



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:

Janet Smith:

The book The Hot House: Life Inside Leavenworth Prison make you feel enjoy for your spare time. You should use to make your capable more increase. Book can for being your best friend when you getting strain or having big problem along with your subject. If you can make studying a book The Hot House: Life Inside Leavenworth Prison to become your habit, you can get considerably more advantages, like add your own capable, increase your knowledge about several or all subjects. It is possible to know everything if you like open up and read a guide The Hot House: Life Inside Leavenworth Prison. Kinds of book are several. It means that, science publication or encyclopedia or other people. So , how do you think about this e-book?

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Erica Lewis:

Reading can called brain hangout, why? Because if you find yourself reading a book specially book entitled The Hot House: Life Inside Leavenworth Prison your thoughts will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in every single aspect that maybe unknown for but surely can be your mind friends. Imaging every single word written in a publication then become one contact form conclusion and explanation that will maybe you never get before. The The Hot House: Life Inside Leavenworth Prison giving you another experience more than blown away your thoughts but also giving you useful facts for your better life in this era. So now let us show you the relaxing pattern the following is your body and mind are going to be pleased when you are finished looking at it, like winning a casino game. Do you want to try this extraordinary shelling out spare time activity?

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