



This Ain't No Holiday Inn: Down and Out at the Chelsea Hotel 1980–1995

By James Lough

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During its heyday, the Chelsea Hotel in New York City was a home and safe haven for Bohemian artists, poets, and musicians such as Bob Dylan, Gregory Corso, Alan Ginsberg, Janis Joplin, and Dee Dee Ramone. This oral history of the famed hotel peers behind the iconic façade and delves into the mayhem, madness, and brilliance that stemmed from the hotel in the 1980s and 1990s. Providing a window into the late Bohemia of New York during that time, countless interviews and firsthand accounts adorn this social history of one of the most celebrated and culturally significant landmarks in New York City.

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Editorial Review

Review

"Throughout the book, Lough provides some wonderful descriptions of the building itself, which has come to mean so much to so many people." —David S. Wills, *Beatdom*

"...this exuberant oral history focuses on the period 1980-1995, arguably the landmark's final stretch as a haven for bohemian misfits. Lough arranges anecdotes from interviews with dozens of hotel 'veterans,' whose memories are peppered with cameos of famous fixtures [...] Lough's conversational style connects narrative threads as he bemoans the creative conditions in contemporary NYC and wonders can "counterculture survive in an atmosphere almost entirely comprised of wealth?" —*Publishers Weekly*

"Exuberant oral history...Drug-fueled debauchery and artists living 'close to the bone' in service to their work fill these reminiscences along with nostalgia for the enclave of 'freaks and weirdoes.'" —*Publisher's Weekly*, July 15th, 2013

"I think the Chelsea would be a trifle wearing as a place to live, but it's a blast to read about." —*The Palm Beach Post*

About the Author

James Lough is the former director of the creative writing program at Savannah College of Art and Design, where he currently teaches full-time. He is the author of *Sites of Insight*, which won the Colorado Endowment of Humanities Award. He is also the winner of the Frank Waters Southwestern Writing Award for short fiction. He lives in Savannah, Georgia.

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