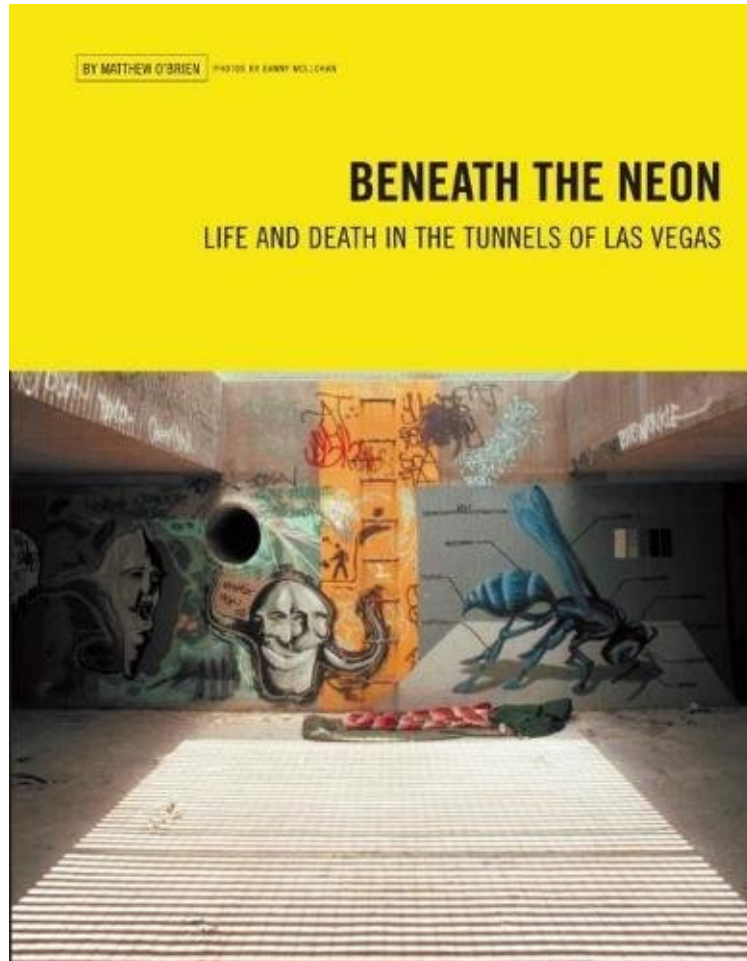


[Download pdf] Beneath the Neon: Life and Death in the Tunnels of Las Vegas

Beneath the Neon: Life and Death in the Tunnels of Las Vegas

Matthew O'Brien

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Matthew O'Brien : Beneath the Neon: Life and Death in the Tunnels of Las Vegas before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Beneath the Neon: Life and Death in the Tunnels of Las Vegas:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Interesting but not great
By AIBought this book after reading a very interesting article online about the subject. While I don't regret reading it, I would probably only recommend it to someone with a strong interest (and even then, not with glowing reviews). The most interesting parts are the interviews with the tunnel dwellers. This would have been a much better book had the author focused on these rather than on himself and the actual tunnel. Aside from the interviews, the rest is pretty much just filler, and very obviously so. The author fails to make smooth transitions when he introduces historical tunnels and events, reaching painfully for connections between the two. The photos don't really add to the narrative either. The ones that are most interesting-- of the people and their "homes"-- are uncaptioned and never referred to in the text. My major issue with this book,

though, was the author's troubling insensitivity toward the individuals living in the tunnels. It seems like he's trying to set up a possible change in attitude, from viewing everyone in the tunnel as druggies and losers to gaining a respect for them as individuals, but this change never really occurs (at least not in any clear way). Instead, he confusingly goes from being impressed by the intelligence of one man to making crude analogies and referring to others as "meth freaks" and "lunatics." In conclusion, if you can ignore the author's attitude and writing style, there really is some interesting stuff in here.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. AMAZING SOCIAL HISTORY OF THE VEGAS UNDERBELLY By V. Yatsko I LOVE social history being a history teacher and this has to be one of the best social perspective history books I've read. Easy to read and I was hooked and couldn't stop reading! I've heard of the tunnel people of Las Vegas being a resident, and this book took me into their world without having to take my germ and bug-a-phobic self into the tunnels. It was fun to read about places I could imagine, and Matthew wrote with such honesty and integrity and knowledge that it was an instant favorite I couldn't put down. After seeing we had many mutual friends on Facebook, I added Matthew and he was extremely friendly and willing to answer any questions I had on the book, which made it even more fun to read...in the end I got to read an amazing book and made an amazing new friend! :)

