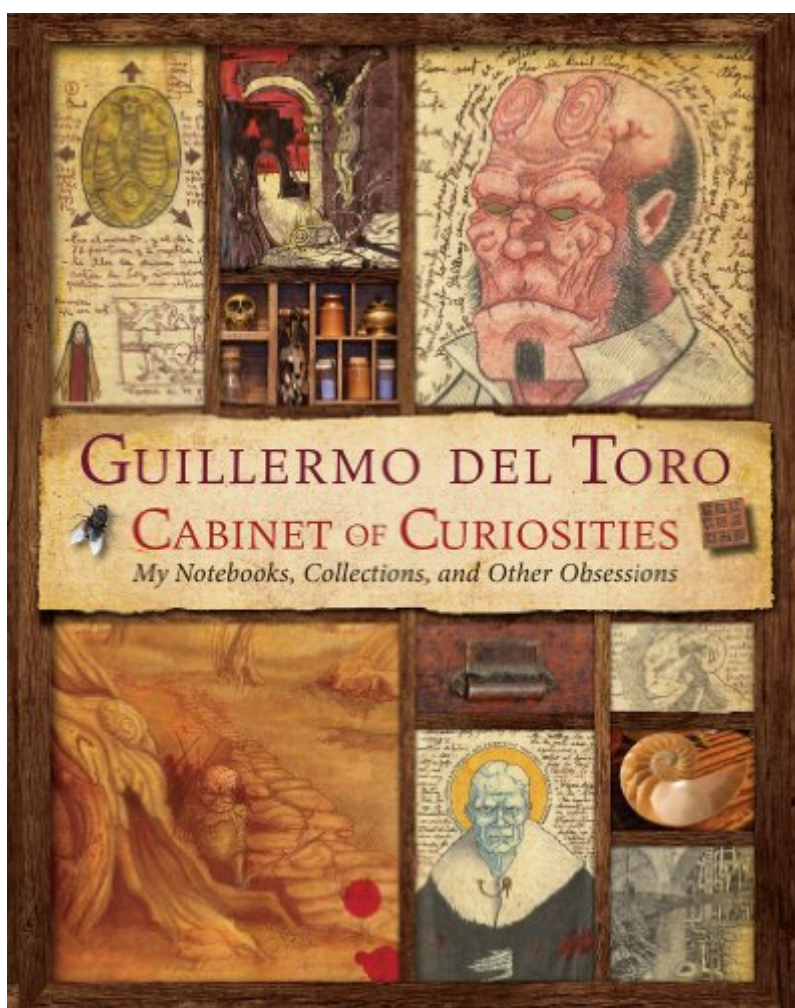


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Guillermo Del Toro's Cabinet Of Curiosities: My Notebooks, Collections, And Other Obsessions



Synopsis

Over the last two decades, writer-director Guillermo del Toro has mapped out a territory in the popular imagination that is uniquely his own, astonishing audiences with *Cronos*, *Hellboy*, *Pan's Labyrinth*, and a host of other films and creative endeavors. Now, for the first time, del Toro reveals the inspirations behind his signature artistic motifs, sharing the contents of his personal notebooks, collections, and other obsessions. The result is a startling, intimate glimpse into the life and mind of one of the world's most creative visionaries. Complete with running commentary, interview text, and annotations that contextualize the ample visual material, this deluxe compendium is every bit as inspired as del Toro is himself. Contains a foreword by James Cameron, an afterword by Tom Cruise, and contributions from other luminaries, including Neil Gaiman and John Landis, among others.

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Customer Reviews

If you've followed the career of director Guillermo del Toro, you no doubt have an admiration for his films. On the whole, some films are more successful than others - but they all have great design

