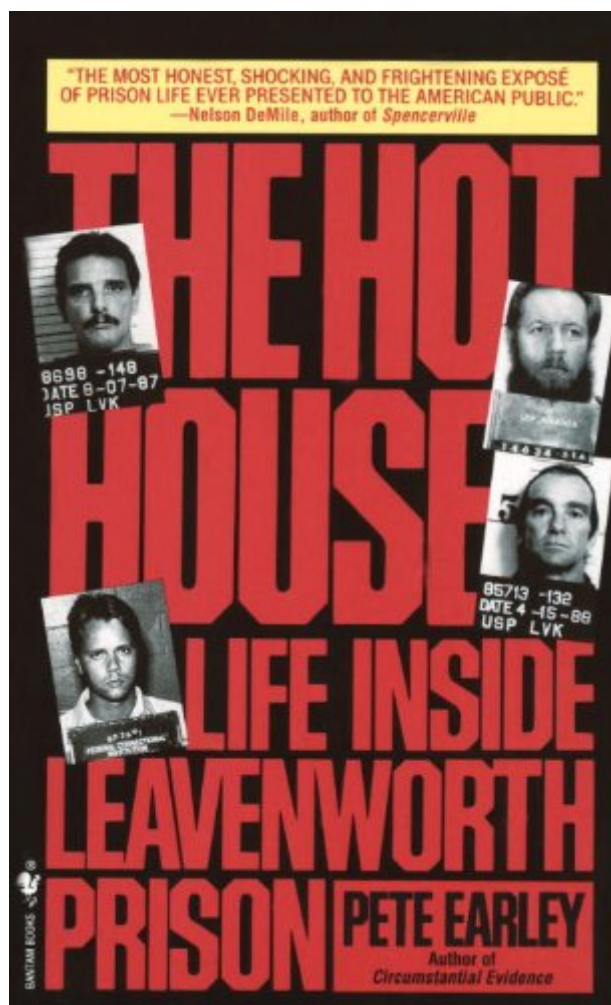


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# The Hot House: Life Inside Leavenworth Prison



## Synopsis

A stunning account of life behind bars at the federal penitentiary in Leavenworth, Kansas, where the nation's hardest criminals do hard time. "A page-turner, as compelling and evocative as the finest novel. The best book on prison I've ever read." —Jonathan Kellerman

The most dreaded facility in the prison system because of its fierce population, Leavenworth is governed by ruthless clans competing for dominance. Among the "star players" in these pages: Carl Cletus Bowles, the sexual predator with a talent for murder; Dallas Scott, a gang member who has spent almost thirty of his forty-two years behind bars; indomitable Warden Robert Matthews, who put his shoulder against his prison's grim reality; Thomas Silverstein, a sociopath confined in "no human contact" status since 1983; "tough cop" guard Eddie Geouge, the only officer in the penitentiary with the authority to sentence an inmate to "the Hole"; and William Post, a bank robber with a criminal record going back to when he was eight years old and known as the "Catman" for his devoted care of the cats who live inside the prison walls.

Pete Earley, celebrated reporter and author of *Family of Spies*, all but lived for nearly two years inside the primordial world of Leavenworth, where he conducted hundreds of interviews. Out of this unique, extraordinary access comes the riveting story of what life is actually like in the oldest maximum-security prison in the country.

Praise for *The Hot House*

"Reporting at its very finest." —Los Angeles Times

"The book is a large act of courage, its subject an important one, and . . . Earley does it justice." —The Washington Post Book World

"[A] riveting, fiercely unsentimental book . . . To [Earley's] credit, he does not romanticize the keepers or the criminals. His cool and concise prose style serves him well. . . . This is a gutsy book." —Chicago Tribune

"Harrowing . . . an exceptional work of journalism." —Detroit Free Press

"If you're going to read any book about prison, *The Hot House* is the one. . . . It is the most realistic, unbuffed account of prison anywhere in print." —Kansas City Star

"A superb piece of reporting." —Tom Clancy

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I have gone inside a prison in Missouri that was recently opened to the public for tours and as I read this factual account of prison life, I tried to visualize the convicts residing in such a place. Did I feel bad for them, the thieves and murderers, no, but life inside prison is just another type of school, a school that generally teaches more corruption. Until we demand some type of rehabilitation, more and more return to the only way of life they know.

a great read if the subject has interest for u. straightforward good writing, a fascinating concept, and an illuminating picture of life. well-done.

This is a good read about the different criminals and their lives that led them to prison.

Well written and I really enjoyed the interviewed with the convicts. Really enjoyed this book.

Excellent book on prison life. One should never take their freedom for granted.

Outstanding!

very clearly written book explaining aspects of prison life often tragic but good to know truth.

Overall, I enjoyed this book and thought that it was written in an entertaining and gritty style. My one complaint is this: Earley says that he picked a handful of officials/inmates to focus on. I would have liked to see a wider range of personalities explored in depth. The three or four inmates that he focused on were all white, and to a certain extent cut from the same cloth. Given the racial tension that simmered between the lines of his account, I would have liked to hear from a black inmate or one of the Cuban detainees. I realize that this probably wasn't possible; in the world that Earley describes I'm sure that he himself was segregated, and spending time with non-white inmates might not have been practical. But I would have enjoyed the book more if he had been able to overcome this obstacle.

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