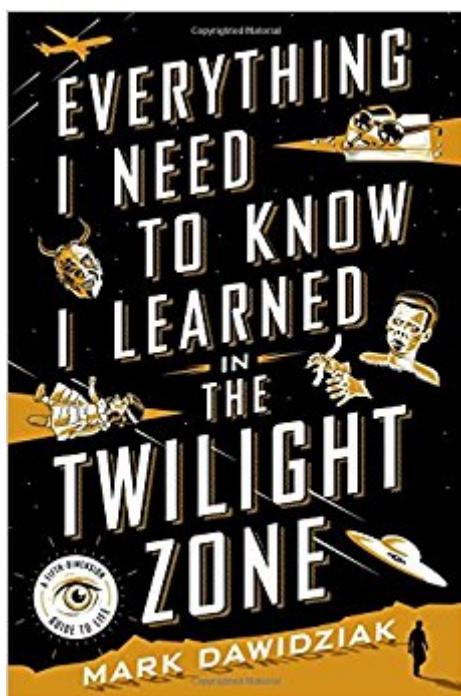


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# Everything I Need To Know I Learned In The Twilight Zone: A Fifth-Dimension Guide To Life



## Synopsis

Can you live your life by what The Twilight Zone has to teach you? Yes, and maybe you should. The proof is in this lighthearted collection of life lessons, ground rules, inspirational thoughts, and stirring reminders found in Rod Serling's timeless fantasy series. Written by veteran TV critic, Mark Dawidziak, this unauthorized tribute is a celebration of the classic anthology show, but also, on another level, a kind of fifth-dimension self-help book, with each lesson supported by the morality tales told by Serling and his writers. The notion that "it's never too late to reinvent yourself" soars through "The Last Flight," in which a World War I flier who goes forward in time and gets the chance to trade cowardice for heroism. A visit from an angel blares out the wisdom of "follow your passion" in "A Passage for Trumpet." The meaning of "divided we fall" is driven home with dramatic results when neighbors suspect neighbors of being invading aliens in "The Monsters Are Due on Maple Street." The old maxim about never judging a book by its cover is given a tasty twist when an alien tome is translated in "To Serve Man."

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"For 'The Twilight Zone' fans, 'Everything I Need to Know' is an absolute treasure trove of bite-sized analyses of favorite episodes and situations." - Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Mark Dawidziak has been a theater, film and television critic for more than thirty-five years. He has been the TV critic at the Cleveland Plain Dealer since July of 1999. His many books include the horror novel *Grave Secrets*, *The Bedside, Bathtub & Armchair Companion to Dracula*, the literary

biography Jim Tully: American Writer, Irish Rover, Hollywood Brawler (with Paul J. Bauer) and two acclaimed histories of landmark TV series: The Columbo Phile: A Casebook and The Night Stalker Companion. A member of the editorial board of Rod Serling Books, he penned the foreword to the 2015 reissue of Rod Serling's first book, Patterns. He has edited three collections of works by Twilight Zone contributor Richard Matheson. His many books on Mark Twain include Mark My Words: Mark Twain On Writing, Horton Foote's The Shape of the River: The Lost Teleplay About Mark Twain, Mark Twain's Guide to Diet, Exercise, Beauty, Fashion, Investment, Romance, Health and Happiness, Mark Twain in Ohio, and Mark Twain for Cat Lovers. A recognized Mark Twain scholar, he has been playing the great American writer on stage for more than thirty-five years. Dawidziak and his wife, actress Sara Showman, founded the Largely Literary Theater Company in 2002 to promote literacy, literature, and live theater. Their repertoire includes: Twain By Two; The Tell-Tale Play, a two-act collection of poems and stories by Edgar Allan Poe; and Shades of Blue and Gray: Ghosts of the Civil War. A journalism graduate of George Washington University and an adjunct professor at Kent State University, he was born in Huntington, New York. He lives in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, with his wife and their daughter, Rebecca à œBeckyâ • Claire.

