



# 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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## **The Hot House: Life Inside Leavenworth Prison** By Pete Earley Bibliography

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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. -

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## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Doyle Swoope:**

The book *The Hot House: Life Inside Leavenworth Prison* make you feel enjoy for your spare time. You may use to make your capable considerably more increase. Book can being your best friend when you getting pressure or having big problem using your subject. If you can make examining a book *The Hot House: Life Inside Leavenworth Prison* being your habit, you can get more advantages, like add your capable, increase your knowledge about some or all subjects. You are able to know everything if you like available and read a guide *The Hot House: Life Inside Leavenworth Prison*. Kinds of book are several. It means that, science guide or encyclopedia or others. So , how do you think about this book?

#### **Jeffrey David:**

People live in this new time of lifestyle always try to and must have the free time or they will get wide range of stress from both way of life and work. So , once we ask do people have time, we will say absolutely sure. People is human not only a robot. Then we consult again, what kind of activity are there when the spare time coming to you of course your answer will unlimited right. Then do you try this one, reading ebooks. It can be your alternative with spending your spare time, typically the book you have read will be *The Hot House: Life Inside Leavenworth Prison*.

#### **Charles Steen:**

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#### **Jessica Palmer:**

Many people spending their moment by playing outside along with friends, fun activity with family or just watching TV 24 hours a day. You can have new activity to pay your whole day by examining a book. Ugh, do you consider reading a book can really hard because you have to bring the book everywhere? It alright you can have the e-book, getting everywhere you want in your Smartphone. Like *The Hot House: Life Inside Leavenworth Prison* which is getting the e-book version. So , why not try out this book? Let's see.

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