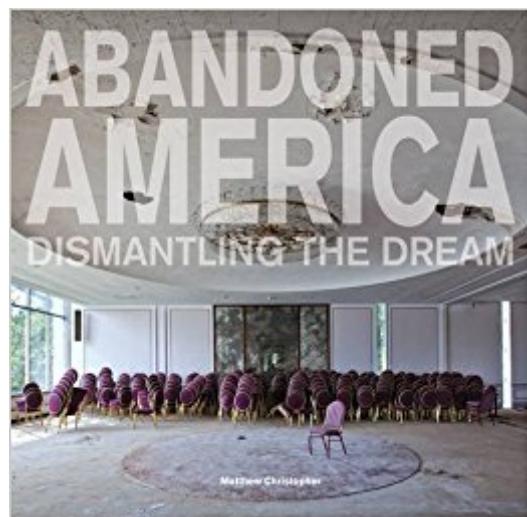


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# Abandoned America: Dismantling The Dream



## Synopsis

If the creation of a structure represents the values and ideals of a time, so too does its subsequent abandonment and eventual destruction. In *Abandoned America: Dismantling the Dream*, internationally acclaimed photographer Matthew Christopher continues his tour of the quiet catastrophes dotting American cities, examining the losses and failures that led these ruins to become forsaken by communities that once embraced them. From the heartbreak story of a state school that would become home to one of the country's worst cases of fatal neglect and abuse to the shattered remains of what was once the largest mall in the United States, "*Abandoned America: Dismantling the Dream*" asks what leads us to leave places behind and what are the consequences of doing so. Explore the magnificent remnants of two theaters fighting for survival, the largest privately owned zoo in the United States, a beachfront community left for dead when the bridge to it burned, a massive crumbling asylum with a dark past, a derelict ocean liner that was the fastest passenger ship ever built, a ghost town built around a gold mine that caused unimaginable bloodshed, an eerie relic of the days of the megamalls, a steel foundry destroyed by escalating rivalries between management and labor, a haunting Maryland institution that gained a terrible reputation for killing its residents, a city struggling to cope with 13,000 blighted properties left behind when the industries disappeared, and more. Prefaced by a thoughtful foreword by *Mysteries at the Museum* host Don Wildman, Matthew Christopher's collection of photographs and essays chronicling these dangerous and hard to access sites force us to confront who we were, who we are, and who we wish to become.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

For the last decade, photographer and writer Matthew Christopher embarked on a journey to document the ruins of American infrastructure, including asylums, industry, churches, schools, theaters, hospitals, prisons, resorts and hotels, as realized in his best-selling book, "Abandoned America: The Age of Consequences" and his critically acclaimed website Abandoned America. His work has gained international attention and has been featured in the L.A. Times, BBC, NBC Nightly News, ABC News, NPR, Philadelphia Inquirer, Washington Post, Yahoo News, Business Insider, The Telegraph, Daily Mail, Buzzfeed, the Weather Channel, the Huffington Post, New York Daily News, the Metro, Photo District News, Photographer's Forum, Juxtapoz, and many others. He has lectured on the art of ruins, abandoned spaces, and preservation, and displayed his photography at galleries and museums across the United States.

I liked the book a lot. It was very interesting. The only reason I didn't give it five stars was because the type used was rather small and too pale (like a medium gray). I am visually impaired and the pale font made the text very difficult to read even with a magnifier.

Wonderful book! Great companion to Matthew Christopher's first book. When viewing the photographs one is saddened at what was so beautiful and has now either become a ruin or disappeared completely. The lengths to which Matthew went to in order to photograph these treasures are outlined in the descriptive text included which adds much to understanding of the images. The book arrived yesterday and the afternoon was spent reading it. Good job, Matthew! Thank you,

If your interests include viewing photos and reading stories about abandoned places around the world, this book is for you. Among other contents are photos of abandoned amusement parks, churches, hospitals, castles and so much more. A wonderful book full of knowledge.

This is the best book yet...the photography is excellent and the history/descriptions informative and entertaining. I LOVE this book! I preordered it in February and got it Sept. 14th, so I had to wait quite awhile for it. But it was well worth the wait. Matthew Christopher is an excellent photographer and his insight into his subjects is exhilarating. The history of our country's industry, of science and

medicine, of architecture now gone, of the lives of people is portrayed in this beautifully put together book. I can't put it down. I highly recommend this book to anyone into photography and history.

This book is so much more than an incite to America's deteriorating structures. The author gives historical information and facts to enlighten you as to the how and why the structure is how it is. I have both his books and highly recommend to anyone interested in both abandoned structures and beautiful photography. The images are thought provoking and touch you deeply with empathetic reactions. I enjoy reading the information provided while trying to digest the state of decay of such magnificent structures. I look forward to Mr. Christopher's future endeavors.

After reading Matthew's first book, I wanted more. I was thrilled when he published his second book. His photos bring you back to a time that was and is now gone forever. One can almost see the people who walked through these buildings everyday. His photos and commentary capture every feeling in those walls. The architecture in some of these buildings is beautiful and you can almost see how grand these structures were. Not only does one learn about the buildings he photographs but one also learns about what drives this author to capture everything he can before it is just a memory. Great author, great book.

Matthew's work is incredible! He has a special gift of being able to capture the essence of any building to showcase it's history and beauty in it's decay. A feast for the eyes and his writing is a pleasant enhancement to the photos. Matthew Christopher is truly a talented individual and I highly recommend this, or any of his books for lovers of photography, architecture or history or anyone for that matter who even has a passing interest in this type of information! Very well presented and well worth the price. Invest in one of the most unique gifts you could give to anyone, including yourself!

As a fan of buildings (I had once dreamt of becoming an architect) this book makes me sad for the fate of abandoned structures, many of them quite beautiful and ornate in their time. But as a fan of photography, I enjoy (in a guilty way) Matthew Christopher's wonderful photos of buildings that have been left behind as the world marches forward. This is a beautiful book, poignant in its portrayal of buildings that have been forgotten and breath-taking in its ability to immerse the viewer in the consequences of our throw-away society. I highly recommend this book!

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