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Hotel Chelsea



PHOTOGRAPHS BY VICTORIA COHEN



Synopsis

83 stunning full-color, never-before-seen photographs of the iconic hotel's interiors. Featuring a personal introduction by the photographer Notorious as a refuge for the eccentric, the eclectic, and the creative, the Hotel Chelsea has been home to some of the great and unconventional writers, musicians, artists, and actors of the past century, including Bob Dylan, Janis Joplin, Charles Bukowski, and Allen Ginsburg, to name just a few. When the hotel was sold and closed for full renovations in August 2011, American photographer Victoria Cohen was invited to capture and document the essence of the building's original interior before its imminent demise. Cohen's photographs of these hallways, lobbies, and rooms, once beaming with life and vision, now bare and aged, illuminate a bohemian era that once was, speaking untold truths of a lost time. Absolutely fascinating and bittersweet, Hotel Chelsea casts the historic landmark through the lens of the twenty-first century, exhibiting it as it has never been seen before, and will never be seen again.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

No two rooms in the Chelsea Hotel look anything alike. The furniture is a far-flung collection of different era, and each bed, table, dresser, and rug looks old enough to have been made right here in the USA, no particle board desks to be seen. We might as well call it "Garage Sale Gothic" and if the furniture were in better condition, they would be museum pieces. Hotel Chelsea is one of many books on the Chelsea Hotel, but it focuses on the décor rather than the people. This is not going to be a typical Martha Stewart style book, because the furniture is randomly placed and the

paint schemes are random. What makes this book great is that it isn't stylish at all; this is exactly how the average New Yorker would decorate an apartment. Few of us can afford fancy furniture and rugs, so we have to buy what we can. My father, for instance, used to take old furniture right off the street, sand it down, and refinish it. He's told me hilarious stories about bringing home an old bureau in the mid 1970s, full of dead cockroaches, and vacuuming them all out. The only thing louder than the vacuum was my mother's screams. Victoria Cohen photographs the many rooms, some with beautiful furniture, some with cheap-looking 80s accessories. Most of the rooms are well-maintained, however, so I can assure you this is not a welfare hotel. The owners tried to match the furniture to the look of the room, such as a red leather armchair in front of a red wall. Room 617 has old nasty wallpaper, contrasting with the recently repainted white molding. One room has a flowery old divan next to a lace curtain, while another has a small scratched-up desk and ugly red curtains.

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