



Up in the Old Hotel

By Joseph Mitchell

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Up in the Old Hotel By Joseph Mitchell

Saloon-keepers and street preachers, gypsies and steel-walking Mohawks, a bearded lady and a 93-year-old “seafoodetarian” who believes his specialized diet will keep him alive for another two decades. These are among the people that Joseph Mitchell immortalized in his reportage for *The New Yorker* and in four books—*McSorley's Wonderful Saloon*, *Old Mr. Flood*, *The Bottom of the Harbor*, and *Joe Gould's Secret*—that are still renowned for their precise, respectful observation, their graveyard humor, and their offhand perfection of style.

These masterpieces (along with several previously uncollected stories) are available in one volume, which presents an indelible collective portrait of an unsuspected New York and its odder citizens—as depicted by one of the great writers of this or any other time.

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Up in the Old Hotel By Joseph Mitchell Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #58531 in Books
- Brand: Vintage
- Published on: 1993-06-01
- Released on: 1993-06-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 7.90" h x 1.20" w x 5.20" l,
- Binding: Paperback
- 736 pages

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Journalist Joseph Mitchell, whose death in May 1996 at the age of 87 merited a half-page obituary in the *New York Times*, pioneered a style of journalism while crafting brilliant magazine pieces for the *New Yorker* from the 1930s to the early 1960s. *Up in the Old Hotel*, a collection of his best reporting, is a 700-page joy to read.

Mitchell lovingly chronicled the lives of odd New York characters. In the pages of *Up In the Old Hotel*, the reader passes through places such as McSorley's Old Ale House or the Fulton Fish Market that many observers might have found ordinary. But when experienced through Mitchell's gifted eye, the reader will see that these haunts of old New York possess poetry, beauty, and meaning.

From Publishers Weekly

In this omnibus collecting decades of his work, Mitchell offers compassionate, wistful examinations of early-20th-century New Yorkers who existed on the margins of society.

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Review

"A legendary figure. . . . Mitchell's reportage is so vivid, so real, that it comes out like fiction of the highest order." —*Chicago Sun-Times* "A poetry of the actual, a song of the streets that casts a wide net and fearlessly embraces everything human. . . . This is reporting transformed into literature, news that stays news. . . . His work is so rich and generous and funny that it ought to stay in print forever." —*San Francisco Examiner* "Mitchell's darkly comic articles are models of big-city journalism. . . . His accounts are like what Joyce might have written had he gone into journalism." —*Newsweek*

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Eduardo Fernandez:

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