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Legends of the Chelsea Hotel: Living with the Artists and Outlaws of New York's Rebel Mecca

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Legends of the Chelsea Hotel: Living with the Artists and Outlaws of New York's Rebel Mecca **Ed Hamilton**. Thunder's Mouth, \$15.99 paper (352p) ISBN 978-1-56858-379-2

Short story author Hamilton (in the *Journal of Kentucky Studies*, *SoMa Literary Review*, etc.) "became consumed in writing [his neighbors'] darkly humorous and often tragic stories" after many years of living at New York's infamous Chelsea Hotel. Arrayed here are 68 of his columns for "Living with Legends," the Hotel Chelsea blog (www.hotelchelseablog.com). Hamilton skillfully interweaves his memories of residents with a history of the 23rd Street hotel, longtime proprietor Stanley Bard (who stepped down reluctantly this year) and the neighboring restaurant, El Quijote. Built in 1883, the Chelsea became a residential hotel for theater luminaries in 1905. Tenants since then have run the gamut from O. Henry and Dylan Thomas to Kerouac and Madonna. Famed books have been written at the Chelsea, including William Burroughs's *Naked Lunch*, but the establishment has also attracted a great many eccentrics, hustlers and crazies. Recent management changes and the Chelsea's uncertain future make this nostalgic portrait of the hotel's "fabled madness" all the more poignant. Photos not seen by *PW*. (Oct. 15)