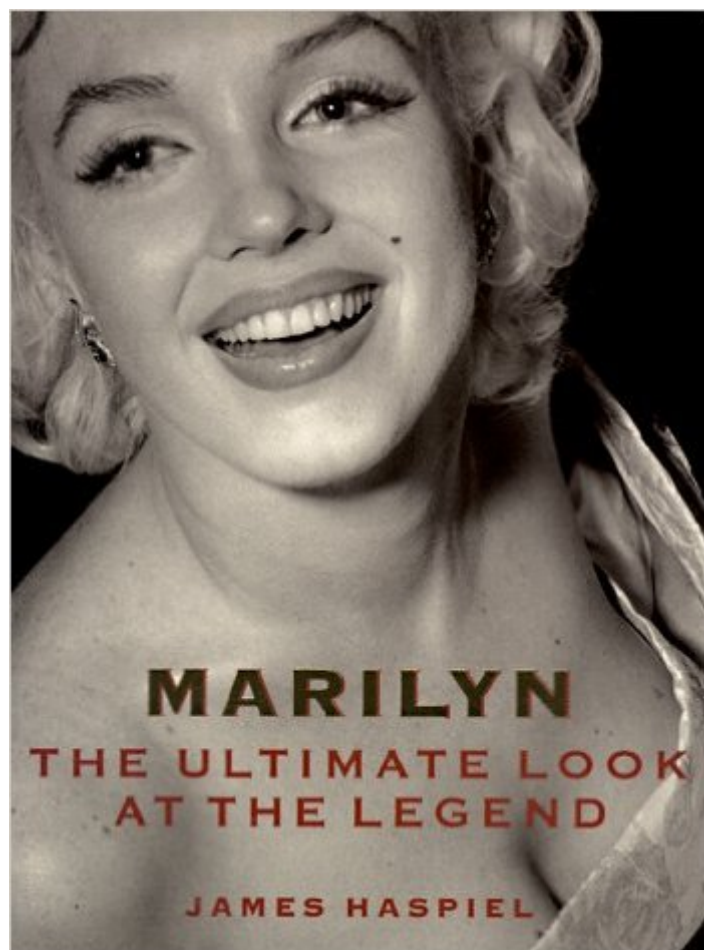


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# Marilyn: The Ultimate Look At The Legend



## Synopsis

Now available in paperback, a book filled with previously unpublished photographs and letters of Marilyn Monroe. James Haspiel, one of Marilyn's closest friends and confidants during the last eight years of her life, draws on his collection of photos and correspondence for this intimate look. 145 photos, 20 in color.

## Book Information

Paperback: 208 pages

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Product Dimensions: 0.8 x 8.8 x 11.5 inches

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (18 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,595,156 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #521 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Performing Arts > Individual Directors](#) #969 in [Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Arts & Literature > Movie Directors](#) #12670 in [Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Arts & Literature > Actors & Entertainers](#)

## Customer Reviews

This book is a revealing account of Mr. Haspiel's friendship/relationship with Marilyn Monroe ("Mazzie" as he affectionately calls her) during the last 8 years of her life. Not just another historical perspective of Miss Monroe's life, the book is written from the viewpoint of someone who was obviously quite close to Miss Monroe as the many photos and documents substantiate. The candid revelations and thoughts concerning the author's and Miss Monroe's friendship is what makes this book unique. A highly recommended book especially for those interested in a more personal account of the life of Marilyn Monroe.

If you can get this book, get it. Mr. Haspiel was a teenager when he met Marilyn and he stuck with her. His information is first hand, as opposed to authors who cash in on researched material. James Haspiel is the source writers went to for their magazine articles and such, and his book is wonderful. He even has pictures of Marilyn, proudly displayed, without make-up on.

I found this book to be a very special one on Marilyn Monroe and her "platonic" relationship with a special fan/friend. This book spans an eight year relationship with the author. You get a "back-seat" view of how Monroe's personality was, whether it was happy, gloomy, or sad during their "friendship" period. I truly enjoyed reading this book. It should be considered a "must read" and "must have" copy for for all Monroe's fans' and buffs' libraries alike. As the previous reader stated, this book was written from a perspective of someone being very close to Miss Monroe; somewhat placing this as a "unique" and interesting bit of MM reading. Lastly, the author gives the reader a "touching" bit of his own soul, when he describes his very last meeting with Miss Monroe before leaving for California.

I finally bought a copy of Mr. Haspiel's book (a first edition) and I am so very happy I have decided to do so. I read it in a few hours, devouring every word and feeling overwhelmed by a mixture of emotions, from elation to envy of this man, who had the privilege to have known the woman behind the image... my Marilyn :). The photographs are wonderful and the accounts have given me yet another explanation for my utter fascination with and love I have for this woman. I think "The Ultimate Look at the Legend" has become my favorite Marilyn book... and I have read so many!

I've reviewed this book before, years ago, on Barnes & Noble's website, and I have to again because James Haspiel's books on Marilyn are the best for any fan to own. His coverage of her career is spot on, thorough, and because of this I love his books the most.

This was a great book. I've read quite a few books on Monroe, and this one, by far is the very best. BEAUTIFUL pictures. This is a sweet story. Although the author did seem stalkerish, I believe he was star struck and meant no harm. The way that he grew on her, it seemed like they had a cute acquaintance. The author, with the exception of the end, (where the Kennedy theory is stated, detail by detail, as if they were proven facts in her death) stayed true to the way that he saw Marilyn. I would highly recommend this book to any Marilyn fan, it is a beautiful looking book, a coffee table book, if wanted. Overall, great job.

I don't know if this is "the ultimate look at the legend", as the book bills itself in its subtitle (particularly as Mr. Haspiel has since written two other books on Marilyn, with equally outstanding photographic content) but it's one of the best picture collections of the star I've ever seen. Haspiel was one of a group of fans who came to know Marilyn personally while she was living in New York

during the 1950's, and much of the text consists of his reminiscences of his encounters with her. It's hard to conceive, in these paranoid times, of fans being able to have such unfettered access to a first-rank star, so this book is a reminder of what was, in some ways, a fundamentally more innocent time. I don't know that I agree with Haspiel's theories as to Marilyn's death (I think Donald Spoto's version is much nearer the mark), but as a collector of candid photography of Marilyn, he doesn't have many equals.

I really appreciated reading this book than any other book on Marilyn Monroe because it was written by someone who really knew her in person. The best books are the ones from people who really knew them than people who do not and just want to cash in on her with telling untrue facts. For some reason, I cannot get enough of reading it while I loved seeing the lovely pictures that "Jimmy" took of the real her. In my opinion, Marilyn would still think of him as her sweetheart.

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