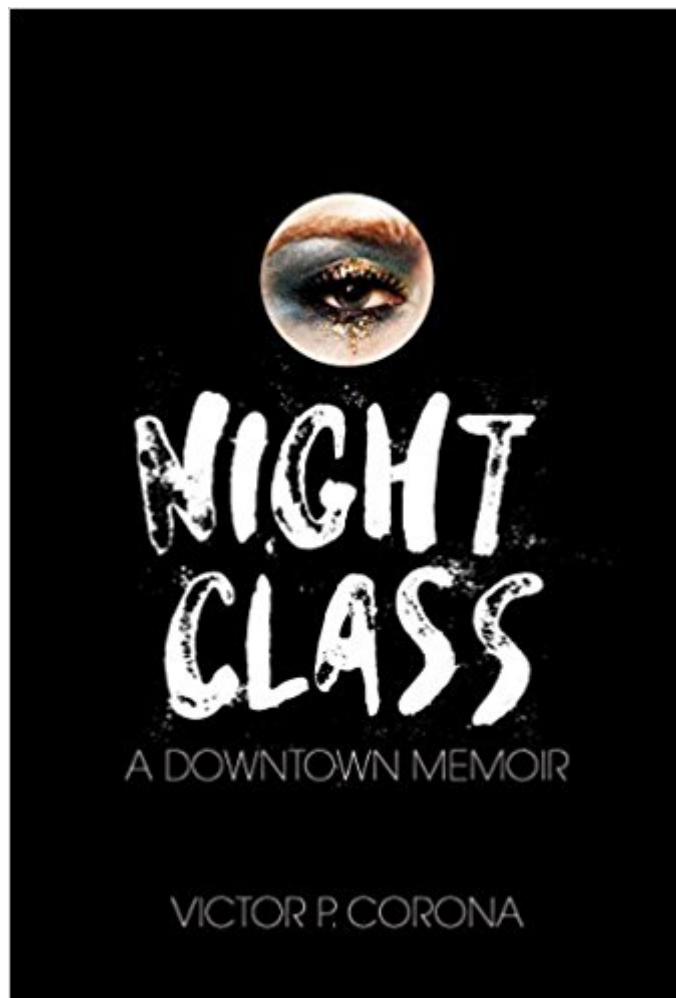


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Night Class: A Downtown Memoir



Synopsis

The playground of the rich and the beautiful, downtown New York's nightlife spectacles and power of self-invention incubated pop icons from Andy Warhol to Lady Gaga. NYU sociologist Victor P. Corona sought a new education, where night classes held in galleries, nightclubs, bars, apartments, stoops, and all-night diners taught him about love, loss, and the living possibilities of identity. Transforming himself from dowdy professor to glitzy clubgoer, Victor immerses himself among downtown's dazzling tribes of artists and performers hungry for fame. *Night Class: A Downtown Memoir* investigates the glamour of New York nightlife. In interviews and outings with clubland revelers and influencers, including Party Monster and convicted killer Michael Alig, *Night Class* exposes downtown's perilous trappings of drugs, ambition, and power. From closeted, undocumented Mexican boy to Ivy League graduate to nightlife writer, Corona shares in *Night Class* the thrill and tragedy of downtown and how dramatically identities can change.

Book Information

Paperback: 320 pages

Publisher: Soft Skull Press (July 11, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1619029391

ISBN-13: 978-1619029392

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 1 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 12 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 7 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #317,360 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #134 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Professionals & Academics > Social Scientists & Psychologists #1836 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Pop Culture > General #3623 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Historical > United States

Customer Reviews

Praise for *Night Class* "What happens when a khaki-clad academic sociologist goes gaga? Find the answer to that question and many others in *Night Class*, a wholly original memoir about Victor Corona's transformation from nerd to NYU's celebrated professor of nightlife. It's also an inspired cultural history and a passionate ethnographic exploration of New York nightlife and the very concept of self." —Wednesday Martin, author of #1 New York Times bestseller *Primates of Park Avenue* and *Stepmonster* "An engaging, if

