



Mervyn Peake's Vast Alchemies: The Illustrated Biography

By Winnington, G. Peter.

Peter Owen. 1 Paperback(s), 2009. soft. Book Condition: New. Following decades of research into the life and work of English novelist, poet, playwright, and artist Mervyn Peake, this superb illustrated biography follows Peake, the son of missionary parents, from his birth in China to art school in London and an artists' colony in the Channel Islands. It then explores in detail Peake's experiences in the army during World War II and unhappy period during which he wrote *Titus Groan*, the first of the *Gormenghast* books and the huge influence that his visit to the newly liberated concentration camp at Belsen had on his work. Peter Winnington is perhaps the world's leading authority on Peake, having been the longtime editor of the journal *Peake Studies* as well as being the author of *The Voice of the Heart* (a critical study of the working of Peake's imagination) and editor of *Mervyn Peake: The Man and His Art*. Originally published as *The Vast Alchemies of Mervyn Peake*, this revised and updated edition features more than 60 newly available photographs, paintings, and drawings from Peake's estate. "By far the best biography I've read of Peake, and closest to the reality that I perceived." Michael Moorcock "As a study in..."

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