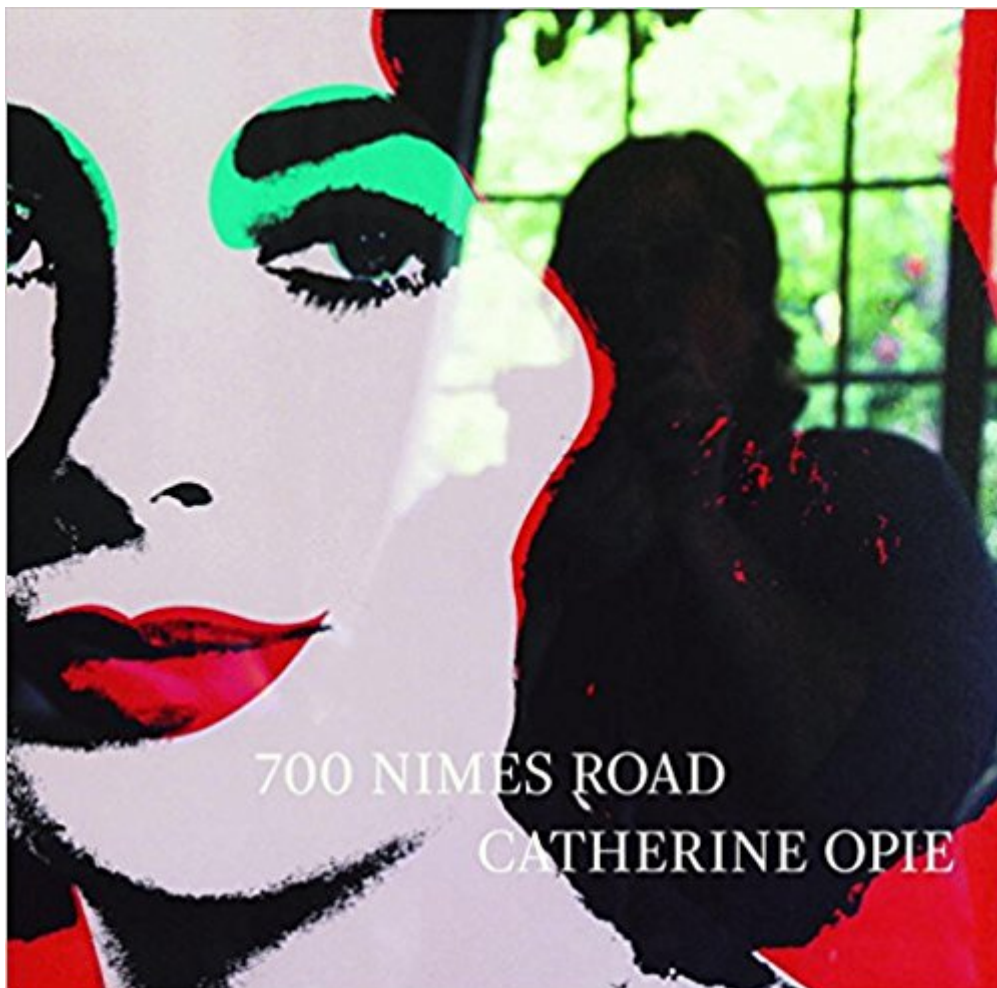


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# 700 Nimes Road



## Synopsis

The renowned photographer Catherine Opie takes on a challenging documentary project – an "indirect portrait" of Elizabeth Taylor through her home and possessions. One of America's most celebrated living photographers, Catherine Opie works in series that are remarkably varied in both style and subject matter – from intimate portraits of the LGBTQ community to beautiful, nearly-abstract landscapes featuring ice-fishing houses. Expanding that astonishing range of subjects further is Opie's ambitious recent series of photographs taken at the home of late movie star Elizabeth Taylor. Though glamour and celebrity are not common themes in her work, Opie was inspired by the possibilities this project offered – recalling William Eggleston's series on Elvis Presley's Graceland, or her own photographs of Obama's 2008 inauguration, both of which represent indirect portraits of their subjects. The images in this moving collection were culled from photos Opie took over the course of six months, both on the grounds of and inside Taylor's home. The subjects are wildly diverse – a dog-eared remote control manual, close-ups of Taylor's enormous closets, shelves of hotchkies and priceless works of art – telling more about Taylor's life than any "celebrity" portrait ever could. Through Opie's thoughtful curation, Taylor's home tells a poignant story and reveals the arc of a fascinating life.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Midway through the project [Elizabeth Taylor] was hospitalised, and on March 23 2011 she passed away. As an artist it was an emotional and moving time for me to bear witness to her life and to her loss. Her home underwent many changes following her death. These photographs reflect that transition in a subtle way, while still maintaining an intimate portrait of Elizabeth Taylor through her personal space." — Catherine Opie, as quoted in the Financial Times "Liz Taylor never let a photographer into her home until Catherine Opie came along. The result is as visual paean to the life (and loss) of a legend . . . Flipping through [700 Nimes Road], you feel a little like a child stealing into her mother's room to run her hands over dresses and rummage through drawers. All that's missing is the scent of Taylor's perfume." — Town & Country "Not long before she passed away in 2011 at age 79, Elizabeth [Taylor] opened up her surprisingly cozy six-bedroom, six-bath LA house to photographer Catherine Opie. The spectacular results can be found in the new book and exhibition named after the actress' Bel Air address, 700 Nimes Road . . . And while the space is every bit as stunning as the actress herself, Opie points out that it 'wasn't just pristine—it was a well-loved and well-used home, too . . . Everything had value to her, from the Krupp Diamond . . . to the stuffed animal that leaned against a little rocker.'" — Closer "Although the two never met in person, Opie's new book . . . assumes a powerful, shared intimacy through [her] pictures of Taylor's shoes, jewelry, heirlooms, and other artifacts of fame and family." — W Magazine.com "She was one of the most photographed women in the world—but these quiet pictures of her Bel Air home, which she allowed just before her death in 2011, reveal more about Elizabeth Taylor than any portrait." — People Magazine

