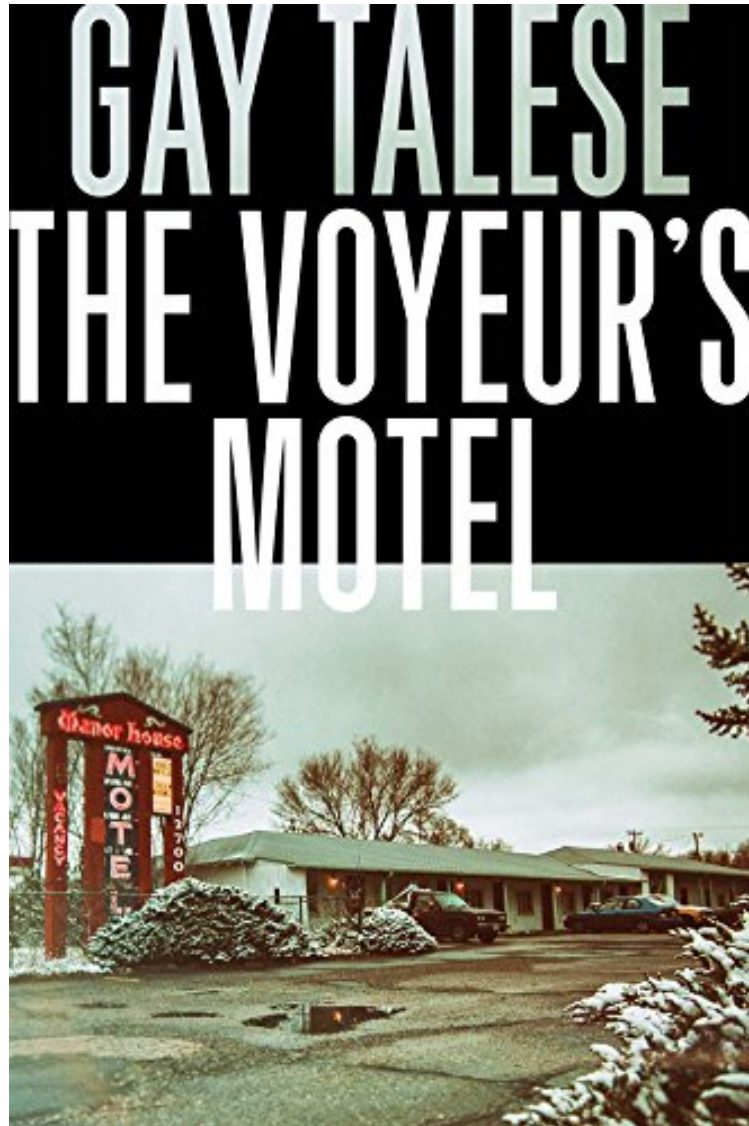


(Download pdf ebook) The Voyeur's Motel

The Voyeur's Motel

Gay Talese

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Gay Talese : The Voyeur's Motel before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Voyeur's Motel:

55 of 62 people found the following review helpful. Don't waste your moneyBy Margaret's DadIf you read the New Yorker article, you already got 90% of the story. It's basically a repetitive version of that article with a few additional anecdotes sprinkled in. I was hoping for a more thorough exploration of Foos' psychology as well as some additional historical and social context, but they were nowhere to be found. Avoid.6 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Foos's journal, no matter how murkily achieved, is a sociological sexual study of changing mores

amongst the middle class. By Stacy Helton Gay Talese, author of two of my favorite books, *THY NEIGHBOR'S WIFE* and *HONOR THY FATHER*, has polished off a tawdry short piece of sexual sociology with *THE VOYEUR'S MOTEL*. Talese's piece is fifty years in the making, but was first published this spring in *THE NEW YORKER*. In 1966 Gerald Foos, a businessman in Aurora, Colorado, opened the Manor House Motel in which he installed vents above six rooms so he could observe the actions of his guests. With his wife's compliance, Foos journaled the sexual proclivities of guests for almost forty years. Talese enters the picture in 1980, when Foos sends him a letter detailing his adventures and requesting a meeting. Talese flies to Colorado and meets with Foos, even accompanying him to his viewing platform and watching a young couple fornicate. Talese realizes he can't publish the man's story because Foos does not want to be identified, due to legal issues, etc. Over the next thirty years Foos shares his detailed journals with Talese via the mail, which Talese reproduces chunks of throughout the slim book. The entries are titillating and revealing as the times change in regards to interracial sex, homosexual relations and group play. The more interesting moments are the ones where guests simply relate as people, brushing their teeth, discussing money, going to the bathroom and eating fast food. The "voyeur," as Foos refers to himself sees rape, incest, physical abuse, drug use and even in one instance a murder. Talese adds little to the journals of Foos, simply some transitional exposition. Upon the release of *THE NEW YORKER* article Talese had his journalistic ethics called into question, but in my opinion, Talese is now outside the canon, and as one of the few gonzo journalist left, with Tom Wolfe, their views and opinions are often considered "old-fashioned" and "out of date." That being said, Foos's journal, no matter how murkily achieved, is a sociological sexual study of changing mores amongst the middle class. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Recommended reading for all interested in the lives and behavior ... By M. V. Oswald Very interesting. Controversial idea whose results should be taken into account. Valid observations. Recommended reading for all interested in the lives and behavior of common American people.