work. In particular, his films are known for their abundance of creatures (some elegant, others terrifying). We get personal artwork from every film that Mr. del Toro has directed - "Cronos", "Mimic", "The Devil's Backbone", "Blade II", "Hellboy", "Pan's Labyrinth", "Hellboy II: The Golden Army", and "Pacific Rim". Most of these are early drawings, sketches, and storyboards - and some of it differs greatly from what appears in the finished film. There are also full-page scans from del Toro's idea journals, which includes extensive writing in both English and Spanish. I am so glad that this artwork has been made available, it shows how much time and effort goes into the designs of these movies. Del Toro has been attached to dozens of projects, yet he has only made 8 films. So there's a lot of work that has yet to make it to the screen - fortunately, we also get a few pages of designs from some of these unfinished projects, such as "At the Mountains of Madness" and "Meat Market". By far the best and most numerous designs come from "Pan's Labyrinth" and the two "Hellboy" movies... a lot of the book's real estate is dedicated to those films. In terms of disappointments, I would have liked to have seen more from "Pacific Rim" - there are about 10 pages or so on that movie, but oddly there are no Jaeger or Kaiju drawings. What's NOT included in the book: most notably, del Toro spent 2+ years working on pre-production of "The Hobbit" before leaving the project. As a fan, I would have loved to see some of his artwork from Middle-Earth. Also, del Toro has overseen various Dreamworks Animation projects, like "Rise of the Guardians" and "Kung Fu Panda 2". I'm not sure how hands-on his involvement with those films was, but it's hard to imagine he didn't sketch out something for those movies. There are a number of notable individuals who author pages discussing their friendship/collaboration with Guillermo del Toro: James Cameron - director of "Titanic" & "Avatar"

If you like Guillermo del Toro's films, heard of his Bleak House but have never seen what's inside, or just admire his sense and sensibilities, this is going to be an incredible book for you. It provides wonderful insight into the working mind of a director and eclectic collector. This is a big and heavy book. The hardcover is nicely embossed to make it feel like a wooden bookshelf. Inside, the book is filled with plenty of pictures and extensive text which makes for a substantial reading. The book's roughly split into three parts, covering his collections, notebooks and lastly the unfinished projects. The first part shows off the amazing collection of items found in his man cave, also known as Bleak House. There are photos of the different rooms and the incredible amount of objects he collects. There are movie props, huge piles of books, all sorts of character figures, a few life-size sculptures, one is of H.P. Lovecraft, in the hallway there's the monster Sammael from Hellboy and many more. The whole place feels like an intimate museum. The photos are delightful, and when

you look closely you can spot surprises, such as a Totoro or a book you might also have read. In this section, GDT also talks about his graphic inspirations, on how he read paintings, analyse films, explains his techniques of storytelling and his idea incubating notebooks. Fascinating. The second part on notebooks actually looks at the eight films he has made so far, namely Cronos, Mimic, The Devil's Backbone, Blade II, Hellboy, Pan's Labyrinth, Hellboy II and Pacific Rim. In interview style, author Marc Scott Zicree (MSZ) and GDT talks at length and in detail the inspiration behind each film. It's really insightful to read about how the ideas morph and evolve. No all ideas get used, of course, but you'll still see them in the notebook pages. You'll gain much more if you've watched the movies, although that is not totally necessary, but highly recommended. Pacific Rim's coverage is sadly much shorter than the other films. The numerous scanned notebook pages really provides another dimension to how GDT's mind works. There's quite a lot to read from the notebooks' captions alone. Also included are amazing concept designs from GDT himself. GDT says the notebooks are for his daughters, but they only draw manga style and find his drawings reprehensible and horrible. That's pretty funny. Author MSZ managed to elicit lots of interesting bits of information with thoughtful questions. The last part on unfinished projects is quite brief. Five projects are mentioned with each taking two pages. Interspersed throughout the book are also write-up by prominent guests, such as James Cameron, John Landis, Alfonso Cuaron, Ron Perlman, Mike Mignola and others just to name a few. What's missing in the book is perhaps his role as a producer on other films. I would love to read about what he does as a producer. It's not mentioned in any way, but that's a small issue. Overall, this is a truly insightful and incredible book. Highly recommended. (There are more pictures of the book on my blog. Just visit my profile for the link.)

The Limited Edition is absolutely worth it! All the props are amazing. Be advised though, the Cronos' scarab does pop open so you can keep things in it but don't expect it's legs to pop out like the film's (that would be too much to ask for) and the box is not wood, rather a carton with a rather believable wood print. But those are not complains! It is AMAZING. If you love del Toro's work and you want a peak into his genius, it doesn't get any better than this! Oh, and it also includes exclusive prints and the book is signed by him on the inside (on a separate numbered paper). So, DON'T THINK TWICE! DO IT!

It's all very nice. The book is bound beautifully and the limited edition prints are wonderfully printed and ready to frame in your collection room. I also feel like the prop reproductions are well done,

although maybe a bit "plasticky." This review would have been a 5 star review if not for the box that houses the contents...it's absolutely horrible. I was under the impression that the box was made of REAL wood and the price certainly reflects that as I have bought dozens of other limited editions at an even lesser price that had real wood. I was very seriously disappointed in that part of this set because what could have been a first class presentation was ruined by this mistake and yes, it is most certainly a mistake.

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