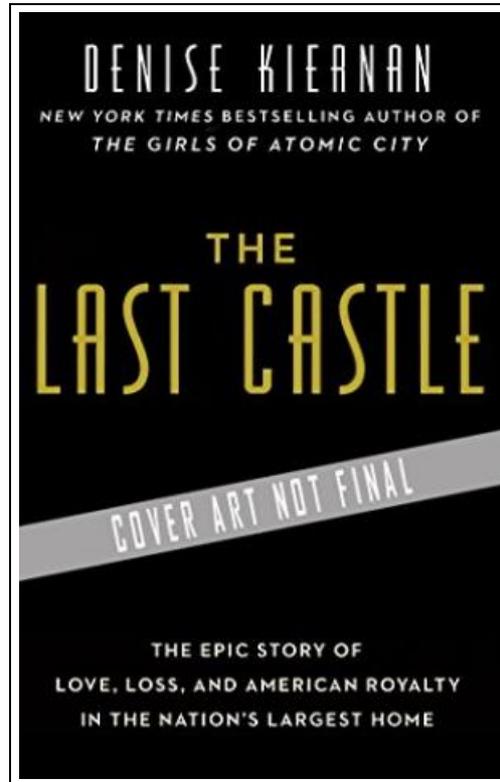


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Brilliance Audio. No binding. Condition: New. Dimensions: 5.5in. x 5.0in. x 1.1in. From the author of the New York Times bestseller *The Girls of Atomic City* comes the fascinating true story behind the magnificent Gilded Age mansion Biltmore, the largest, grandest residence ever built in the United States, improbably located in Appalachia, and the dynamic, troubled, and ultimately triumphant Vanderbilt family whose stewardship and innovation helped not only shape the region but to preserve a unique era of American history. Imagine the jaw-dropping splendor of Downton Abbey set against the wilds of the Blue Ridge Mountains, and you'll have some idea of the delightful idiosyncrasies and unexpected juxtapositions that make Biltmore House and village near Asheville, North Carolina, a captivating setting for a truly American tale of success, loss and world-shifting change. Built over six years by the fabulously wealthy George Vanderbilt and opened in 1895, this mansion remains unrivaled in splendor and size even today (bigger than three White Houses, originally on a plot of land larger than all of Washington, DC). But the true marvel is the down-to-earth socialite who married George Vanderbilt, one of America's most elusive and wealthy bachelors, and who helped rescue this treasure from the brink of insolvency to become the last great remnant of America's Gilded Age. Edith Stuyvesant Dresser claimed lineage from one of New York's best known families but was orphaned at a young age. She and her sisters spent their formative years in Newport and Paris, mixing with the elite in Europe and New York. Her engagement and marriage to George Vanderbilt was one of the most watched events of New York society, and she appeared set for a life of incomprehensible luxury in the Northeast social scene. After her honeymoon, Edith was whisked away by her husband to the 175,...

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