On January 7, 1980, in the run-up to the publication of his landmark bestseller *Thy Neighbor's Wife*, Gay Talese received an anonymous letter from a man in Colorado. Since learning of your long awaited study of coast-to-coast sex in America, the letter began, I feel I have important information that I could contribute to its contents or to contents of a future book. The man went on to tell Talese an astonishing secret, that he had bought a motel to satisfy his voyeuristic desires. He had built an attic observation platform, fitted with vents, through which he could peer down on his unwitting guests. Unsure what to make of this confession, Talese traveled to Colorado where he met the man Gerald Foos verified his story in person, and read some of his extensive journals, a secret record of America's changing social and sexual mores. But because Foos insisted on remaining anonymous, Talese filed his reporting away, assuming the story would remain untold. Now, after thirty-five years, he's ready to go public and Talese can finally tell his story. *The Voyeur's Motel* is an extraordinary work of narrative journalism, at once a portrait of one complicated man, and an examination of secret lives and shifting mores in a culturally-evolving country.

Praise for *The Voyeur's Motel*: Named a Best Book of the Year by the Daily Mail (Event Critics' Selection) "This book flipped nearly all of my switches as a reader. It's a strange, melancholy, morally complex, grainy, often appalling and sometimes bleakly funny book, one that casts a spell not dissimilar to that cast by Janet Malcolm's *The Journalist and the Murderer* . . . Gripping . . . [Talese] lays out what he knows and does not know in sentences that are as crisp as good Windsor knots. He expresses his qualms, but trusts the reader to come to his or her own conclusions . . . An intense book." Dwight Garner, *New York Times* "Informative and intriguing . . . [I] was enlightened and entertained by *The Voyeur's Motel*." *Washington Post* "This is a weird book about weird people doing weird things, and I wouldn't have put it down if the house were on fire." *Washington Times* "Whether Gerald Foos is telling the complete truth is almost beside the point. The *Voyeur* is so fascinating a character insightful, observant and amoral that the reader becomes caught up in his story." *Providence Journal* "If you've ever wanted your inner voyeur to run free, vicariously at least, then *The Voyeur's Motel* is for you . . . Motel delves deeply into the taboo world with no holds barred and no excuses . . . The type of unflinching New Journalism that Talese helped found three decades ago." Jackson Clarion Ledger "Pioneering reporter Gay Talese tells the ultimate surveillance story in *The Voyeur's Motel* . . . Talese a master of elegant, understated prose uses an objective reportorial style to tell the voyeur's story, and it's the right approach for a narrative that requires no extra spice . . . An unforgettable book." *BookPage* "Foos [is revealed] as a singularly pervy, grandiose, and strangely eloquent weirdo who would be irresistible to any writer, let alone one as talented, patient, and thoughtful as Talese . . . Those seeking a uniquely discomfiting journey couldn't find a better pair of reprobates with whom to cast their lot." *Booklist* "Undoubtedly creepy and unnerving but also an entirely compelling slice of seamy American life." *Kirkus* (starred review) "[A] truly shocking story . . . Not your typical beach book, perhaps, but you may want to read this compulsive page-turner which raises all sorts of fascinating journalistic, moral and legal issues under cover of an

umbrella.rdqo;Barnes Noble ldquo;A provocative and compelling story.rdqo;Midwest Book ldquo;Talese is a master at finding and reporting intimate matters in a clean, fine prose style so that the pages fly by. Thus the odd subject of Talesersquo;s book is transparently manifest, without a biased or judgmental eye, all the better to reveal what Foos has done.rdqo;Psychodynamic Psychiatry ldquo;An unsettling read . . . Foosrsquo;s notes offer a long-term glimpse into the sex lives of Americans.rdqo;Macleanrsquo;s (Canada) ldquo;The Voyeurrsquo;s Motel . . . had me hooked . . . Irsquo;s an unsettling book, like being trapped in a hall of mirrors. The reader observes Talese observing Foos observing his guests. It might make you lose your bearings, but at the same time itrsquo;s completely mesmerising, and often darkly funny, too.rdqo;Daily Mail (UK) (Event Criticsrsquo; Best Books of the Year) ldquo;[An] eye-popping book . . . Completely riveting from start to finish . . . Darkly comical . . . It is by turns fascinating and illuminating, very creepy and very funny, and will live in my memory long after many more doggedly accurate works have vanished into thin air.rdqo;Mail on Sunday (UK) ldquo;A riveting page-turner . . . Short and brisk, it tells a compellingly sordid story, and Foos is one fascinating dude . . . The book is compulsively readable.rdqo;Winnipeg Free Press