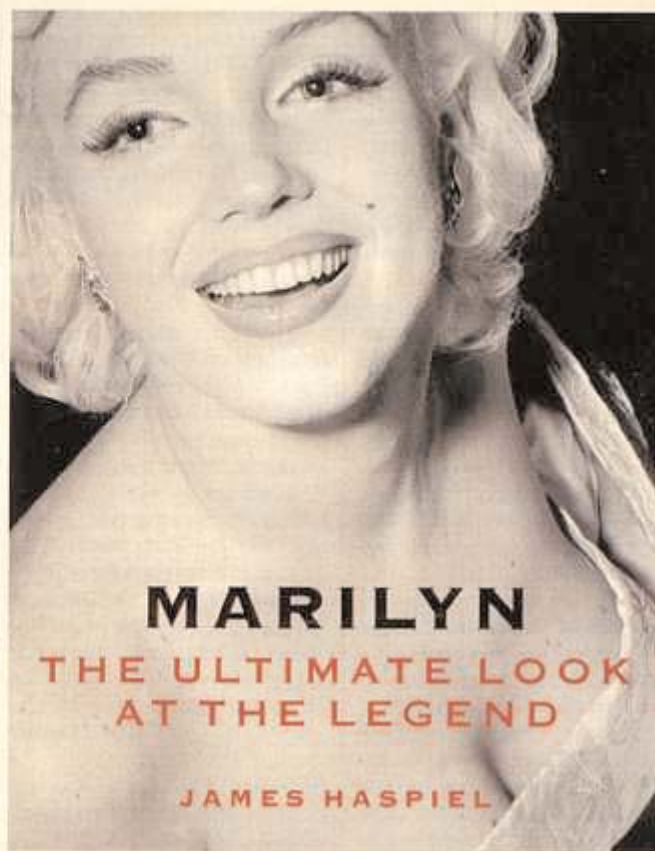


groupie's tale. Jim Haspiel saw much of Marilyn's New York life first-hand. His book contains 150 never-before-published photographs, many taken by himself. Unlike other authors, Haspiel does not allow himself the luxury of speculation – he recounts the facts as he knows what happened. On a



Marilyn Monroe – *the truth at last?*

wall in Haspiel's New York apartment is a large black and white photograph of Marilyn from *The Seven Year Itch* inscribed, 'To the one and only Jimmy, my friend, love you, Marilyn'.

The first full-length book about MM appeared in 1960 written by Maurice Zolotow. Haspiel pointed out its mistakes and so impressed the author that he wrote 'To Jim Haspiel – who could have written a better book on MM, sincerely Maurice Zolotow' to which the subject added 'That's right! Marilyn Monroe xoxo.'

Although he is still in love with Marilyn, Haspiel is no sycophant. In fact, their final meeting, three months before her death, ended with him telling her to 'Go to hell'.

In a world awash with fantasy,

distortion and downright lies, it's refreshing to read a sane, insider's book about the greatest sex symbol ever.

– Paul Donnelley

The Marilyn Monroe industry rolls on and on with a seemingly never ceasing glut of books and articles about this screen goddess who died under very mysterious circumstances in the summer of 1962.

It is, therefore, pleasant to come across an account of Marilyn by someone who actually *did* know her very well, who is not a sensationalist but writes with an obvious affection for his subject. **Marilyn: The Ultimate Look at the Legend** by James Haspiel (Smith Gryphon, £19.99) recounts the obsession of a 16-year-old boy with a movie actress. This is, however, no