

# The Barbizon: The Hotel That Set Women Free



## The Barbizon: The Hotel That Set Women Free

by Paulina Bren

★★★★☆ 4.1 out of 5

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The Barbizon was a residential hotel for women in New York City that operated from 1927 to 1981. It was located at 140 East 63rd Street, on the Upper East Side of Manhattan. The Barbizon was founded by William Waldorf Astor, the owner of the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel. Astor envisioned the Barbizon as a place where young women from all over the country could come to live and pursue their dreams.

The Barbizon was a unique institution. It was one of the first residential hotels in the United States that was designed specifically for women. The hotel had a strict set of rules and regulations, which were designed to protect the young women who lived there. Residents were required to be under the age of 30, and they were not allowed to have male visitors in their rooms. The Barbizon also had a curfew, and residents were required to be in their rooms by 11:00 p.m.

The Barbizon's rules and regulations were controversial at the time, but they were also effective. The hotel was a safe and supportive environment for young women. Residents could come and go as they pleased, and they were not subject to the same restrictions that they would have faced in other boarding houses or hotels. The Barbizon also provided its residents with a variety of services, including meals, laundry, and medical care.

The Barbizon was a popular destination for young women who were pursuing careers in the arts. The hotel was home to a number of famous women, including Grace Kelly, Sylvia Plath, and Joan Didion. The Barbizon was also a meeting place for women who were involved in the women's suffrage movement.

The Barbizon closed in 1981. The hotel was sold to a developer, and it was converted into a luxury condominium building. The Barbizon's legacy lives on, however. The hotel is remembered as a place where women could come to live and pursue their dreams.

### **The Barbizon's Rules and Regulations**

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Some of the Barbizon's rules and regulations included:

\* Residents were required to be under the age of 30. \* Residents were not allowed to have male visitors in their rooms. \* Residents were required to

be in their rooms by 11:00 p.m. \* Residents were not allowed to wear revealing clothing. \* Residents were not allowed to drink alcohol or smoke in the hotel. \* Residents were required to attend church on Sundays.

The Barbizon's rules and regulations were strictly enforced. Residents who violated the rules were subject to fines or eviction.

## **The Barbizon's Residents**

The Barbizon was home to a diverse group of women. The hotel's residents came from all over the country, and they represented a wide range of backgrounds and professions. Some of the Barbizon's most famous residents included:

\* Grace Kelly: The Academy Award-winning actress lived at the Barbizon in the early 1950s. \* Sylvia Plath: The poet and novelist lived at the Barbizon in the late 1950s. \* Joan Didion: The author and journalist lived at the Barbizon in the early 1960s. \* Maya Angelou: The poet and memoirist lived at the Barbizon in the 1950s and 1960s. \* Toni Morrison: The Nobel Prize-winning author lived at the Barbizon in the 1960s.

The Barbizon's residents were a talented and ambitious group of women. They came to the hotel to pursue their dreams, and they found a supportive and encouraging environment. The Barbizon was a place where women could learn, grow, and achieve their goals.

## **The Barbizon's Legacy**

The Barbizon closed in 1981, but its legacy lives on. The hotel is remembered as a place where women could come to live and pursue their dreams. The Barbizon's rules and regulations may have been strict, but

they were also effective. The hotel was a safe and supportive environment for young women. The Barbizon also provided its residents with a variety of services, including meals, laundry, and medical care.

The Barbizon's legacy is also reflected in the careers of its former residents. Many of the women who lived at the Barbizon went on to achieve great things. Grace Kelly became an Academy Award-winning actress. Sylvia Plath became a world-renowned poet. Joan Didion became a Pulitzer Prize-winning author. Maya Angelou became a National Medal of Arts recipient. Toni Morrison became a Nobel Prize-winning author.

The Barbizon was a place where women could come to live and pursue their dreams. The hotel's legacy is one of empowerment and achievement. The Barbizon's former residents are a testament to the power of women.



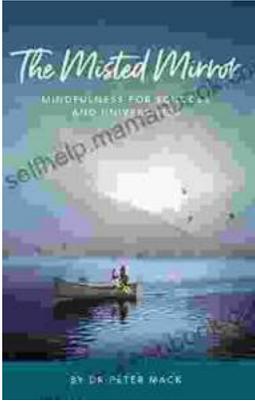
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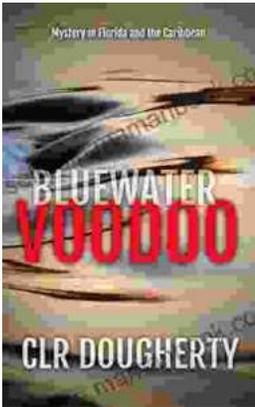
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