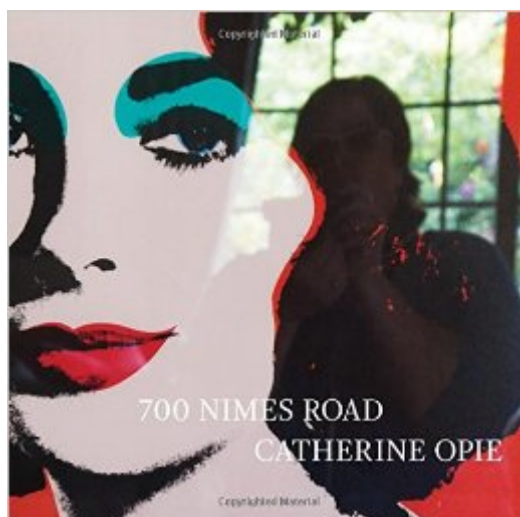


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Synopsis

The renowned photographer Catherine Opie takes on a challenging documentary project – an indirect portrait of Elizabeth Taylor through her home and possessions. One of America's most celebrated living photographers, Catherine Opie works in series that are remarkably varied in both style and subject matter – from intimate portraits of the LGBTQ community to beautiful, nearly-abstract landscapes featuring ice-fishing houses. Expanding that astonishing range of subjects further is Opie's ambitious recent series of photographs taken at the home of late movie star Elizabeth Taylor. Though glamour and celebrity are not common themes in her work, Opie was inspired by the possibilities this project offered – recalling William Eggleston's series on Elvis Presley's Graceland, or her own photographs of Obama's 2008 inauguration, both of which represent indirect portraits of their subjects. The images in this moving collection were culled from photos Opie took over the course of six months, both on the grounds of and inside Taylor's home. The subjects are wildly diverse – a dog-eared remote control manual, close-ups of Taylor's enormous closets, shelves of hotchkies and priceless works of art – telling more about Taylor's life than any "celebrity" portrait ever could. Through Opie's thoughtful curation, Taylor's home tells a poignant story and reveals the arc of a fascinating life.

Book Information

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Photography & Video > Individual Photographers > Monographs #282 in Books > Arts &

Photography > Photography & Video > Collections, Catalogues & Exhibitions

Customer Reviews

As a life-long Taylor fan, I have been eagerly awaiting this book - the first-ever "tour" of Elizabeth's home. I am close to being bitterly disappointed with it. True, there is a plethora of lovely photos, but

what has me so disappointed is that NONE of the photos have one word of explanation, at least not the details that SHOULD have been included. At the end of the book, each photo is listed with only the most generic labels possible. For instance; Page 17 Paintings - flip back to page 17 and the photo shows a sofa with several paintings above it. That's all the information we are given. Taylor fans know that one of her passions was art, and here is a photo showing prime pieces from her collection. But - whose work are we seeing? Which one is Van Gogh? Utrillo? Degas? Etc. Page 123 - Deer in the Snow. Flip back to page 123 and we see a painting. That's it. WHERE is the information that this painting was done by Elizabeth herself as a child? Wouldn't that short explanation make a WORLD of difference in viewing the photo? I would also like to know why Ms. Opie selected certain photos that are shown. For instance; Page 36 Balloon Shades. Flip back to the page and we see exactly that - a close-up of balloon shades. Why? In which room were they? What about these shades captured her eye and/or imagination? What statement did they make to her? From the 1,000s of photos she took, why did she select this one? I'm also not fond of having to flip to the back of the book and searching the page number for the image I'm observing, then having to flip back again. I'm sure this was done so the photos could "stand alone" on the page. But, again, the flipping back and forth is annoying. The absence of pertinent information and details still has me longing for "THE DEFINITIVE" book on Taylor.

The cover is really the best part of this book with Warhols portrait of Liz, However the book has many blurred photos, which at first i thought.... well..must be for arts sake.. but the author and photographer had access for many months and to have included blurred photos, well she must of had plenty of ones that are better than this and to my surprise blank pages! Why if most of the book includes photos on both sides would you not include something on a page why is it left blank? There are at least 3 or more pages left blank, it doesnt make sense , didnt she have enough of anything to place there even one of the blurry ones.. Dont buy the book thinking your going to be raiding Elizabeth Taylors fabulous closet, your going to see fabrics, not actual clothing, as if you were shopping for upholstery at a design showroom, and the living room photos ive seen in achitectual digest..

Snippets, partial shots, multitudes of THINGS too close together to see, no people, no words. This book is perfect if those are the kinds of things you like. Horribly disappointed in the book. I don't care about getting my money back, just wish I hadn't wasted the time ordering, waiting for it, paying the charge card bill. She had plenty of THINGS, but this is not the place to get a closer look. Little

pictures on big pages, Photographer thinks she assembled something precious, but she did not.

I was so sad and angry because I could not believe that I was looking at pages with nothing to explain what I was looking at. I found at the back of the book the titles (-shoes-hat boxes-purple flowers-the closet 19 times -which one?) ,Why not write under each page what I am looking at? I am very sad and cannot believe they paid to have this book "published"! Also my book had total blank pages-12-40-56-76-102-all blank.Elizabeth Taylor would not be happy. And who is Catherine Opie? So sorry I paid for this book. I love Elizabeth Taylor and I can't believe this book uses her name, they should be embarrass.

So disappointed in this book. Although some of the photography is interesting, the format and lack of explanation of each photo is frustrating. I bought this based on an interview on GMA, it is not at all what I had hoped.

What a let down!!!! This book is such a disappointment. Filled with pictures of things that are being packed for auction, blurred photos, blank pages, no explanations. I thought it would be more like walking through Liz Taylor's home. Wish I could send it back!!!

If you're expecting this book to be filled with juicy tidbits about Hollywood's Golden Age, filtered through the lens that was Elizabeth Taylor's life, expect to be disappointed. If, on the other hand, you are interested in what life was REALLY like for the real human being called Elizabeth Taylor as she neared 80, this is the book for you. Thankfully, it's not filled with a lot of prose. Instead, what you see are glimpses into how she may have lived her life during her last few years. The photographs are stunning, and they certainly are worth a thousand words. One photo, however, is indelibly printed on in my mind. It's a photo of a simple cushion in the back seat of a car, not unlike the cushion my elderly mother sits on in her favorite chair. Very poignant and striking book.

The photography is fabulous, I only wished for fewer close ups and more photos of the space in which we located in her home. There are some but the book is not balanced. Both my mom and I struggled to see what we were looking at in the photo only to find the description in the back of the book so we were constantly flipping back and forth. The descriptions were so brief they really weren't helpful. I found myself saying " sure those are jewelry boxes as stated, anyone can see that but who is in the famed photo in the background? When was it taken? Was this next to her bed? In

the room she enjoyed sitting in?" There were several blank pages. It seemed awkward. It seemed a waste. The book is simply a glimpse. Maybe it had to be for privacy reasons.

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