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The Essential *Sopranos* Reader

Edited by David Lavery, Douglas L. Howard, & Paul Levinson

The Sopranos is recognized as the most successful cable series in the history of television. The *Washington Post* has called the popular series, winner of twenty-one Emmys and five Golden Globes, "the television landmark that leaves other landmarks in the dust." In every aspect—narrative structure, visual artistry, writing, intertextuality, ensemble acting, controversial themes, dark humor, and unflinching examinations of American life—*The Sopranos* has had few equals.

Offering a definitive final assessment of the series, *The Essential Sopranos Reader* aims to comprehensively examine the show's themes and enduring cultural significance. Gender and ethnicity, the role of dreams, the rebirth of HBO, the series' controversial finale, and other topics come under scrutiny in this highly accessible, engaging collection. The book concludes with an interview with Dominic Chianese, who played Uncle Junior in all six seasons of the show.

David Lavery, professor of English at Middle Tennessee State University, is the editor of *The Essential Cult TV Reader*.

Douglas L. Howard, assistant academic chair and associate professor in the English Department at Suffolk County Community College, is the editor of *Dexter: Investigating Cutting Edge Television*.

Paul Levinson, professor of communication and media studies at Fordham University, is the award-winning author of several science fiction novels as well as books on new media.



"*The Essential Sopranos Reader* shines on many levels, and should crossover to a broad readership. The overall quality and scope, style and depth of this volume will further enhance the distinction of the Essential Readers in Contemporary Media and Culture Studies at the University Press of Kentucky."—George Plasketas, author of *B-Sides, Undercurrents and Overtones: Peripheries to Popular Music, 1960 to the Present*

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