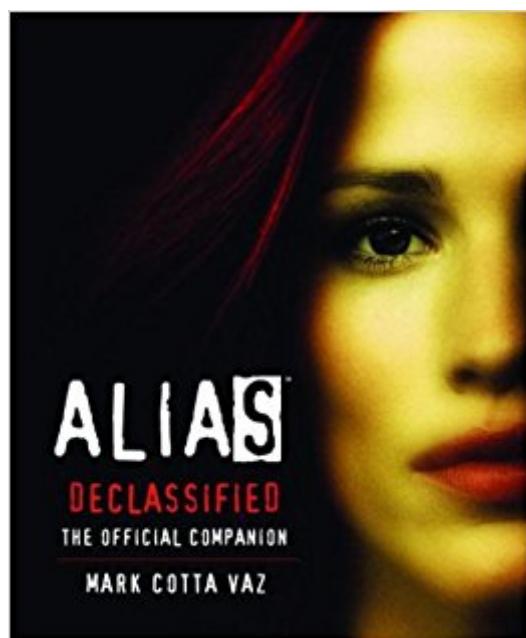


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# Alias Declassified: The Official Companion (Book & DVD)



## **Synopsis**

The only all-access AUTHORIZED behind-the-scenes look at the making of the smash TV show, with reflections and anecdotes that readers won't find anywhere else - from cast members, writers, and creator/executive producer J.J. Abrahams.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

The only all-access AUTHORIZED behind-the-scenes look at the making of the smash TV show, with reflections and anecdotes that readers won't find anywhere else - from cast members, writers, and creator/executive producer J.J. Abrahams.

Mark Cotta Vaz is the author of numerous books, including *Behind the Mask of Spider-Man: The Secrets of the Movie* and *The Complete Star Wars Trilogy Scrapbook*.

I am a huge Alias fan. I found this book to be a great addition to my Alias collection. The book is very interesting with details about the characters, actors, design sets, and just about everything. I was interested in how some of the actors and actresses have kind of created their own characters behind the "script". It was a very fun and exciting read. I would recommend this to anyone who is a fan of alias. You will not be disappointed as this book is entertaining AND informative, which is quite

hard to find these days. If you enjoy Alias, you will love this book.

A must see for the avid Alias fan which just reinforces why you became hooked in the first place. For those who had the misfortune of missing the first season, this will definitely get you up to speed and wanting more... It also comes with a free exclusive DVD...What a bargain!

This behind-the-scenes book is a treat -- no padding nor aimless commentary, and very little of the unabashed fawning that often dominates such books. It's an excellent mini-episode guide to the first season. Moreover, it explains how the creative team has shaped the distinctive feel and plotting of the series. *ALIAS DECLASSIFIED* is also chock full of technical details, from the magic used to create certain effects, to the problems of functional yet sexy costume design, to the composition of the score which underpins the action. The DVD that accompanies the book (apparently only offered in the first 100,000 copies, so I have no idea as to its current availability) is a nice bonus. It features a lengthy ABC promo for the show, interview snippets with all of the main cast, and biographical information for the cast and characters.

I happened to be home the Sunday this show premiered in September of 2001. I was curious, so I watched. It wasn't too long before I was hooked. I had to know what would happen next and how Sydney would get out of yet another predicament. Anyone who knows me will tell you I've become a die hard addict, so when I found out about this book, I had to get a copy. Everything you might possibly want to know about this show is included between the covers. It starts by discussing J.J Abrams ideas that lead to the show and goes through the first season finale. Along the way, you get a behind the scenes look at everything from location scouting to costuming, color schemes, and the sets. Heck, I even learned some new stuff while reading. The last section includes detailed on set reports of the filming of the season finale. A highlight of the book is the detailed episode guide. Here, the author breaks every episode down to plot threads and keeps the story straight for us. It's wonderful if you need to catch up on some shows or just want a quick reminder of what's already happened. No matter how fanatical about Alias you are, this is a wonderful book. It will help fill in gaps or just give you a better picture of all the work that goes on behind the scenes to bring us one of the best shows currently on television.

"Alias Declassified" opens with the six words I use in the title of this review. And with these words in mind, author Mark Cotta Vaz deftly chronicles the origins and the production of the first season of

the ABC drama "Alias." The book is written with the finesse one would expect of a New Yorker feature article and as such is conspicuous in its economy and elegance of language. At the outset, Mr. Vaz invites the reader along to the famed Disney lot to explore the mystery at the core of "Alias," that "things are never what they seem," with the proviso that this is as true in TV production as it is in life. For me, the behind-the-scenes insights are the best feature of the book. There are many thoughtful quotes from the main players, both those on camera and off. The photographs are an excellent mix of studio stills, shots from production, and even informal cast and crew shots. Mr. Vaz really shines when he focuses on the wizards who create the world of "Alias". From Sydney's fantastic costumes and make-up, to the special effects, to the gadgets, even the gorgeous Rambaldi drawings all receive loving attention and ample display in a book with exceedingly high production values of its own. At 206 pages, this book isn't comprehensive and wisely doesn't try to be. Even so, as a script junkie, I found the episode summary section disappointingly thin, lacking depth of plot and action points. I would have been deliriously happy if they had treated each episode with the same deep exposition and description as they did "Almost Thirty Years." Maybe they are saving this for an episode guide companion book, well, one can hope! Nit picks-where were the quotes from the dialogue of the key scenes and how could they have entirely overlooked the great puzzle of the push-throughs? For me, the best test of "Alias Declassified" is that by the last page, I felt I had learned some previously undisclosed truth about the identity and the character of "Alias." Seeing season two now, this generous book has really enhanced my viewing experience.

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