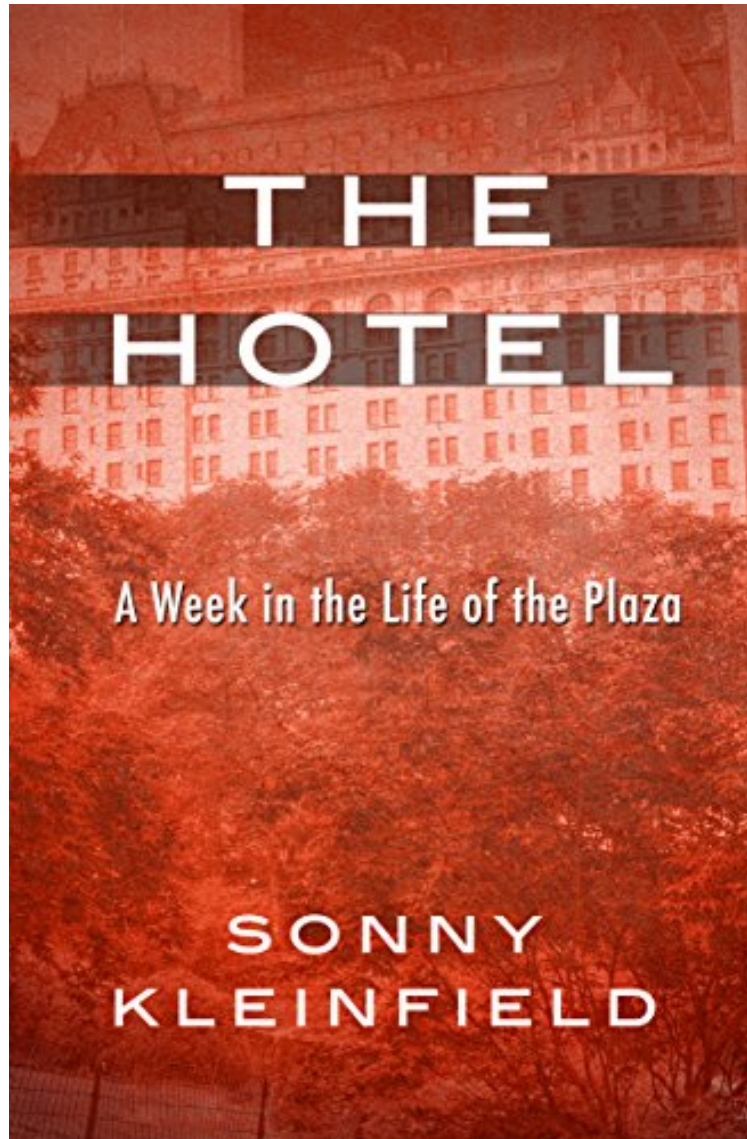


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## The Hotel: A Week in the Life of the Plaza

*Sonny Kleinfield*

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**Sonny Kleinfield : The Hotel: A Week in the Life of the Plaza** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Hotel: A Week in the Life of the Plaza:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I always loved going to the Palm CourtBy adopted grandmotherIt was very interesting to learn what typically (or unexpectedly) goes on behind the scenes at this historic hotel. I always loved going to the Palm Court. The book is still informative although rather dated and it made me curious to see who took over ownership after Donald Trump bought it and his (ex) wife Ivanka was made president. I no longer live easily accessible to NYC so haven't been there in a few years. However, I hope to return and when I do, I'll hope to have tea

or champagne at the Palm Court again. I understand the Oak Room is now closed but I do hope the Palm Court will continue to furnish lovely music and nostalgic, elegant surroundings. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. The Plaza from the inside out. By Bruce Russell An entertaining, interesting read that takes you to a place few of us ever get to go. By that, I don't mean the Plaza, but the inside workings of a grand hotel. Enjoyed it immensely! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Week At A Glance By Judy McThe book literally follows the employees and guests through a week at the Plaza. Things may have changed by now since the book is not current, but it was very interesting.

A look inside New York's icon of luxury: "We meet the managers, the chambermaids, the doormen, some of the guests, and the new owner, Donald Trump" (Library Journal). When it opened its doors in 1907, the Plaza was considered the world's finest luxury hotel. Since then, the grand building at the southern tip of Central Park has hosted kings and queens, the rich and famous, and countless world leaders. And like any hotel, it has seen its share of crimes, suicides, and drunken mayhem as well. A fascinating read for fans of Stephen Birmingham's *Life at the Dakota* or Justin Kaplan's *When the Astors Owned New York*, this book combines Manhattan history with a guided behind-the-scenes tour, interviewing the hospitality industry employees who tote the luggage, change the light bulbs, and clean the rooms. From a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist who has written for the *New York Times* and *Rolling Stone*, *The Hotel* offers the kind of day-to-day detail that brings the Fifth Avenue French Renaissance landmark to vivid, colorful life.

From Publishers Weekly Considered "the world's most luxurious hotel" when it opened in Manhattan in 1907, the French Renaissance-style Plaza reserved 90% of its rooms for permanent tenants. (Today there are only four such residents--all elderly widows.) Rooms then cost from \$2.50 to \$4; now, the bottom rate is \$175 and the Vanderbilt Suite is \$4000 a night. Famous performers and writers and many foreign monarchs have stayed at the Plaza; every U.S. president since Theodore Roosevelt has spent time there. Centering on a typical week in spring 1988, this engaging volume, by *New York Times* reporter Kleinfield (coauthor of Lee Iacocca's *Talking Straight*) amusingly describes the work and attitudes of some of the 1300 staff members, 80% of whom are multilingual, speaking a total of 35 languages. He records their anecdotes about pocket-picking, thefts, burglaries and suicides, about suspicious persons, con artists, escort girls, lobby sitters, "fifty-fours" (prostitutes) and drunken businessmen who frequent the Plaza. He discusses the hotel's finances, renovations, policies, management and the challenges that arise day or night. And he observes the visits of various VIPs and of the king and queen of Sweden, in whose honor a banquet is given. Reading the book is at least as enjoyable--and certainly less expensive--than staying at the Plaza. Copyright 1989 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal The author, who is perhaps best known for co-authoring *Talking Straight* with Lee Iacocca (LJ 9/1/88), here takes us on a guided tour of one of the most distinctive social phenomena of our time--the luxury hotel. Kleinfield describes with detail some of the personal loyalties, conflicts, skirmishes, and sacrifices that bubble away beneath that great containing vessel of luxury--the Plaza in New York City. From the laundry room, through the kitchens, to the dining rooms, to the suites, we are led in turn and given the inside view. We meet the managers, the chambermaids, the doormen, some of the guests, and the new owner, Donald Trump. This book is as close to getting inside the Plaza as most people will come, so it should have a certain fascination.- A.J. Anderson, Graduate Sch. of Library Information Science, Simmons Coll., Boston Copyright 1989 Reed Business Information, Inc.