

The book was found

# Bowie



## Synopsis

David Bowie's unexpected death has invited intense scrutiny over the rich and complex imagery and signifiers in the videos released for *Blackstar*, his last, enigmatic album. At press time for this book, a Bowie superfan alerted us to the remarkable similarities between these videos, particularly "Lazarus" and the photo shoot that comprises the bulk of this book. "David said to wish you all the best with this project," replied Bowie's assistant in October 2015, when Steve Schapiro wrote asking for a small text contribution to this volume reproducing their epic photo shoot in Los Angeles from 1974. "We look forward to the book next Spring! [of 2016]." Bowie, by 1974, was evolving yet again in his spectacular journey as one of pop music's most creative and brilliant minds. A music-writing tour-de-force, Bowie was also widely regarded as a fashion icon, pushing the envelope of sexuality and style. Bowie had introduced the world to Major Tom, lived the life of Ziggy Stardust, and had just launched *Aladdin Sane*; the albums *Pin Ups* and *Diamond Dogs* soon to follow. Late that year, photographer Steve Schapiro seized upon a rare invitation from Bowie's manager for a private photo session with the pop star in Los Angeles. The fruit of that day's collaboration between Bowie and Schapiro would provide some of the most iconic album art and magazine shoots produced that decade, including album covers for the albums *Station to Station* and *Low*. The Thin White Duke was ascending. These mostly never-before-published images represent Bowie at his most creative and inspired self and offer a rare glimpse into a collaborative process that created phenomenal iconography in the Bowie oeuvre. "From the moment Bowie arrived, we seemed to hit it off. Incredibly intelligent, calm, and filled with ideas," remembers Schapiro. "He talked a lot about Aleister Crowley, whose esoteric writings he was heavily into at the time. When David heard that I had photographed Buster Keaton, one of his greatest heroes, we instantly became friends." Bowie and Schapiro kidded and laughed about shooting a series of close-up portraits on a putrid green background because they felt it was the worst possible background color for a magazine cover, and so they shot one on a lark—the image eventually became a *People* magazine cover in 1976. The first photo session started at four in the afternoon and went through the night until dawn. Bowie went through countless costume changes, each one seemingly befitting an entirely new and unknown Bowie persona. Most incredible, from a vantage point some 40 years later, was the costume and doodles of a particular session: Bowie dressed in blue slacks and cropped shirt, painted with diagonal white stripes, and scribbling what appears to be a diagram from the Kabbalah. They show up again in the video accompanying the song "Lazarus" on the *Blackstar* album. A delight for Bowie fans of all intensities and degrees, Bowie provides a rare look at a remarkable

musical genius in the throes of creative exploration.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book is beautifully bound with thick sturdy pages filled with AMAZING shots of David Bowie in the 70s. Not only is the cover stunning, but even underneath the book jacket the hardcover itself is printed with another great shot. I just can't believe it; every single page I turn it's so mesmerizing to gaze at Bowie's heterochromia eyes, his hair, the fashion, and his expressions! Steve Schapiro is a brilliant photographer. What a time that must have been. What a moment. What a life.

I thought I was getting just a photography book. But really what I got was a photo book and wonderful essays which unlocked the symbolism of Bowie's artistic projects from the 70s to Blackstar. Not exaggerating -- the opening essay was perfect, moving, and very helpful in decoding Blackstar and Lazarus.

A very nice book to remember Bowie. Full of large, high quality photos from his Station to Station/Man Who Fell to Earth era, with some very nice writing in the Foreword and Afterwords that give some really cool insight, particularly with his final album and videos.

Gorgeous. Not so much that is "brand new" I'd seen most of these photos before. It is a big, pretty, coffee table book for sure. The short article by Albin Wantier made it worth the buy for me. It is a lovely collection of Schapiro's photographs printed in high quality. There is an brief "Afterword" by

Michael Lippman and one by Steve Schapiro. Bowie was such a visual, performance arts guy that for me, this book is necessary to my collection. Something I can pull out and reminisce over as I appreciate Bowie --the ultimate visual art piece!

Even though there isn't much writing on this book (maybe 6 pages total), the photography on it is spectacular. David Bowie comes to life center stage in these images and it's a nice way to see how he became the Blackstar  $\hat{\text{A}}\hat{\text{A}}\hat{\text{A}}\dots$  that he will forever be.

Absolutely gorgeous book! -- a must have for Bowie fans-- Steve Shapiro's photographs capture the mid seventy's Bowie so eloquently, mostly from the Station to Station - The Man Who Fell To Earth period as well as his appearance on The Cher Show and more. The book has a beautiful dust jacket, and under that is another gorgeous photo on the book itself. Every page is captivating and really captures David at one his peak periods. Highly-Highly recommended!

I am so glad I saw a link for this book. I dearly miss David and am adding to my collection almost daily. I have not cracked this open yet but the picture I have seen on the internet for it are great. A perfect piece for my collection.

i loved it. the pictures are everything! every bowie fan should have this book.

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