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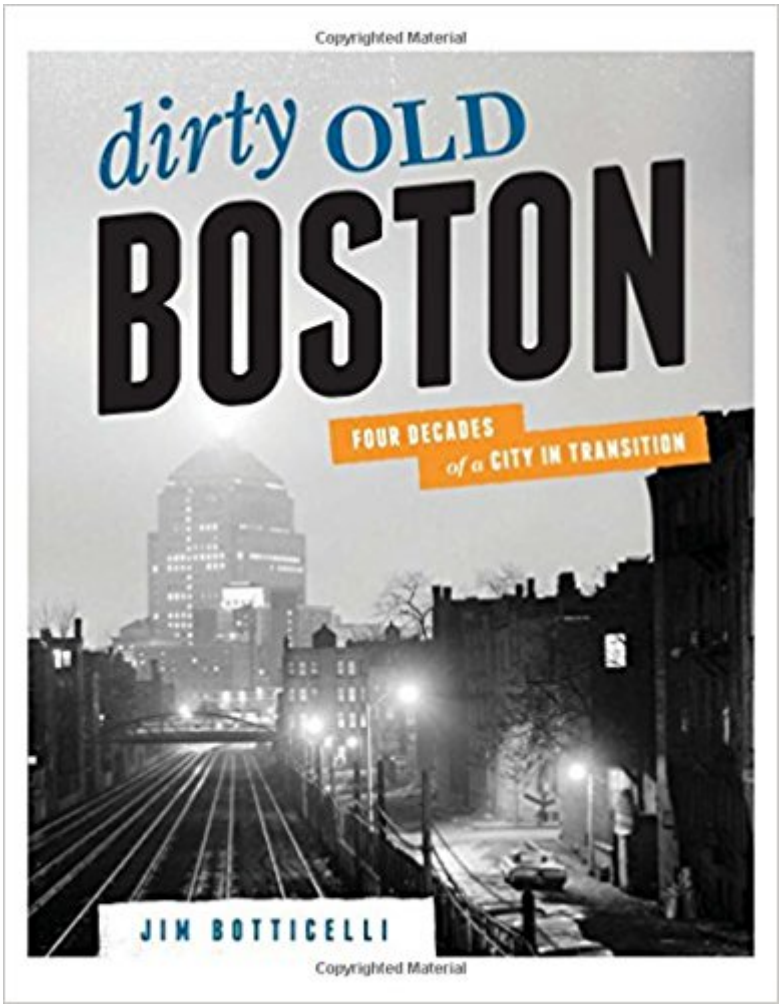
Dirty Old Boston: Four Decades Of A City In Transition



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Synopsis

When Jim Botticelli launched the Dirty Old Boston Facebook page as a salute to the gritty city he once knew, he discovered that thousands of people were equally nostalgic and curious about Boston's recent past. And for good reason; after World War II, Boston changed rapidly, without apology, for better and worse, and in many ways forever. Dirty Old Boston chronicles the people, streets, and buildings from the postwar years to 1987. From ball games to dive bars, Dirty Old Boston also covers some of the city's most tumultuous events including the razing of neighborhoods, Boston's busing crisis, and the continual fight for affordable housing. Photographs assembled from family albums, student projects, institutional archives, and professional collections reveal Boston as seen from the streets. Illuminating Boston's tenacity and spirit, Dirty Old Boston presents our proud moments and our growing pains. Raw and beautiful, this book is an evocative tribute to the city and its people.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

...Such transplants should study Dirty Old Boston, the essential new pictorial softcover ...Â from local armchair anthropologist Jim Botticelli. His history skips over the safe stuff and picturesque renditions of the Freedom Trail. As Botticelli explains in the intro, his book conjures "a place where you could find a parking spot if you needed it." -Chris Farone, Dig Boston

Jim Botticelli moved to Boston in 1971 and never left. He is a former DJÂ atÂ WMBR and WILD. He spent thirty years teaching for the BostonÂ Public Schools and is the creator of the Dirty Old Boston

Facebook page.

This is a really great book if you grew up around here....you'd enjoy it anyway, but when you remember the old days when the Combat Zone was the Combat Zone and the Orange line was still the El, it really takes you down memory lane. I was proud to make the final cut, and am in a photo in the 80's section of me and GG Allin. If you are a GG fan, it's before he got so whacked, and looks all normal.....Anyway, as I was getting ready to leave my sister's on Christmas day, I saw my Dad pouring over the copy I gave him for Christmas and he looked like he was really enjoying it! Jimmy Botticelli did a great job of putting the book together. Thanks Jimmy!

Great book ! I grew up on the north shore, and worked in Boston as an Ironworker, local 7, and remember many of the views of Boston. In fact I saw many of the buildings on which I worked, not to mention the surrounding neighborhoods. If You ever worked in, or visited Boston in the years covered in this book,,,, just buy it! You will enjoy it.

Dirty Old Boston is a wonderful photographic tribute to the Boston of my youth. It captures the gritty, working class city during the post-war years until the late 1980's, when the city began to transform into the more modern place that it is today. Anyone who lived in Boston before the 1980's, especially, will appreciate the memories of places now long forgotten and the faded headlines that were sometimes associated with them. Dirty Old Boston is a family album for all of us who remember the Boston of days now long gone by, but not yet lost in the mists of personal memories.

I've been following this account on social media for years and was really excited to buy a copy of the book for my dad. He grew up in Boston through most of the time measured in this book, and it was really awesome to sit down with him one afternoon and go through it with him. It seemed like he had a story for almost every page. Shipping was incredibly fast.

This is a fabulous collection of photos that capture the "old" Boston, going back to 1945 a,d up until 1985. It captures the "real" side of the city where people actually lived and worked, an aspect of the city that many of us miss today. If "Bean Town" is your hometown, you will love this book!

I didn't like the book because it truly portrayed dirty old Before ston

Wonderful encapsulation of what it meant to be "dirty old Boston" especially for those of us who did not live during that era but feel a certain nostalgia for a time we never will know. Looking forward to more editions from this author.

I bought this book because I'm in it and was pleasantly surprised by its overall focus and content. It's a fabulous pictorial of four decades in Boston. Unflinchingly quirky, delightful, and very enjoyable.

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