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Well-researched, well-written book By KRG Matthew O'Brien obviously went Gonzo on the tunnels Beneath the Neon of Las Vegas. He spent months interviewing the homeless who live beneath Las Vegas and walking deep into the tunnels, often pioneering parts of the vast network. The stories enclosed are heartbreaking and reflect some of the major issues facing society: drugs, mental disabilities, lack of care for veterans. What makes the stories that much more incredible is that it is all happening beneath a city where people squander millions of dollars each day. O'Brien should be lauded for telling these stories. The homeless are treated with disdain, as if all of them somehow chose their lot in life. By going into the tunnels and talking with the people--not simply asking questions, but exploring the tunnels and practically living among the "residents"--O'Brien sheds light on these people that would otherwise remain ostracized and forgotten. In doing so, we see these people as they are: perhaps not that different from us. Hard luck, addiction, undiagnosed mental disabilities have sent many of these people below the city. O'Brien reveals them and their stories with genuine honesty. More books like this should be written. It is further proof that what we see on the surface, what the world would want you to believe about a person or place, may not actually be what is actually there. If you are going to Las Vegas or simply want to read stories that are full of truth and grit, this book is for you.

The catacombs of ancient Rome served as houses of worship for Christians. When surveyed in the early 1800s, the sewers of Paris yielded gold, jewels, and relics of the revolution. And thousands of people lived in the subway and train tunnels of New York City in the 1980s and '90s. What secrets do the Las Vegas storm drains keep? What discoveries wait in the dark? What's beneath the neon? Armed with a flashlight, tape recorder, and expandable baton, Las Vegas CityLife writer-editor Matthew O'Brien explored the Las Vegas flood-control system for more than four years. Beneath the Neon: Life and Death in the Tunnels of Las Vegas chronicles O'Brien's adventures in subterranean Vegas. He follows the footsteps of a psycho killer. He braces against a flood. He parties with naked crack-heads. He learns how to make meth, that art is most beautiful where it's least expected, and that there are no pots of gold under the neon rainbow.

From Publishers Weekly In 2002, as managing editor of the alternative weekly, Las Vegas CityLife, O'Brien was intrigued when a murderer eluded police by vanishing into the Vegas flood-control system. After O'Brien and CityLife contributor Josh Ellis explored half a dozen storm drains, their adventures attracted such attention on the Internet that the publication's Web site scored a million hits in a day. By then, O'Brien was convinced "there were secrets to be discovered beneath the neon." His first discovery was that, despite the dangers, homeless men and women were living in the tunnels. How did they wind up there? Returning with a tape recorder and flashlight, he interviewed the storm-drain denizens, finding one sleeping in an elevated bed suspended above the watery floor, another residing in a plywood hut and some in the cool tunnels just to escape the heat. The photos capture the inhabitants of these bleak encampments. Continually contrasting the sparkling casinos above with the dank, cobwebbed catacombs below, the observant O'Brien writes with a noirish flair, but his compassion is also evident as he illuminates the lives of these shadowy subterranean dwellers. (June 1) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. While Beneath the Neon is an often saddening and sometimes disturbing book, it's also an incredibly important one. O'Brien gives those who have been circumscribed, silenced, and removed from the brightly lit streets of Las Vegas a voice, something that few authors in the city have ever attempted before, and the result is breathtaking...it's the most important, incredible, and moving title to be published on the city to date. It almost goes without saying that Beneath the Neon should not be missed. --CasinoOnline.co.uk [O'Brien] takes you on a dizzying trip through the various drains to meet the people that live, party, and sometimes die in the tunnels. This is a must-read for anyone who has ever broken into an abandoned building, explored dirty sewers, hopped freights across the country, or enjoys a late night stroll into the unknown. More than just a documentation of one's experience in the storm drains, Beneath the Neon is equal parts Las Vegas history book, drunken biography, and psychological thriller where your

worst enemy may just be your imagination. --Beautiful Decay Blog

From retracing a murder's escape route and learning how to make meth from a tunnel dweller to partying naked with crackheads and dancing under the MGM Grand, this photo-filled account proves that the only place more surreal than the Vegas Strip is beneath it. --Wired Magazine

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About the Author

Matthew O'Brien is an author and journalist who's lived in Las Vegas since 1997. His first book, *Beneath the Neon: Life and Death in the Tunnels of Las Vegas*, chronicles his adventures in the city's underground flood channels, which he explored for more than four years with a flashlight, tape recorder, and expandable baton for protection.

My Week at the Blue Angel: And Other Stories from the Storm Drains, Strip Clubs, and Trailer Parks of Las Vegas is his second book.

Danny Mollohan moved to Las Vegas in 2000 to pursue his dream of becoming a professional photographer. With \$300 in his pocket and a Lieca M3 in hand, he made his mark working for several weekly newspapers, showing in local galleries, moonlighting in nightclubs, and roaming the countryside.