unlikely, memoir of a scholar by day, club hopper by night. Sociology taken to the streets and basements, yielding a well-wrought introduction to a scene little known and perhaps little imagined to outsiders." Kirkus Reviews "Readers interested in the glamorous and dangerous world of downtown New York will appreciate Corona's rich descriptions and deep research." Booklist "Corona researches the New York City club scene circa 2011 while describing his own metamorphosis from earnest academic nerd into glittering creature of the night... Corona's story of his journey has fascinating elements... Corona... [is] an engaging narrator..." Publishers Weekly "In our elsewhere world of emoji-mediated electronic communication and shared cat videos, Victor Corona reminds us of the power and primal immediacy of real, live night life. There is no better urban guidebook to the alive-and-well social scene that is downtown New York City. If you are nostalgic for Studio 54, Danceteria, CBGB, or even Desperately Seeking Susan, sigh no more: Night Class is the book for you." Dalton Conley, Henry Putnam University Professor of Sociology, Princeton University, and author of Honky and You May Ask Yourself: An Introduction to Thinking Like a Sociologist "Corona has been carving out the terrain of this sociological frontier for years now, making his way into the downtown nightlife scene with a curiosity skewed more toward the philosophical than the pragmatic." Casey Gilfoil, Columbia Daily Spectator "Zeroing in on the seductive magic of the downtown club scene and the fabulous weirdos who flock there Night Class offers a totally absorbing portrayal of nightlife, creativity, and self-transformation that's as personal as it is juicy. And yes, scalding hot tea is definitely spilled! A sociologist who pumped from the bargain bin to the velvet rope, Victor Corona is a Warholian pop critic who would go to the opening of an envelope, and if I were you, I'd go with him! One of the most important books about New York City you will ever read." Madison Moore, cultural critic, artist, and research associate, Department of English, King's College London

Victor P. Corona, Ph.D., is a sociologist at New York University. He has been mentioned in The New York Times, New York Post, The Times (London), Glamour, Town & Country, BlackBook, Daily Beast, and The Washington Post. Born in Mexico City, Victor grew up in the New York suburb of White Plains. He now lives in Harlem.

Night Class is a must read for those with an interest in sociology, New York Nightlife, or any of the books central figures including Lady Gaga, RuPaul, Michael Alig, and Andy Warhol. It includes wholly original interviews that provide context and perspective for the lives of some of New

York's most iconic personalities. Friends and foes go on record (some for the first time) to talk about their experiences with fame, delusion, and celebrity. The tea is so hot, it's scalding. All this combined with the author's unique experiences growing up, getting involved in politics, and discovering his sexuality paint a picture of the author as a fun, inquisitive, and sometimes mysterious downtown personality. No one is safe from the watchful eye of the Professor of the Night. Night Class is an interesting read and a compelling journey from start to finish.

I bought it as a gift for my son /who gave an interview in this book,,it is very well written,,

Night Class takes a hard look at the people who come out to play at midnight in downtown Manhattan- people with cool names like Ultraviolet, Kabuki Starshine, Breedlove, and Lady Gaga. The stories of the bright and ugly sides of nightlife are told by someone who knows this world firsthand. I liked seeing the author's path to reinvention, from someone who can't get passed the velvet rope to an insider with backstage access. It's a really detailed book but it has a fresh, authentic feel- a great portrait of a person and a city.

An in depth look at documenting a particular era of New York nightlife with the famous, not so famous and infamous people who made it happen. Starting from Andy Warhol and up to Lady Gaga, Night Class is that, a lesson as written by a professor of Sociology that is both prescient and poignant. A must read for anyone interested in underground cultures that have now infiltrated the mainstream.

Fabulous and interesting book about NYC nightlife by Victor Corona smart Columbia University professor of sociology who is also a nightlife personality so it is very accurate and has excellent portrayals of venues club kids and personalities. I'm a club kid and writer too so I know what is good for documenting NYC nite life. Also Victor used my photos of Lady Gaga in the book that I took years ago at a party where Lady Gaga hosted prior to being famous. Bravo! Read this book!

I've been nightclubbing in NYC for 33 years, so I was especially interested in Victor Corona's book. At first I wondered if a book with a sociological focus on NYC night life using an Orwellian lens borrowed from "1984" could be a good read. I was thrilled to discover that Victor's snappy prose and entertaining comparisons of Andy Warhol, Lady Gaga and NYC nightclub personalities was a great

page-turner.

College textbook disguised as a "must read" pop culture book. A professor should be a better role model and not be partying it up in the nightlife scene.

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