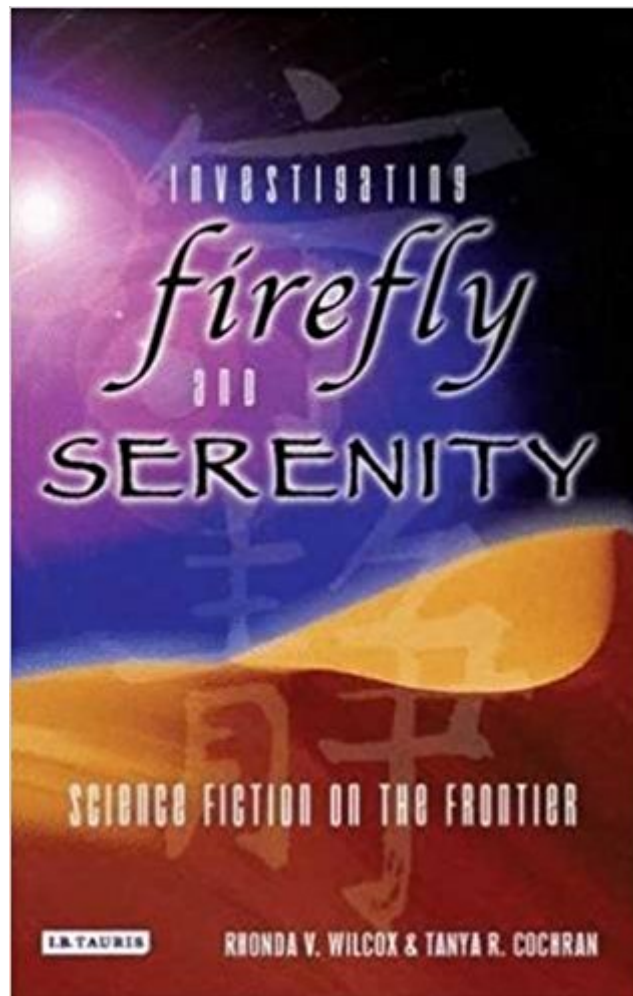




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# Investigating Firefly And Serenity: Science Fiction On The Frontier (Investigating Cult TV)



## Synopsis

Joss Whedon's *Firefly* is one of the most popular TV shows ever. *Serenity* was the wildly successful follow-up to the series. Here is a definitive guide to the series and the movie, offering an in-depth and comprehensive look at the TV phenomenon kept alive by the fans. The brain child of Joss Whedon--of *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* and *Angel* fame--*Firefly* ran for twelve hour-long episodes before being cancelled by the network. But this premature burial had a remarkable outcome: resurrection. The fans--self-named *Browncoats*--kept multiplying, the DVDs kept selling and the show forged a new life on the internet, sustained by blogs, fan-fics and podcasts. Films, meetings and conferences ensured their numbers increased, as did the release of the major *Firefly* motion picture *Serenity*.  
From detailed chapters on scenes and themes, through to explorations of the characters, actors, music, and, of course, the fans, *Investigating Firefly and Serenity* tells readers everything they need to know about the show and more. With contributions from over twenty of the best international Whedon scholars, TV & film critics, and writers, it will become the must-have book for followers of the series/film, for fans of Joss Whedon and his work, and anyone with an interest in the modern phenomenon of cult TV and the remarkable power of the internet.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Rhonda V. Wilcox is Professor of English, Gordon College, Barnesville, GA and author of *Why Buffy Matters: The Art of Buffy the Vampire Slayer* (I.B. Tauris, 2005). She is co-editor, with David Lavery, of *Fighting the Forces: What's at Stake in 'Buffy the Vampire Slayer'*™ and online editor of the

International Journal of Buffy Studies, Slayage. Tanya Cochran is both a doctoral candidate at Georgia State University and Assistant Professor of English at Union College, Lincoln, NE.Â She is currently Vice Chair of Science Fiction and Fantasy for the American Popular Culture Association.

Great book on the series/film -- contains a wide variety of essays to suit a variety of interests

A 5 year anniversary gift for my guy. He loved it!

This is a good series of essays on the Firefly universe. I also like all things Firefly, but I found many of the other essay books to only touch on a point without fully exploring all areas and aspects of the points with which they are trying to get across. As for being deep, I understand as some of the essays required me to look up some of the referenced work, but I think that is what makes this such a great book. These essays were written with a college level understanding in mind. If you are looking for something to make you think and at times think hard, and you actually want to broaden your horizons or learn new thoughts and ideas, then this is a great Firefly book.

The articles are so great! I'm a major Joss nerd, so I'm totally biased. I could read about the characters in Firefly and Serenity all day long. Everything gives you new perspective and appreciation for a great work.

nice book, thanks

The last (and only other) reviewer who commented on Investigating Firefly and Serenity called this book "trash" simply because it was "meant for PhDs." I have to disagree--I think that just because this book was intended for a different audience than he or she expected doesn't automatically make it trash. This is a book with a particular audience, though-- it is geared toward those who enjoy academic film and/or literary analysis. Read with this perspective in mind, it is an excellent addition to the academic work that is being done on Joss Whedon's television and film productions--and there is a significant audience for such texts and the academic analysis that they offer. Apparently the reviewer is unaware of this particular (but very active) part of Whedon's fan base. If, however, you are familiar with Lorna Jowett's *Sex and the Slayer*, Rhonda Wilcox's *Why Buffy Matters*, Stacey Abbott's *Reading Angel*, Levine and Park's *Undead TV*, Matthew Pateman's *Aesthetics of Culture in Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, etc., you will enjoy this book as well. I, in fact, enjoyed very

much the chapter "The Good Wife: Feminism, Post-Feminism, and Third Wave Feminism in Firefly," as well as the wide range of topics that the other chapters cover. There are some excellent essays that discuss the racial implications of Whedon's work, the role that the musical score plays in setting up certain aspects of Firefly and Serenity, the differences between the series and the film based on the differences of the mediums of television and cinema, and connections between the show/movie and the current post-9/11 socio-political context. I would say this book is not for every fan, but I think that any fan who is interested in examining Joss Whedon's work more in-depth will be rewarded when they pick up this book.

Overall this is an excellent collection of academic essays that explore Joss Whedon's amazing 'Verse. It is good to see new pop studies works that are serious academic works, and not just fan fodder like some other collections; eventually essays like these will become the foundation of future academic understanding of culture. The essays are enlightening, and well written but may not be for everybody - one must have a willingness to understand what the authors are attempting to accomplish with their respective essays and what the editors are attempting to do with this collection. I highly recommend this for any fan of film studies, pop culture studies, contemporary folklore, and of course most fans of the show Firefly and film Serenity.

I love all things Firefly and have everything published on Firefly and Serenity. That is - until I got this from the library. It is AWFUL. It's written for people with PhDs who never leave academia. If you pick this up you better have a dictionary in the other hand. Seriously - one of the chapter titles is: "Feminism, Postfeminism, and Third-Wave Feminism in Firefly". What exactly is that supposed to mean - and WHO CARES !! Another chapter is: "The Companions and Socrates: Is Inara a Hetaera?". What is a Hetaera ? Who knows - the author never bothers to explain. And it just gets worse. Unless you're a doctoral candidate (like the authors) you need to AVOID THIS BOOK. Written by eggheads for eggheads. Needlessly complicated and simply awful.

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