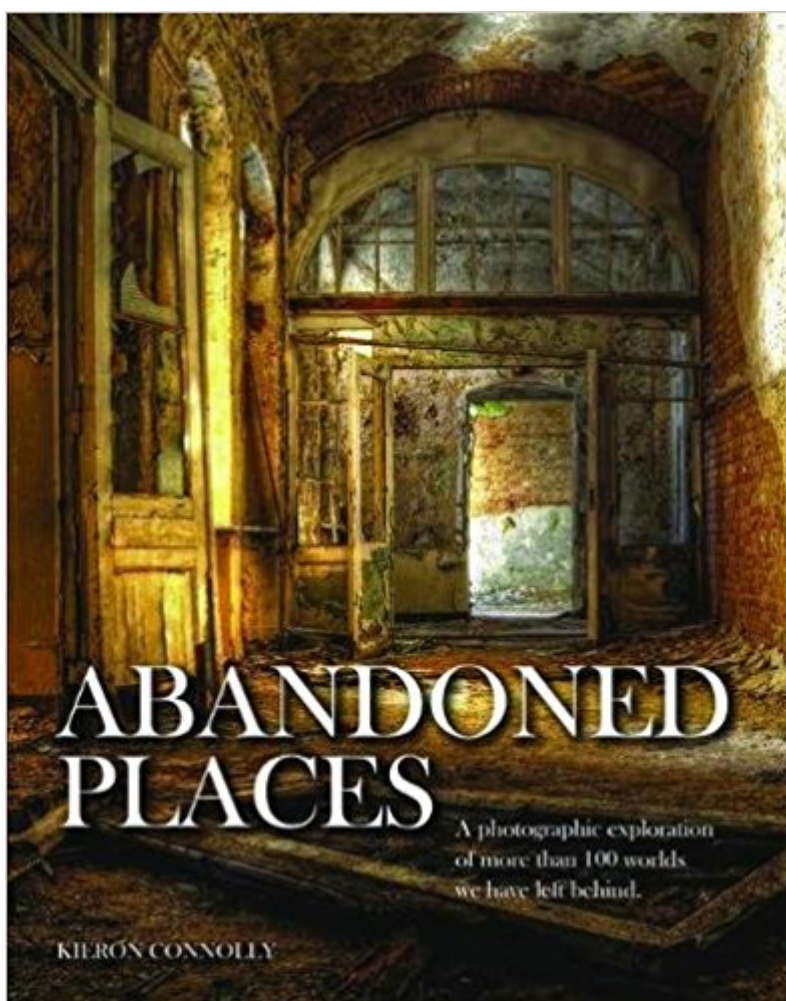


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# Abandoned Places: A Photographic Exploration Of More Than 100 Worlds We Have Left Behind



## Synopsis

Children's schoolbooks left open in a classroom, trees entangled in a rusting Ferris wheel, hulks of ships high and dry, miles from any water – seeing images like these we're bound to wonder: what happened here? Ranging from the urban aquarium of a flooded shopping mall to majestic shipwrecks, from aircraft graveyards to forgotten railway stations, from leper colonies to radiation zones, *Abandoned Places* explores 65 fascinating lost worlds from all around the globe. Arranged thematically from industrial to military sites, from ghost towns to recreational sites, the book explains through extended captions the story of how each place came to be abandoned – natural or chemical disaster, war, economic collapse, changing attitudes and tastes. Often it's because the world has moved on and these places are no longer of use or interest in the march of progress. Throughout, though, emerges a picture not of what has been lost, but of what remains. Left to the elements but also ignored by humanity, the photographs of these ghost towns, crumbling structures and vessels illuminate worlds for us that we thought were lost. Through these, we gain a glimpse into the past. With more than 150 outstanding color photographs exploring hauntingly beautiful places over one or two spreads, *Abandoned Places* is an excellent pictorial examination of worlds that we've left behind.

## Book Information

Series: Abandoned

Hardcover: 224 pages

Publisher: Amber Books (November 22, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1782743944

ISBN-13: 978-1782743941

Product Dimensions: 9.3 x 0.9 x 11.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars 10 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #101,201 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #31 in Books > Arts &

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## Customer Reviews

A graduate from Edinburgh University and the National Film & Television School, Kieron Connolly

has written for the Mail on Sunday and the Daily Mail, and has interviewed film-makers for movieScope Magazine.

Great photographs of very interesting places

Loved.. Loved this book.. pictures are great.. I am an artist and I do a lot.. of reverse collage.. bought 2 books..

Great book. Stunning photographs. As advertised...not a ton of reading material, but after all, you're buying a picture book.

Bought this used and it was like brand new, and the price was fabulous.

Great buy

This is a thoroughly thought provoking book. Throughout history mankind has built, used, maybe abused, and then abandoned. We see this in crumbling castles and forts all around the world. But there are many, many more recent cases of abandonment that we have forgotten about in our rush to the future, and it is these places that Kieron Connolly has chosen to concentrate on and illustrate with superb photographs. There is, for instance, the now almost totally dried up Astral Sea, where ships lie in a man-made desert, a victim of Soviet tinkering with nature.of the last century. And more recently the empty playgrounds and streets of Fukushima, Japan, the result of the meltdown of the nuclear power station there. Closer to home is Bodi, California, left behind by the world when the last gold mine there was closed in 1942 leaving the little town to be recolonised by the wild, and the still beautiful City Hall Station in New York City, though closed to passengers since 1945. If you care about your world and recognise the line 'something lost and something' gained, or if you are simply curious about the forgotten relics of recent history, give Abandoned Places a look - or maybe buy it for a like-minded friend.

Really, you need to avoid this review if cutting up a book makes you queasy or angry. I'm a collage artist and have been cutting up books for 30 years. 99% of the time it's old, worn out, unloved, used books. I cut up my coloring books and clipart books. This and a folio art Star Wars book (not photographs) were specifically bought to cut up. A UStream artist was using this as a artist journal

which was killer good. I absolutely love these old interiors of dead places, lost and forlorn. Some are trashy and have graffiti. Some are dusty and faded but hardly touched by anyone and anything. Some are creepy relics like mental hospitals. Some are historic like gold rush ghost towns. No people. Hardly anything growing. In a way they are like empty Victorian baby clothes or wedding dresses, once full of live and love, rendered silent and empty. These photographs are meat and potatoes for me. They have a voice that speaks with even the smallest bit with colors and textures that cannot be found anywhere else. I have done my first harvest of this book and have a stack of 20 pages that I will cut down further and file by color or theme. Some are already volunteering to join collages in my art journals. Painters transform wet pigment into art. Quilters transform fabric and mosaic artists transform broken pottery, glass and tile. My pallet is papers -- everything from trash on the street, the recycle bin, commercial papers, and yes even brand new books. If you are a casual consumer of folio books this might be a good choice if you want to experience these silent places. If you are interested in ghosts, and other sorts of things, this might be a travel wish book. Do be careful if you want to give this as a gift. I showed this to my sister and she hated it because these places made her feel sad, empty, and uncomfortable. Almost the opposite of my impressions.

I love the stories as well as the photographs in this book.

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