Whether or not you remember when The Twilight Zone aired on television in the late 1950s and early 1960s or not everyone, yes everyone, will find a lot to learn in this book on the human mind and its inner-workings that exist in all of us. The many emotions everyone demonstrates throughout life such as greed, envy, love, hate, loneliness, insecurity, serenity, and any others you can think of are all here in this marvelous book and written in a way anyone ought to be able to identify with and see themselves in the episodes that Rod Serling brought to our television screen. Favorite episodes are brought to light once again and prove to be just as poignant now as they were close to sixty years ago in this now Divided States of America. Author Mark Dawidziak has proven just how gifted Red Serling was in understanding the human mind. Anyone who reads this book will undoubtedly see themselves in it. Do yourself a favor and buy the book. I'm sure you will find it to be beneficial.

Mark Dawidziak has written a unique recollection of the TWILIGHT ZONE episodes with an eye toward what each story actually speaks to us deep-down. What the series creator Rod Serling gave us was a thinking-man's speculative fiction that challenges the psyche of the viewer~here EVERYTHING I NEED TO KNOW I LEARNED IN THE TWILIGHT ZONE slaps the varnish upon that classic storytelling for what it truly tried to "teach" us back in the 1960s (as well as now). Dawidziak writes in an entertaining manner with comic wit as well as real-world-applicable critiques

of Serling's lessons that showed on supper time television over 50 years ago. Every fan of the Twilight Zone needs to read this one for a special insight into what those episodes entailed, something you may just have missed! AND as a former "Joey Crown" myself, I couldn't agree more with Mark Dawidziak's assessment of those classic tales and the life-improving lessons contained therein.

Fantastic book, if you loved The Twilight Zone. Really takes you back to episodes, and their meanings. Many times, The Twilight Zone was a learning lesson. It spoke many times about humanity. People like Rod Serling are sorely missed.

Author Mark Dawidziak delivers an entertaining and thoughtful perspective on one of the greatest series in television history, The Twilight Zone. As a young boy watching Twilight Zone reruns (like the author himself, I did not see the show in its original run) I was fascinated with the endings of almost every episode. "What did I just experience?" was a common emotion I felt. It's as if the episodes themselves held something more important than just a well crafted story. Dawidziak explores just what that "something" is in a case by case rundown of many episodes. What happened in these self contained stories can serve as "life instructions" to the viewer. Lessons such as not giving up, believing in yourself, overcoming self doubt and even loving thy neighbor. All of these themes, and more, are carefully presented with Dawidziak weaving the synopsis of a particular episode into the fabric of our existence. Of course I read this book out of order- I wanted to learn the perspective and lessons of my favorite episodes first! Kudos to the author for serving up a fitting tribute to the immortal Rod Serling and his creation, the Twilight Zone. Let there be warmth indeed.

For those of us who are of a certain age, the Twilight Zone elicits a wellspring of nostalgia. As a teenager I sat mesmerized in front of the flickering screen viewing tales which could only be unlocked by the "key of imagination". During stressful times in my own life I have found pleasure in revisiting favorite episodes and, like the best of old friends, they have aged well and never fail to evoke fond memories. Author Davidziac is to be commended for compiling this homage to Serling, who was a twentieth century chain-smoking Aesop. I would unequivocally recommend this book to the legion of fans familiar with the television classic.

A recounting of many of the memorable episode's best plots. Subtle in its teaching points, it is a

good read!

The book is a very enjoyable read with some very great insight into the plots and characters of the Twilight Zone Show. If you enjoyed the original show or the later episodes, chances are you will find this book very interesting and insightful. Caution, reading the book will cause you to want to see many of the classic episodes again.

I grew up watching the "Twilight Zone" generally as re-runs or late night fests. I often thought about the episodes after watching, trying to decide exactly what I had seen. "Everything I Need to Know..." helped me to understand the stories so much better. Not only are the lessons explored clearly, but individual episodes are detailed bringing out tidbits that I had missed. Many thanks to Mr. Dawidziak for the care and love he displayed throughout this wonderful book.

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