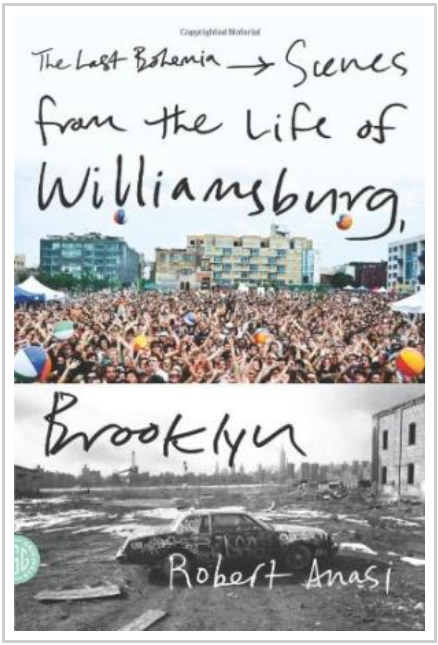


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The Last Bohemia: Scenes from the Life of Williamsburg, Brooklyn

By Robert Anasi

Farrar, Straus & Giroux Inc. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, The Last Bohemia: Scenes from the Life of Williamsburg, Brooklyn, Robert Anasi, Williamsburg, Brooklyn, is now so synonymous with hipster culture and the very idea of urban revitalization - so well-known from Chicago to Cambodia as the playground for the game of ironized status-seeking and lifestyle one-upmanship - that it's easy to forget how just a few years ago it was a very different neighbourhood: a spread of factories, mean streets, and ratty apartments that the rest of New York City feared. Robert Anasi hasn't forgotten. He moved to a $300-a-month apartment in Williamsburg in 1994 and watched as the area went through a series of surreal transformations: gritty industrial district, low-rent artists' enclave, dot-com denizens' crash pad, backdrop for neo-bohemian cool, playpen for stroller-pushing trendy parents, and now a high-rise real-estate developers' colony of brushed aluminium and plate glass. Tight, passionate, and provocative, "The Last Bohemia" is at once a celebration of the fever dream of bohemia, a lament for what Williamsburg has become, and a cautionary tale about the lurching transformations of city neighbourhoods. Through Anasi's eyes we see the warehouses become lofts, secret cocaine bars become...

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