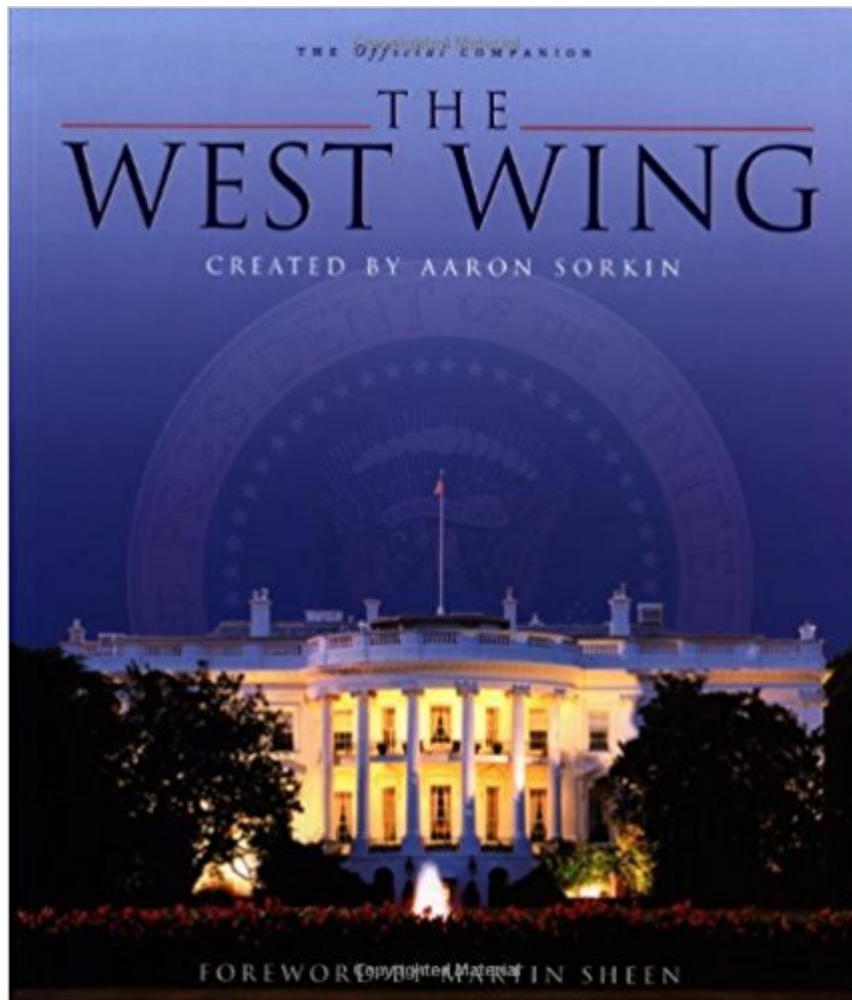




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# The West Wing (The Official Companion)



## Synopsis

A dark-horse candidate comes from behind to win his party's nomination. As if to spite the pollsters and talking heads, the frank and brilliant former governor, Jed Bartlet, captures the White House to become President of the United States. Surrounding himself with the best and the brightest, the president chooses his staff from the team responsible for putting him in the White House. Leo McGarry, the president's oldest friend -- and the man who convinces Bartlet to run -- is named chief of staff. One of the most powerful men in his party, Leo presides over the West Wing of the White House with a firm hand and a fatherly tone. With uncanny prescience, Leo puts his faith in Toby Ziegler, the only original staff member to make it through the campaign. Despite six previous failures, Toby's work along with a new team of friends and strangers, helps get Bartlet nominated and elected. Now, as the communications director for the White House, Toby holds an important role in crafting the president's word. Using the power instilled in him as an old family friend, Leo McGarry brings Josh Lyman to the campaign with a simple request to come hear Jed Bartlet speak. In a VFW hall in Nashua, New Hampshire, the skeptical Josh does come and is amazed to finally find a candidate to believe in. Convinced that the man should be president, Lyman gets his friend Sam Seaborn to quit his job at a major law firm where he is about to become a partner and join Bartlet's campaign. Gladly serving at the pleasure of President Bartlet, Sam is now the White House deputy communications director and his friend Josh is the deputy chief of staff. Two men from different backgrounds from opposite ends of the country are united not just by friendship but by their devotion to the president. "Is Jed Bartlet a good man?" is all that C.J. Cregg wants to know before she agrees to work for him. Toby Ziegler's assurance is all she needs to hear. In an age where the news cycle can last mere seconds, C.J. is the press secretary to the most demanding pool of reporters in the world, the White House Press Corps. With a staff of more than 1,100 people, the West Wing overflows with offices and personnel. Although the upper echelon provides the very public face of the White House, a support staff of hundreds regularly carries out the duties of the executive branch of the government. Filling these desks are numerous aides and assistants, like Donna Moss, who started working for Josh Lyman during the nomination campaign and is now "deputy-deputy chief of staff." Among her many responsibilities is to make sure that her boss is on time for meetings and fully prepared -- which sometimes means making sure that he is dressed. While the White House is very much a public institution, there is one man in particular whose job requires him to be either an imposing figure or totally invisible, often at the same time. Charlie Young, personal aide to the president, truly determines who has access. Among the many tasks laid out before this brilliant young man, he is first and foremost the keeper of the schedule. These

