

# Behind the Door: The Dark Truths and Untold Stories of the Cecil Hotel

By: Amy Price

**About the book:** The disturbing true story of the notorious Cecil Hotel in downtown LA, by its general manager for a decade and star of the controversial Netflix documentary series *Crime Scene: The Vanishing at the Cecil Hotel*.

**About the Author:** Amy Price is the former general manager of downtown Los Angeles's notorious Cecil Hotel. She lives with her dogs in West Hollywood.

## People

Amy Price-Manager of the Cecil Hotel

Pedro-Unofficial Historian and Maintenance Manager

Elisa Lam-Canadian Traveler, died at the Cecil Hotel and her disappearance and death sparked international media attention.

Cindy-Former Friend of Amy who helped to redecorate the Cecil Hotel.

Steve-In charge of the redesign of the Cecil Hotel. Caught taking money and moving things around and was fired.

Richard Remerez-Nightstalker and previously stayed at the Cecil Hotel.

Clive-Former Fiancé of Amy and Developer of the Cecil Hotel

## Discussion Questions:

1. What were your initial impressions of the Cecil Hotel before reading the book?
2. How does Amy Price's firsthand experience as the hotel's manager shape the narrative? Did you find her perspective reliable or biased?
3. The Cecil Hotel has a long and infamous history. What part of its past did you find most intriguing or disturbing? Why?
4. How did Amy Price handle the media attention surrounding the hotel's darker events, such as the Elisa Lam case? Did you empathize with her approach?
5. The book discusses the challenges of managing a property with a troubled legacy. What leadership or crisis management lessons can be drawn from Amy's experiences?
6. What themes stood out most to you — resilience, redemption, human darkness, or something else?
7. How does Price balance factual storytelling with emotional reflection? Do you think she succeeds in portraying both?

8. The book blurs the line between true crime and memoir. How did this hybrid approach affect your reading experience?
9. Discuss the role of mental health — both among residents and in Amy's own life — in the broader context of the hotel's story.
10. How does the author humanize the people who lived or worked in the Cecil, despite its notorious reputation?
11. Did your perception of the hospitality industry change after reading this book?
12. What moments or anecdotes from Amy's management years surprised you most?
13. If you were in Amy Price's position, what would you have done differently?
14. The Cecil Hotel became a cultural symbol of mystery and tragedy. Do you think the media's portrayal was fair?
15. What do you think the book ultimately reveals about human nature and society's fascination with dark places?

**Read Alike:**

- *Gone at Midnight: The Mysterious Death of Elisa Lam* by Jake Anderson
- *Unmasked: My Life Solving America's Cold Case* by Paul Hole
- *What the dead know: learning about life as a New York City death investigator* by Barbara Butcher