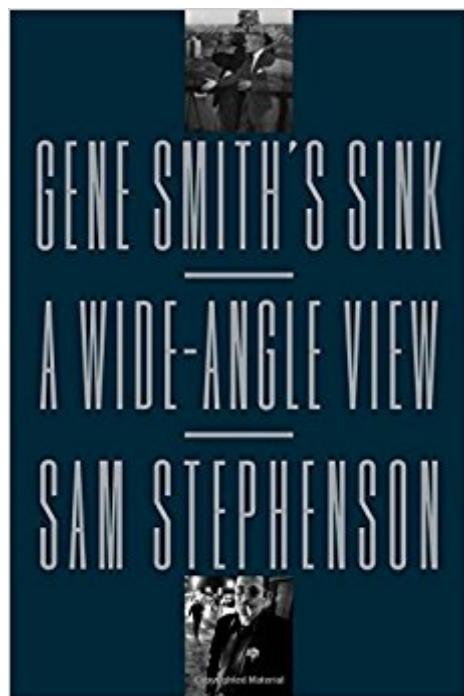


The book was found

Gene Smith's Sink: A Wide-Angle View



Synopsis

An incisive biography of the prolific photo-essayist W. Eugene Smith. Famously unabashed, W. Eugene Smith was photography's most celebrated humanist. As a photo essayist at *Life* magazine in the 1940s and '50s, he established himself as an intimate chronicler of human culture. His photographs of war and disaster, villages and metropolises, doctors and midwives, revolutionized the role of images in journalism, transforming photography for decades to come. When Smith died in 1978, he left behind eighteen dollars in the bank and forty-four thousand pounds of archives. He was only fifty-nine, but he was flat worn-out. His death certificate read "stroke," but, as was said of the immortal jazzman Charlie Parker, Smith died of "everything," from drug and alcohol benders to weeklong work sessions with no sleep. Lured by the intoxicating trail of people that emerged from Smith's stupefying archive, Sam Stephenson began a quest to trace his footsteps. In *Gene Smith's Sink*, Stephenson merges traditional biography with rhythmic digressions to revive Smith's life and legacy. Traveling across twenty-nine states, Japan, and the Pacific, Stephenson profiles a lively cast of characters, including the playwright Tennessee Williams, to whom Smith likened himself; the avant-garde filmmaker Stan Brakhage, with whom he once shared a Swiss chalet; the artist Mary Frank, who was married to his friend Robert Frank; the jazz pianists Thelonious Monk and Sonny Clark, whose music was taped by Smith in his loft; and a series of obscure caregivers who helped keep Smith on his feet. The distillation of twenty years of research, *Gene Smith's Sink* is an unprecedented look into the photographer's potent legacy and the subjects around him.

Book Information

Hardcover: 224 pages

Publisher: Farrar, Straus and Giroux (August 22, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0374232156

ISBN-13: 978-0374232153

Product Dimensions: 5.8 x 0.8 x 199.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: Be the first to review this item

Best Sellers Rank: #56,546 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #35 in Books > Arts & Photography > Photography & Video > Individual Photographers #62 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Arts & Literature > Artists, Architects & Photographers #102 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs >

