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Flophouse: Life on the Bowery

David Isay, Stacy Abramson

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"This book takes you to places you think you don't want to enter, to people you think you don't want to meet, to lives you think you don't want to live--and makes you rethink all your assumptions. It reveals the tremendous strength and humanity of those who are usually ignored. And as you pay attention, your own humanity expands."
---Susan Stamberg, special correspondent, National Public Radio

In its heyday, close to one hundred thousand men found shelter each night in flophouses along America's largest and most infamous skid row, the Bowery. Today, only a handful of flops are left, their tiny five- and ten-dollar-a-night rooms home to fewer than a thousand men, mostly long-time residents. In a handful of years, this world will be gone.

In **Flophouse**, documentarians David Isay and Stacy Abramson and photographer Harvey Wang chronicle this vanishing world through the voices and portraits of a number of those residents, interspersed with photographs of their surroundings. The men come from all manner of backgrounds, and the rich variety of the tales they tell is a testament to the number of ways the bottom can fall out of life in America, even in prosperous times. This book warrants comparison with Walker Evans and James Agee's Let Us Now Praise Famous Men, but the authors were inspired most directly by Joseph Mitchell, who wrote about some of these same flophouses with an honest warmth and an acceptance of life as it's found. Shimmering with humanity and utterly devoid of false sentiment, Flophouse is a powerful reminder that even on the margins, life defies all attempts at reduction.

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From reader reviews:

Jack Crawford:

Reading can called mind hangout, why? Because if you find yourself reading a book specially book entitled Flophouse: Life on the Bowery your thoughts will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in every single aspect that maybe not known for but surely can become your mind friends. Imaging each and every word written in a guide then become one type conclusion and explanation that will maybe you never get ahead of. The Flophouse: Life on the Bowery giving you an additional experience more than blown away your brain but also giving you useful information for your better life within this era. So now let us show you the relaxing pattern here is your body and mind will probably be pleased when you are finished studying it, like winning a game. Do you want to try this extraordinary spending spare time activity?

Ward Bishop:

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