Catherine Opie is Professor of Photography at the University of California, Los Angeles. Her works have been exhibited in numerous solo shows, including a mid-career retrospective at the Guggenheim Museum in New York, 2008.

If you're expecting this book to be filled with juicy tidbits about Hollywood's Golden Age, filtered through the lens that was Elizabeth Taylor's life, expect to be disappointed. If, on the other hand, you are interested in what life was REALLY like for the real human being called Elizabeth Taylor as she neared 80, this is the book for you. Thankfully, it's not filled with a lot of prose. Instead, what you see are glimpses into how she may have lived her life during her last few years. The photographs are stunning, and they certainly are worth a thousand words. One photo, however, is indelibly printed on in my mind. It's a photo of a simple cushion in the back seat of a car, not unlike the cushion my elderly mother sits on in her favorite chair. Very poignant and striking book.

Having purchased Bonnettstown: A House In Ireland, for the same purpose - to see interiors photographed - there is no comparison. Yes this is Elizabeth Taylor's home and Yes there are a couple of knock-your-socks-off images, but mostly it is just meh. AND the notion that Catherine Opie felt the need to have her reflection in several of the images seemed completely inappropriate.

The cover is really the best part of this book with Warhols portrait of Liz, However the book has many blurred photos, which at first i thought.... well..must be for arts sake.. but the author and photographer had access for many months and to have included blurred photos, well she must of had plenty of ones that are better than this and to my surprise blank pages! Why if most of the book includes photos on both sides would you not include something on a page why is it left blank? There are at least 3 or more pages left blank, it doesnt make sense , didnt she have enough of anything to place there even one of the blurry ones.. Dont buy the book thinking your going to be raiding Elizabeth Taylors fabulous closet, your going to see fabrics, not actual clothing, as if you were shopping for upholstery at a design showroom, and the living room photos ive seen in achitectual digest..

The photography is fabulous, I only wished for fewer close ups and more photos of the space in which we located in her home. There are some but the book is not balanced. Both my mom and I struggled to see what we were looking at in the photo only to find the description in the back of the book so we were constantly flipping back and forth. The descriptions were so brief they really weren't helpful. I found myself saying " sure those are jewelry boxes as stated, anyone can see that but who is in the famed photo in the background? When was it taken? Was this next to her bed? In the room she enjoyed sitting in?" There were several blank pages. It seemed awkward. It seemed a waste. The book is simply a glimpse. Maybe it had to be for privacy reasons.

Intimate and haunting portrayal of an iconic figure done by the talented Catherine Opie. Loved this book!

So disappointed in this book. Although some of the photography is interesting, the format and lack of explanation of each photo is frustrating. I bought this based on an interview on GMA, it is not at all what I had hoped.

As an ardent admirer of Taylor, I looked forward to this book since it was announced. I was so disappointed. Page after page of duplicative photos. We get it! She had a lot of clothes. Move ON! If the house has more than one bedroom, we'll never know. If Miss Taylor had an office, we'll never know. What kind of kitchen did she have? We'll never know because all we get is one photo of the kitchen table. Her bathroom was like something out of "Cleopatra," with a gorgeous sunken tub. The house had a beautiful pool area, with furniture designed by one of her sons. How do I know? because Architectural Digest did a spread on the house a few years ago. Nor do we ever see what the outside of the house looked like. We do get lots of photos of the jewels, already covered in detail in Taylor's own book, though what the jewels have to do with 700 Nimes Road is a mystery. The essays by other friends and acquaintances are interesting, but overall Opie took a swing and missed. If you want to see the house and save the cover price, go to[...] You're welcome.

Don't buy this book! If you are a passionate ET fan or looking for a Elegant art book filled with glossy pages this book is neither. I was hoping for a book that I could lose myself in for hours, but it is a flip through, 20 minutes tops. What an incredible opportunity WASTED!

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