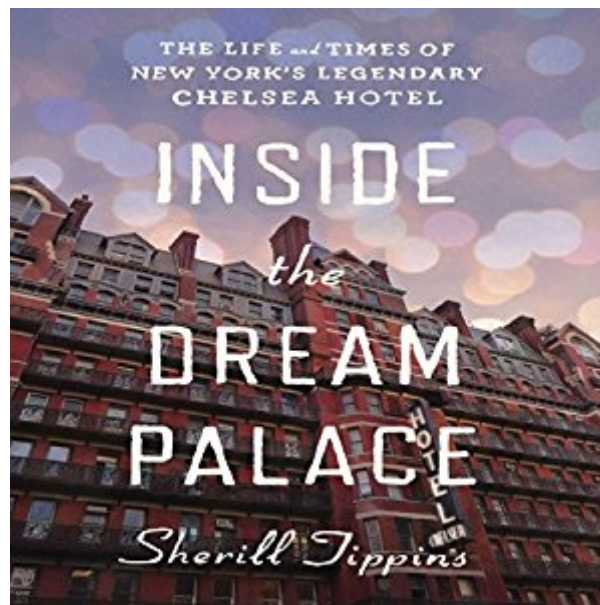




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Inside The Dream Palace: The Life And Times Of New York's Legendary Chelsea Hotel



Synopsis

The next best thing to having a room key to the Chelsea Hotel during each of its famous - and infamous - decades is The Chelsea Hotel, since its founding by a visionary French architect in 1884, has been an icon of American invention: a cultural dynamo and haven for the counterculture, all in one astonishing building. Sherill Tippins, author of the acclaimed February House, delivers a masterful and endlessly entertaining history of the Chelsea and of the successive generations of artists who have cohabited and created there, among them John Sloan, Edgar Lee Masters, Thomas Wolfe, Dylan Thomas, Arthur Miller, Allen Ginsberg, Bob Dylan, Janis Joplin, Leonard Cohen, Patti Smith, Robert Mapplethorpe, Andy Warhol, Sam Shepard, Sid Vicious, and Dee Dee Ramone. Now as legendary as the artists it has housed and the countless creative collaborations it has sparked, the Chelsea has always stood as a mystery as well: Why and how did this hotel become the largest and longest-lived artists' community in the known world? Inside the Dream Palace is the intimate and definitive story. Today the Chelsea stands poised in limbo between two futures: Will this symbol of New York's artistic invention be converted to a profit-driven business catering to the top one percent? Or will the Chelsea be given a rebirth through painstaking effort by the community that loves it? Set against these two competing possibilities, Inside the Dream Palace could not be more fascinating or timely.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

What an extensive, well written and researched book! It is not only a who's who of the Hotel Chelsea but a lesson in history of NYC, the Chelsea neighborhood and architecture. I could not put

this book down. It is long, with a great bibliography and photos. After reading, I spent hours on the internet researching more about each aspect of Hotel Chelsea, El Quijote and movies/stories written, and what happened to the key people mentioned. One of the most memorable books I have read in a very long time! It brought back lots of memories of the 1960'-70's that I had forgotten. I would highly recommend just for the period of history it spans. Now I would like a tour of the landmark hotel. I would like to see the apartments that were described in the book, the roof top, the stairway with the fancy wrought iron railing. I would like to experience this for real, see where the dreams were made, as the book is so compelling. Thank you for bringing out the skeletons of Hotel Chelsea!

I didn't really know what to expect when I started reading this book. All I really knew about it was connected to Dylan's Sad Eyed Lady of the Lowlands and his references to it. I was aware of the Sid Vicious and Nancy Spungeon tragedy and knew other artists had lived there. What I found was a tale rich with history and colorful characters, more stories of the tremendous toll drug and alcohol addiction take on lives no matter their socio economic status, and ultimately the story of the life of the artist, no matter the form of expression of that art or music. The Chelsea's story is that of the flow of American culture, and the book is well worth the read.

I loved the scope of history from the architecture and the artists who lived there from the beginning to the 90's. It goes very in depth with the origins of the design to the current state of the building. This book is a who's who of New York art from the conception of the hotel Chelsea through the sixties and 80's .I've discovered more artists and wonderful gossip in this book than is found on the internet . Just a great read !

THE DREAM PALACE is a book you can read straight through, use the index as a launch pad, or open at random for months -- almost anywhere you pick up the thread, you'll find something wonderful. The Chelsea's story is unique, as far as I know: it played host to great artists, rockers, poseurs, wanna-bes, people at both ends of their career arc. Their stories are told with an eye for the kind of details that make it all real (and sometimes make the reader's jaw drop) and that illuminates the book's central thread, beginning with the utopian ideals of the architect and builder through the hotel's saggier years, all the way to the present day, when the its future is in the hands of cold-eyed developers. This is a great followup for Tippens to her wonderful FEBRUARY HOUSE, in which she told the story of another, much smaller haven for artists and eccentrics across the river

in Brooklyn.

An inside look at the Chelsea Hotel plus some great historical background about New York City. If you're looking for a 'People' rag gossip fest about the rich and famous who lived and died at the Chelsea, look elsewhere. If you'd like to read some serious research about the life of this hotel (and, yep, it's alive like Stephen King's Overlook Hotel was), make yourself comfortable and plan on reading late into the night.

I wish I had the time to write a review that did this justice. Incredible research. Good writing. I devoured it as if it were fiction. I miss it now that it's finished. It was history through the lens of art and creativity. And I almost went to live in the Chelsea Hotel but got married and stayed in my hometown instead. Mistake? On many levels I feel such regret that those days (for me and for NYC) are over.

Inside the Dream Palace is a fascinating read. Tippins' clever approach uses one edifice's history, the Chelsea Hotel, to uncover and document an integral aspect of New York's developmental roots. What started out as a deliberate social experiment turned in to an organic cultural phenomenon which took on a life of its own. The book also consolidates the antics of the long list of colorful artists, writers, musicians, and other famous personages who've been drawn to the Chelsea over the years.

Tippins places the story of the Chelsea within the larger historic context. This is a thoughtful work that traces the arts from Mark Twain to Sid and Nancy set against the backdrop of a hotel founded in the utopian community movement. An engaging read. The lives of the famous and infamous are treated with respect, this is not some tawdry tell all nor is it simply a list to impress. One of the best.

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