Customer Reviews

"Fascinating . . . evocative . . . For all that, the wayward individual that emerges out of Stephensonâ™s ambitious âœwide angleâ• approach remains essentially unknowable, a blur in an otherwise sharply defined portrait of a tougher time and a truly bohemian milieu that already seems impossibly distant." --Sean O'Hagan, *The Guardian*âœSam Stephensonâ™s earlier books on W. Eugene Smithâ™s Pittsburgh and Jazz Loft projects have established him as the leading authority on defining parts of the photographerâ™s career. Now, in this gripping biography, Stephenson has extended his research to the whole of Smithâ™s turbulent life, adding greatly to our knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of his extraordinary work.â•â•Geoff Dyer, author of *The Ongoing Moment*âœSam Stephensonâ™s brave and wise book, both more and less than a biography, is a spare demonstration of a huge idea: that nothing is ever finished and nobody is really knowable. And so the roundabout way to know a difficult and extraordinary creator like W. Eugene Smith, or really anyone, may be the most effective and authentic way.â•â•Ben Ratliff, author of *Every Song Ever*âœSound is more present in Gene Smithâ™s *Sink* than in any book Iâ™ve ever read. In this deeply empathic book, the reader leans forward, listening, so that when the call of the chuck-willâ™s-widow occurs on Sixth Avenue, it can be heard. This stunning book resembles a Tennessee Williams play that obsessed Smith; it is the Camino Real of biographies.â•â•Margaret Bradham Thornton, editor of Tennessee Williamsâ™s *Notebooks*âœThe elisions are bold and the detours central. Steadfastly refusing to either lionize or vilify W. Eugene Smith, Sam Stephenson achieves something of a different, more subtle order. What might have been a book about one manâ™s life is instead about many livesâ•human constellations no less interesting than the famous photographerâ™s (very) dark star. Stephensonâ™s twenty-year sojourn into Smithâ™s unique, desperately obsessive leavings births a remarkable, deeply generous book.â•â•Jem Cohen, director of *Museum Hours*âœGene Smithâ™s *Sink* is the story of a well-known photographer. It tells a lot about his working life and it tells a lot about his personal life. But what it tells best are things much more complicated. There are many revelations by which I saw a glimpse of what it is like to be a real photographer.â•â•Hiroshi Watanabe, photographer

Sam Stephenson is a writer and documentarian. He is the author of *Dream Street: W. Eugene Smithâ™s Pittsburgh Project* and *The Jazz Loft Project: Photographs and Tapes of W. Eugene Smith from 821 Sixth Avenue, 1957â™1965*. His writing has appeared in publications such as *The*

New York Times, The Paris Review, Tin House, and the Oxford American. A lifelong resident of North Carolina, he lives in Durham with his wife and their son.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Gene Smith's Sink: A Wide-Angle View Gene Simmons Coloring Book: Glam Rock and Kiss Guitarist Facepaint Pioneer and Pyro Showman Inspired Adult Coloring Book (Gene Simmons Books) Smith and Robersonâ™s Business Law (Smith & Roberson's Business Law) Smith's Bible Dictionary by William Smith (867 Pages Comprehensive Dictionary) Standard Catalog of Smith & Wesson (Standard Catalog of Smith and Wesson) Smith & Hawken: Hands On Gardener: Seeds and Propagation (Smith & Hawken the Hands-On Gardener) Index to the Works of Adam Smith (Glasgow Edition of the Works and Correspondence of Adam Smith, The) Rob & Smith's Operative Surgery: Atlas of General Surgery, 3Ed (Rob & Smith's Operative Surgery Series) Brain Edema / Cerebello Pontine Angle Tumors: Pathophysiology and Therapy / Diagnosis and Surgery (Advances in Neurosurgery) Swimming in the Sink: A Memoir Super Scary Halloween Crochet: 35 gruesome patterns to sink your hook into National Geographic Kids Everything Sharks: All the shark facts, photos, and fun that you can sink your teeth into What's Your Angle, Pythagoras? The Founder's Dilemmas: Anticipating and Avoiding the Pitfalls That Can Sink a Startup (The Kauffman Foundation Series on Innovation and Entrepreneurship) Sink or Swim: Whatever After, Book 3 SINK (Mermaid Royalty Book 1) Sink Reflections: Overwhelmed? Disorganized? Living in Chaos? Discover the Secrets That Have Changed the Lives of More Than Half a Million Families... Lumberjanes Vol. 6: Sink or Swim Love to Lie Angle, Volume 1 See It and Sink It: Mastering Putting Through Peak Visual Performance

[Contact Us](#)

[DMCA](#)

[Privacy](#)

[FAQ & Help](#)