gaiman as Being the Writer of one of my Favorite books of all time (Stardust) & now a book about Being an Author, Artist, Human, Lover, Thinker Devoted to Making Things Up...You are a Supreme Inspiration to me Neil in Every Respect...i Love You Beyond Measure...Buy This Book & Read It Immediately

Gaiman tells a fascinating story of his life as he was becoming and has become a writer and that is inspiring. That he was most influenced by three Christian writers and their styles is also of great interest. He wanted to be a storyteller; he is. I loved it.

What a writer - says so much in such a small amount of words. He's funny, detached, and smart smart smart.

Very surprised to find this listed -- the various movie, book, and TV reviews from Neil Gaiman, as well as a look into his personal life and his impressions on traveling and how he met his wife. Though, it only serves to remind me I'm about 4 fiction books behind. Always a good read.

When authors collect their various thoughts into one volume, not all of them will appeal to every reader, no matter how much you love that author. The pieces I enjoyed, I enjoyed immensely. And Gaiman delivered on his noble intention: he introduced me to some authors that I never before would have considered reading. And a musical artist or two as well!

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