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Hiding My Candy: The Autobiography Of The Grand Empress Of Savannah



Synopsis

The Lady Chablis, the outrageously charming drag queen made famous in John Berendt's bestselling "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil", takes us on an unforgettable tour of Savannah in her amazing story-- a triumphant woman's life filled with passion, humor, flair, and resourcefulness beyond the imaginings of mere mortals. With the guts of a five-star general and an appetite for life that would make even Madonna blush, Chablis takes us for a whirlwind walk on the wild side, callin' it out and pourin' the T! (truth, as The Lady would say). It was at a club in Tallahassee that she found her drag mother: Cliff Taylor, better known as Miss Tina Devore, who would set her on the path to stardom. Playing clubs in Atlanta, Chablis began taking hormones to grow breasts, and developed her stage routine-- but it was in Atlanta that she discovered how dangerous prejudice can be when she was arrested for "falsification of identification". "They took my purse and my gowns and they took The Doll to jail, honey..." Chablis's fan club in Savannah had started up, and, after a detour with "Miss Crystal Meth" that turned The Doll bionic, she began headlining at the Friends Lounge, where she was crowned Grand Empress of the city. Chablis soon formed a club called the S.L.U.W.W., or the Savannah League of Uptown White Women, whose members met for dinner parties known as P.T.A. meetings (Party, Talk, and Alcohol). At the Pickup, an S&M club ("That's 'stand and model,' girl"), Chablis met her fiancée, a "little blond thang" who loves her incognegro (without her wigs and makeup). "Miss Debbie has the qualities that you look for in most men and never find." The Doll's been busted, dusted, cheated out of men and money ("I wasn't wearing my crown so I could be screwed royally!"). She's lived as the Grand Empress of Scrapin' to Get By, she's beat up bad-mouthed bouncers, know love sweet and tender, mean and rough, legal and outlawed... and she's survived, honey, she's FLOURISHED! "Hiding My Candy", spiced with her special recipes for such delicacies as Brenda's Kickin' Chicken and Smack Y'Mama's Ribs, also features The Doll's beauty tips and her Blue Book (a very social register). Laugh-out-loud funny, deeply touching, and just as entertaining as The Lady Chablis in person, "Hiding My Candy" is one dessert you'll find absolutely irresistible.

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Customer Reviews

"Chablis is a full-time transvestite. In clinical terms, she is a preoperative transsexual," John Berendt explains in his introduction. Chablis takes it from there, presenting a sassy, tongue-in-cheek version of her life story, which she began as Benjamin Edward Knox in 1957. She recounts growing up in Florida as a self-confessed "sissy-child

Lady Chablis, the most unforgettable character in John Berendt's best-selling *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* (LJ 1/94), stirs up the past to tell all in this witty and entertaining autobiography. Born Benjamin Knox in 1950s rural Florida, Chablis (a.k.a. Y'mama, a.k.a. the Doll) is technically a preoperative transsexual. Being no average drag queen, Chablis more than hides truth of gender by parodying femininity with a lifelong performance beyond any nightclub's. A bittersweet story filled with abuses and ambitions, Chablis's life is a mix of bawdy vaudeville and Southern gothic. The Lady also offers a chapter of homestyle recipes, a glossary of Chablisisms, and a guide to transvestite beauty and fashion. Berendt's introduction calls Chablis "a gifted comedienne whose humor is instinctive...[with] a flair for the outrageous, and?I trust she'll forgive me for saying so?balls." The same could be said for this book.?David Nudo, "Library Journal.-- a flair for the outrageous, and?I trust she'll forgive me for saying so?balls." The same could be said for this book.?David Nudo, "Library Journal"Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.

I just joined the book club my office has, and this was my first book I read for it. This is the memoir of the Lady Chablis aka Brenda Knox. I'd never heard of her, but apparently she featured prominently in the book/movie *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*. I've never read the book but i vaguely remember my dad renting the movie and it being boring and me wandering away or falling asleep, back when i was a kid. I hated the writing style. She refers to herself in the third person a lot, and she has a glossary of her slang at the back of the book. I don't think we would get along if I knew her. However, I admire her honesty in this book. She doesn't leave anything out, not even

things like stealing, prostitution or being a drug addict. But more than that, i admire her bravery. My favorite part of the book is the beginning, when she talks about growing up in a small town in Florida. She was born a little boy, but remained true to herself, even through hardship. And this is back in time. This would be hard even now, but back then, I can't imagine. This is a woman who's been true to herself, and made it work. She's made the decision to live her life the way she felt, including taking hormone shots for breasts, but not going for the full operation. She loves whomever she loves, and doesn't care about convention. I really respect that. It was hard to get through this book because of the way it was written; it was short but felt really long and dragged a bit; but the message it meant to convey did make it worth it. This was also an excellent book to be reading right as *Pride* comes upon us!

I'm a big fan of the book and movie 'Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil'. When I found out Lady Chablis had a book naturally I had to have it. I am not disappointed. I'm a bit over half way through the book and struggle to put it down. *Hiding My Candy* is extremely entertaining and informative. However, I must add, to the avid book worm it might be somewhat difficult to read. The book is written in what I would call southern slang, and deliciously so. The language makes it real, or should I say T. Enjoy my friends

The book arrived quickly and was a good read. Pretty funny in spots. I wasn't expecting a masterpiece - got something entertaining. My husband and I met her on a cruise we took and stopped in port for the day. The movie was shown onboard the ship - *Midnight in The Garden of Good and Evil* and so I had some history with the author.

Loved it

Too bad she died so young

Bought this as a gift. She loved it.

I feel one needs to watch "Midnight In The Garden Of Good and Evil" to get to "know" The Lady, as she is referred to. It told the story of her lifes struggles and emotional state.

Too bad it was abridged. This was a fun book, I laughed throughout it. But it was too short and I'm

afraid I am sorry I didn't get the unabridged because it really was a fun book.

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