people, and a staff of hundreds more, lead America from the most privileged office in the world, from inside THE WEST WING Step inside the Bartlet Administration in this richly detailed, perfectly imagined official companion to television's most sophisticated dramatic series, "The West Wing. Created by Aaron Sorkin, "The West Wing won nine Emmy(R) Awards, the Humanitas Prize, the Peabody Award, and three Television Critics Association Awards in its first season alone -- and is acclaimed for its superb writing, marvelous portrayals by a stellar cast, and an intelligent, authentic depiction of White House life. Now, the show that has set television's new standard brings you this insider's guide -- which not only presents fascinating details into how groundbreaking television is made, but captures the colorful world of "The West Wing and the nation's capital under the Bartlet Administration. The prestigious Peabody Award cited "The West Wing as "a magnificent episodic series that depicts the tension and back-room drama of presidential politics with an unusual mixture of maturity and humanity." Now, experience the excitement and authenticity of "The West Wing as never before, with this unique, in-depth tribute.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Ian Jackman has worked as a collaborator with James Carville on Stickin'. He is the author of Total Request Live: The Ultimate Fan Guide. He lives in New York City.

A very frustratingly written book. I have many "companion" books to my favorite shows/movies. I have never seen one so lacking as this one. Oddly, nowhere in the book does it list the author(s). It

does not describe any of the photos, e.g., list the people's names who are in the photos. I of course recognized the actors, but had no idea what Aaron Sorkin looked like. I had to Google him to see a picture, then refer back to the book. Also, it describes the episodes in detail. While a small description of an episode is desirable, it's superfluous to have all of it, as we've seen it already! I much prefer having behind-the-scenes stories and anecdotes. All-in-all, a complete let-down.

I got this for my dad who has just discovered Netflix and has been binge watching The West Wing-- mostly as a tactic to avoid watching the news! He's a retired missionary and hasn't mentioned any sexual content or violence-- and believe me-- he would if it were in there! He really likes it so I'll be keeping an eye out for similar books.

The West Wing (The Official Companion)? Really? Yeah I guess it is...if there were only 2 seasons of The West Wing. I bought this expecting it to cover the entire show not just the first 2 seasons. I would like to return it but I probably won't due to the low cost of the book and the hassle of having to return it.

The book itself is in great condition, but it is not what I expected it to be. It is not a companion (or I should say it is barely a companion). They really only discuss a few incidents in the show and a few shows themselves. It doesn't even give a complete list of characters, situations, explanations of situations, etc. It's full of pictures and some behind the scenes revelations, but that's about it. I would not purchase it.

I love The West Wing and enjoy anything behind-the-scenes. Maybe I didn't pay attention, but on a quick page-through, this is only a compendium about the first season and features a detailed synopsis about each episode. The character comments about themselves and their castmates are a nice insight but there is not much else. However, the podcast by Josh Malina is much more informative.

I recently became a West Wing fan when I was recovering from surgery, this is the best TV series there ever was! After watching all seasons I found myself looking for more information on the writer, actors and the series itself. There is a wonderful book with a forward written by Martin Sheen who actually was the last actor to join the series. It gives insights from Aaron Sorkin the creator and the actors as well as beautiful color photos of the sets and an episode by episode narrative for the first

two seasons, I have never been interested in a TV series at this level, the only limitation is that it only covers the first two seasons.

I was very excited to see that an official companion had been compiled for *The West Wing*. The first two seasons of the show are covered in this guide, and as the show was in its prime during its first years, it is understandable that there are many talking points. The guide is quite detailed and provides a synopsis of each episode. On the outer edges of the pages are comments and insight by cast, crew, and the production staff. Also included are biographies of each actor and an account of how the show came into being. The guide is wonderful in its detail, though this also has its faults. I personally bought the book for behind the scenes information, and while there is certainly some included, the main focus of the book is on episode descriptions. I feel that each synopsis should have been shorter, and that analysis and anecdotal information should have taken center stage. The accounts provided by cast and crew are fascinating, and still make the book worth its value, but more behind the scenes facts would have made it even better. Overall, though, a great companion, especially for newcomers to the show.

If I could give this a 4.5 rating I would, but only because it doesn't have all the episodes in it. I wish I had read the other reviews before buying this, so I wasn't disappointed when I found out. That being said, this book is great! Well written, with good information about the first two seasons' episodes, it really is the perfect companion to *The West Wing*. I have been watching the entire series again on Netflix, so this came at the perfect time. The book is very large, so it's probably just as well that it's just the first two seasons.

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