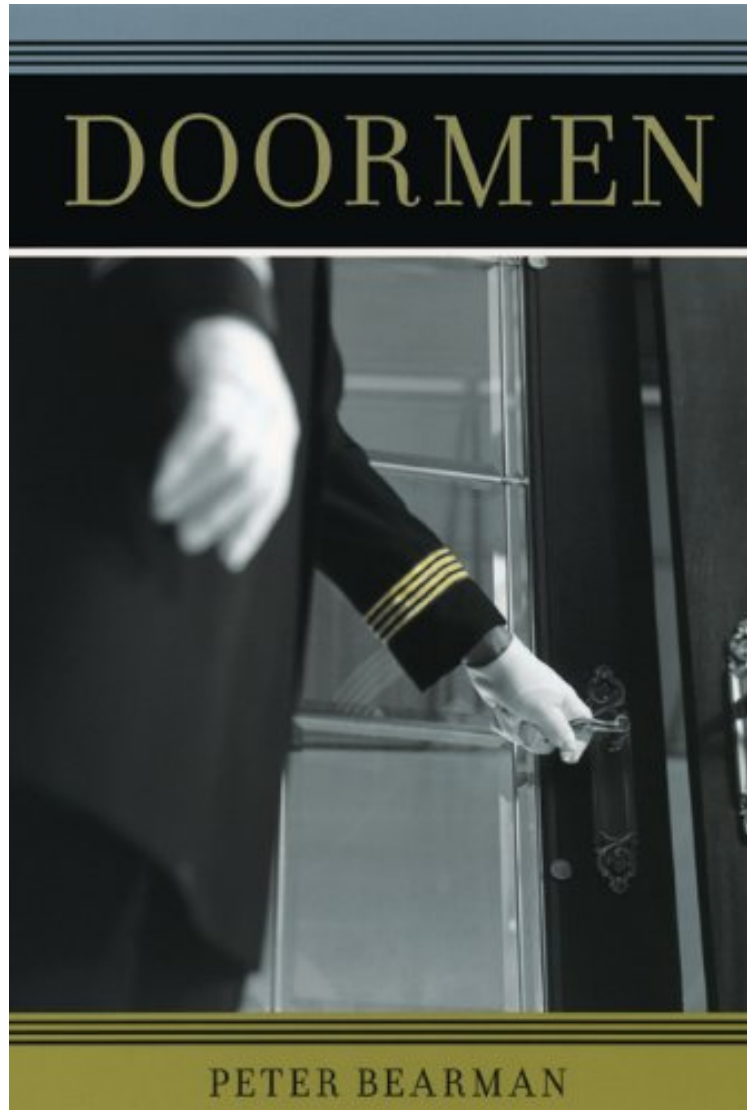


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Doormen (Fieldwork Encounters and Discoveries)

Peter Bearman

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Peter Bearman : Doormen (Fieldwork Encounters and Discoveries) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Doormen (Fieldwork Encounters and Discoveries):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Remarkable studyBy RSWPeople always thought it odd that I cared so much for doormen and was so fascinated with the job (and the people who have it). Then I found this remarkable book and saw a brilliant professor shared this fascination. Although his book is focused on the very unique world of doorpeople in New York City (Chicago, LA, and others are quite different), the book is riveting. And it was a huge help in a couple of grad school people. Don't worry that it is an "academic" text, it is readable and truly will teach you a ton about our lives today. And always, get to know the people who are there to greet you each day...0 of 0 people

found the following review helpful. I strongly dislike this book By Melissa L. I strongly dislike this book. Nothing wrong with the shipping or or anything, but the book is boring and the author is just horrible. Drags out arguments too long. He could have made his argument in a few paragraphs but dragged it out into a long book 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. It's a textbook. By Computing Computer It's more of a text book then what it was advertised to be.

Little fascinates New Yorkers more than doormen, who know far more about tenants than tenants know about them. Doormen know what their tenants eat, what kind of movies they watch, whom they spend time with, whether they drink too much, and whether they have kinky sex. But if doormen are unusually familiar with their tenants, they are also socially very distant. In *Doormen*, Peter Bearman untangles this unusual dynamic to reveal the many ways that tenants and doormen negotiate their complex relationship. Combining observation, interviews, and survey information, *Doormen* provides a deep and enduring ethnography of the occupational role of doormen, the dynamics of the residential lobby, and the mundane features of highly consequential social exchanges between doormen and tenants. Here, Bearman explains why doormen find their jobs both boring and stressful, why tenants feel anxious about how much of a Christmas bonus their neighbors give, and how everyday transactions small and large affect tenants' professional and informal relationships with doormen. In the daily life of the doorman resides the profound, and this book provides a brilliant account of how tenants and doormen interact within the complex world of the lobby.

From Publishers Weekly Ever wonder what lurks in the hearts and minds of those stoic, unflappable, dapperly uniformed men (yes, they're nearly always men) who man the doors of your city's apartment buildings? Provoked by his own awkward interaction with his friend's doorman, Bearman, a sociologist at Columbia University, embarked on this exhaustive study of New York City doormen and the often complex dynamics between them and their buildings' tenants. Though any urban dweller will find something of interest, this isn't really a layman's book, and Bearman's prosaic handling dries out a potentially fruitful subject. He tends to spend too much time examining the obvious questions (e.g., why do doormen find their jobs at once "boring and stressful"?), while barely touching upon others that seem deeper and more fertile, such as the ways in which tenants tend to see their doormen as "socially dead." Because Bearman refuses for the most part to engage in any real cultural observations beyond some obvious extrapolations from his data, much of the meat of the book resides in the many short interviews with doormen speaking their (normally unspoken) minds. But what they reveal is well worth the price of admission. (Oct.) Copyright copy; Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. "With *Doormen*, Peter Bearman emerges as one the most original and dazzling chroniclers of urban society today. In this exceptionally readable book, he shows that everyday urban settings and workers are as interesting as the housing projects, street-corner men, and crack dealers that are the standard topics of contemporary urban studies." --Mitchell Duneier, author of *Sidewalk* and *Slim* ;s Table