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Grey Gardens



Synopsis

One of the strangest and subtlest films ever made, the Maysles Brothers' 1975 documentary *Grey Gardens* today boasts as devoted a following as *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* or *Harold and Maude*. Shot at Grey Gardens, the dilapidated East Hamptons mansion of "Big Edie" and "Little Edie" Beale, aunt and cousin to Jackie Onassis, this classic of cinema vérité tracks the Beales' eccentric and sequestered lives--which consist mostly of doing nothing, but with a mesmerizing zest and volubility. Little Edie's magical aphorisms ("Raccoons and cats become a little bit boring," she sighs towards the end of the film, "I mean for too long a time") are gems of unwitting camp, and between her observations, her costumes, the incredibly bizarre mother daughter tensions, the cats, raccoons and the beautiful ruins of Grey Gardens itself, "doing nothing" amounts to everything; indeed, it amounts to a tragicomedy of enormous emotional punch. This eclectic volume offers a myriad of collaged illustrations, photographs, film stills, production notes and other archival materials alongside transcripts of the Beales' own stories and conversations edited from unreleased *Grey Gardens* sound recordings. Structured to mirror the Maysles' own approach to the world of the Beales, it closely resembles the enchanting clutter of the mansion, a self-contained world littered with mementos and telling ephemera. It also reproduces unpublished photographs by both Albert and David Maysles. With an introduction by Albert Maysles, drawings and illustrations by Albert's daughter, Rebekah Maysles and an appendix with the full transcript of *Grey Gardens*, as well as an audio CD of sound recordings capturing the Beales at their best, this book is the essential companion to the film and a beautiful testimony to its legacy. The 60-minute CD that comes with the book contains conversations with the Beales and their friends, songs and poetry recited by the two Edies and audio of the Beales during and after watching the film for the first time.

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Customer Reviews

This book is a total joy. It has over 200 pages of images we've never seen and it totally captures the feeling of both Grey Gardens documentaries. There is SO MUCH STUFF included in this! There are all kinds of quotes we have never heard before, lots and lots of great conversation transcripts and a transcript of the film! A true gem, is the accompanying CD (with high quality sound!) of audio, all previously unheard! The things on this CD are absolutely priceless! At one point Mrs. Beale is singing a song dramatically and in between every pause, you can hear Little Edie calling out "Whiskers!? Whiskers?" We are also treated to the Beale's live (audio) reaction to watching the film for the first time! They apparently adored it 'like mad'! Little Edie laughs nervously at first. In the book, you will see a notation where Edie declares the film will win "Nine awards. You saw 'Gigi'? It gone nine."The layout of this book is in a scrap book fashion with lots of original artwork from the daughters of the Maysles. One gets the feeling from this book, that it was created out of true appreciation for the Beale ladies with no self-centered agenda. This was clearly put together with the fans in mind and they definitely deliver. The Maysles daughters had access to treasures no one else could.I would highly recommend this for every single Grey Gardens fan out there. It will be a great addition to your collection.

This book has sections that I really like, but many disappointments also.I really loved the beautiful artwork and the colorful pictures, but I was so hoping to see more of the layout of the house or maybe scenes that had not already been seen in the movie. The additional dialogue between the two does give more dimension to the conversations that were filmed.The immediate disappointment though was when I was purusing the book, the entire color section became unglued from the back binding and now projects from the rest of the book. It's alot of money for cheap binding!!!The middle section of the book does offer some additional insight about the women, but the entire last half of the book is completely useless: if you have already seen the movie or own the DVD (like I do), there really is no need to read the movie's typewritten transcript - No new information there.Alot of work went into the book that's for sure. I just hope that my copy doesn't come completely apart from opening the pages!!

I received my long awaited copy of Grey Gardens and was quite disappointed. I expected the story and pictures of the interior and exterior of Grey Gardens as well as the story of the two women. I found the book too "artsy" and am having a really hard time trudging through it. If I had checked this out at a bookstore first, I never would've purchased it. I guess I'll re-sell my copy and try to find more of what I'm looking for in another book of Grey Gardens.

I am a huge fan of the documentary and LOVE this book--I love the CD of audio recordings in the back (though a little eerie) and surprising how much it makes it feel like you're with the EDies...I love the drawings and dedication to detail, the references and quotes and dialogue from the film make this book feel like a living breathing experience. I like to take my time with it, and look through a few pages at a time. This book is wondrous, magical, funny, messy and so much in tandem with the Edies themselves. I think they both would have loved it.

This book is a must for any and all Grey Gardens fans. I would have given it 5 stars, but something really bugged me upon reading the Forward/Introduction by Albert Maysels. For the most part, I enjoyed his write up, which was heartfelt and filled with keen psychological insight. However, one thing is factually incorrect: He states Big Edie "married a Bouvier." In truth, she was born into the family as the daughter of a Bouvier. It made it sound like she married into the Bouviers, when in fact she married into the Beale family. I am not sure how someone like Maysles (or his daughters, for that matter) with such an integral knowledge of these ladies would have made such an error, or how in proofing this mistake wasn't caught. Perhaps if there is ever a future edition, they can correct it. That said, the book is a wonderful compilation of information, notes and photos and well worth purchasing.

Fascinating book that clarified much of the movie for me since the conversations that were difficult to understand in the documentary are set down here in writing. Also includes some wonderful photographs with relevant comments from the characters in this true life fractured fairy tale. Don't bother with this book unless you're already head over heels for the charming Edies.

I finally received this item after waiting more than a month for it to finally be published. I was overwhelmed at the contents. This book has just about everything any Grey Gardens fan could hope for. Well worth the price.

Although I haven't read the entire book, I can see it provides additional depth into their lives, fascinating. I'm not much of a reader, but this is riveting to me. I first saw an abbreviated (an hour or so) movie on TCM while channel "surfing". I was immediately hooked. The criticism of the graphics and scrapbook design on other reviews by no means take away from the content. The book itself is well made. I'm so glad I made this purchase!! My obsession with Grey Gardens continues!!

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