



The Hot House: Life Inside Leavenworth Prison

By Pete Earley

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An account of life in Leavenworth Prison, based on interviews with inmates and others, describes the lives of a sexual predator, a gang member in for forty-two years, a sociopath in ""no human contact"" status, and others.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

With the cooperation of the Bureau of Prisons, Earley (Family of Spies) spent much time from mid-1987 to mid-1989 at Leavenworth, a maximum-security institution whose nickname, the Hot House, derives from its lack of air conditioning despite the searing Kansas summers. Interviewing the warden, the guards from captains on down and the convicts, many of whom are imprisoned for shocking crimes, the author takes readers into the mind of the recidivist criminal to show an egoistic, violent nature locked into a code of behavior with elements of machismo, hyper-sensitivity to slights and the conviction that informing is the greatest crime of all. There is also hatred of guards, who hate back, all this played out against a backdrop of racism, sexual exploitation, constant tension and sometimes gratuitous cruelty by the staff and the bureau toward the inmates. A remarkable book.

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From Library Journal

Leavenworth Prison, nicknamed "the hot house" because of its lack of ventilation, has the most dangerous inmates and the most repressive conditions in the country. Journalist Earley (Prophet of Death: The Mormon Blood-Atonement Killings, LJ 11/1/91; Family of Spies, Bantam, 1988) spent two years interviewing the inmates and employees of Leavenworth Prison. Here, he provides portraits of five convicts, two guards, and the warden. Although he includes many poignant facts about life inside this modern-day penal colony, Earley's presentation is uneven, often promising more than it yields. The emphasis is on sensationalism rather than analysis or exposition. While this is an acceptable approach, Earley often fails to give the reader an absorbing story. The episodes are disjointed and do not always add up to the kind of climax one would expect from the material. An optional purchase. Previewed in Prepub Alert, LJ 11/15/91.

- Frances Sandiford, *Green Haven Correctional Facility Lib., Stormville, N.Y.*

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From Kirkus Reviews

Searing, compelling eyewitness account of the men--inmates and guards--of Leavenworth Prison. The Bureau of Prisons gave Earley (Family of Spies, 1988) unprecedented permission to come and go as he pleased and talk to any inmate without guards present. Earley's end of the deal: he would have no protection. His chronicle concentrates on five prisoners, the new warden, and several guards. Meet Carl Cletus Bowles, three life sentences: paroled in 1965, he robbed a bank, kidnapped the California state controller general, his wife, and their small child, stole several cars, held six other people hostage, and murdered an Oregon policeman. What goes on in the mind of a man like that? Earley spent two years talking to him. Meet Lieutenant Phillip Shoats, head guard of 719 Marielistas. He was a tough guy who could make the Cubans walk a chalk line while reports of his brutality were suppressed. Then he was blown away by a shotgun wielded by his 14-year-old son, desperate after the beatings Shoats was giving him, his brother, and mother. Did Leavenworth brutalize Shoats or was it the terrible secret he wouldn't tell his wife, revealed only at his death? In the pen there are only two emotions: fear and rage. Here is where a man ``runs the gears'' on the man in the next cell for playing his radio too loud ("You slam a shank into his chest and then pull up and over and then down and over, just like shifting gears on a car"). Here is the stronghold of the predatory gang--the Aryan Brotherhood--that specializes in protection, extortion, and narcotics. To join, one must ``earn his bones'' by murdering someone. Earley, amazingly, gained the confidence of one of the gang's founders, who told him: ``At San Quentin, the herds [blacks] were getting out of hand and a bunch of old white bulls simply said 'Fuck this' and they decided to stand up....'' Fascinating white-knuckle tour of hell, brilliantly reported. - Copyright ©1991, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Danielle Rhodes:

Book is to be different for every grade. Book for children until eventually adult are different content. As you may know that book is very important normally. The book The Hot House: Life Inside Leavenworth Prison seemed to be making you to know about other understanding and of course you can take more information. It is rather advantages for you. The book The Hot House: Life Inside Leavenworth Prison is not only giving you more new information but also to get your friend when you experience bored. You can spend your current spend time to read your reserve. Try to make relationship with all the book The Hot House: Life Inside Leavenworth Prison. You never feel lose out for everything if you read some books.

Andrew Waite:

The Hot House: Life Inside Leavenworth Prison can be one of your beginner books that are good idea. Most of us recommend that straight away because this reserve has good vocabulary that will increase your knowledge in vocab, easy to understand, bit entertaining but delivering the information. The copy writer giving his/her effort to get every word into pleasure arrangement in writing The Hot House: Life Inside Leavenworth Prison although doesn't forget the main stage, giving the reader the hottest and based confirm resource info that maybe you can be considered one of it. This great information can certainly drawn you into new stage of crucial considering.

Essie Ryan:

The book untitled The Hot House: Life Inside Leavenworth Prison contain a lot of information on the idea. The writer explains the woman idea with easy method. The language is very simple to implement all the people, so do not necessarily worry, you can easy to read that. The book was authored by famous author. The author gives you in the new time of literary works. It is easy to read this book because you can keep reading your smart phone, or device, so you can read the book inside anywhere and anytime. If you want to buy the e-book, you can available their official web-site as well as order it. Have a nice go through.

Steven Holloway:

As we know that book is essential thing to add our understanding for everything. By a book we can know everything we wish. A book is a group of written, printed, illustrated or even blank sheet. Every year seemed to be exactly added. This book The Hot House: Life Inside Leavenworth Prison was filled concerning science. Spend your time to add your knowledge about your scientific disciplines competence. Some people has several feel when they reading any book. If you know how big good thing about a book, you can truly feel enjoy to read a reserve. In the modern era like now, many ways to get book that you just wanted.

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