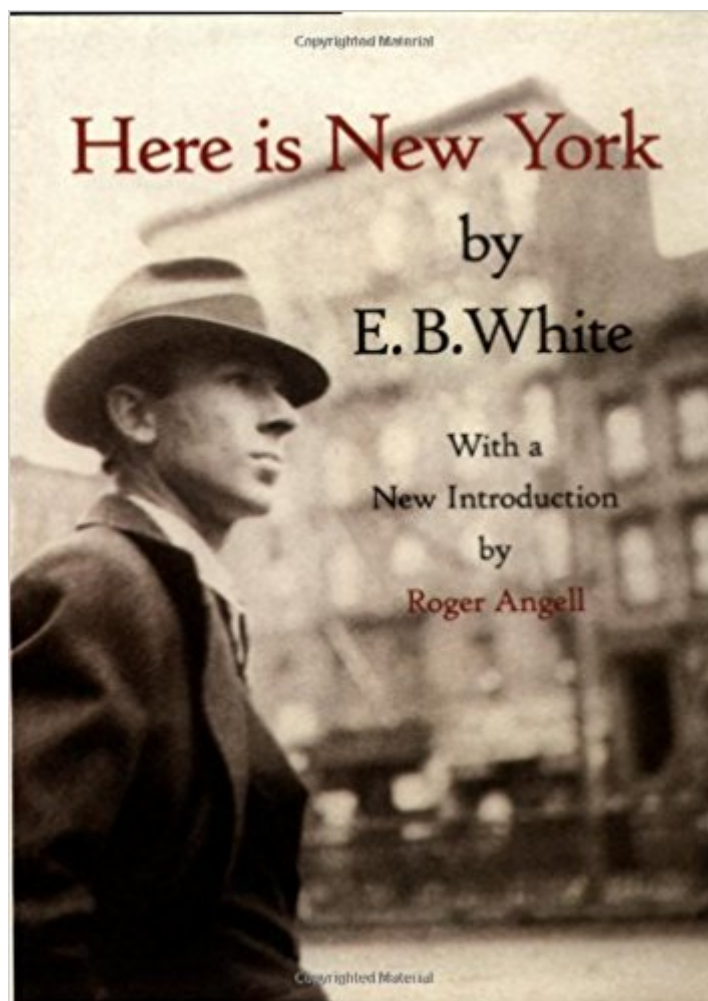


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# Here Is New York



## Synopsis

Perceptive, funny, and nostalgic, E.B. White's stroll around Manhattan remains the quintessential love letter to the city, written by one of America's foremost literary figures. The New York Times has named *Here is New York* one of the ten best books ever written about the metropolis, and The New Yorker calls it "the wittiest essay, and one of the most perceptive, ever done on the city."

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"On any person who desires such queer prizes, New York will bestow the gift of loneliness and the gift of privacy." So begins E.B. White's classic meditation on that noisiest, most public of American cities. Written during the summer of 1948, well after the author and editor had taken up permanent residence in Maine, *Here Is New York* is a fond glance back at the city of his youth, when White was one of the "young worshipful beginners" who give New York its passionate character. It's also a tribute to the sheer implausibility of the place--the tangled infrastructure, the teeming humanity, the dearth of air and light. Much has changed since White wrote this essay, yet in a city "both changeless and changing" there are things here that will doubtless ring equally true 100 years from now. To wit, "New Yorkers temperamentally do not crave comfort and convenience--if they did they would live elsewhere." Anyone who's ever cherished his essays--or even Charlotte's *Web*--knows that White is the most elegant of all possible stylists. There's not a sentence here that does not make itself felt right down to the reader's very bones. What would the author make of Giuliani's New York? Or of Times Square, Disney-style? It's hard to say for sure. But not even Planet Hollywood could ruin White's abiding sense of wonder: "The city is like poetry: it compresses all life ... into a

small island and adds music and the accompaniment of internal engines." This lovely new edition marks the 100th anniversary of E.B. White's birth--cause for celebration indeed. --Mary Park

"E.B. White's love letter to New York. • "AMNY's eBooks Every New Yorker Should Read""Just to dip into this miraculous essayâ "to experience the wonderful lightness and momentum of its prose, its supremely casual air and surprisingly tight knitâ "is to find oneself going ahead and rereading it all.White's homage feels as fresh as fifty years ago." • "John Updikeâ "New York was the most exciting, most civilized, most congenial city in the world when this book was written. It's the finest portrait ever painted of the city at the height of its glory.â • "Russell Bakerâ "The wittiest essay, and one of the most perceptive, ever done on the city.â • "The New Yorkerâ "Part reverie, part lament and part exultation, the essay has long been recommended by Manhattanophiles as the best sketch ever drawn of the place. But since September 11, 2002, several sentences near the endâ "sentences 55 years oldâ "resound with a prescience so eerie they bear repeating. 'The city, for the first time in its long history, is destructible,' White writes. 'A single flight of planes no bigger than a wedge of geese can quickly end this island fantasy, burn the towers, crumble the bridges, turn the underground passages into lethal chambers, cremate the millions. The intimation of mortality is part of New York now: in the sound of jets overhead, in the black headlines of the latest edition.'â • "The Los Angeles Timesâ "a masterpiece of travel writing. This edition contains an introduction by White's stepson, Roger Angell, himself a longtime New Yorker writer and the author of a number of best-selling books about baseball. After Sept. 11, readers will find this book touching, and prescient, in striking ways. Consider this paragraph: 'All dwellers in cities must live with the stubborn fact of annihilation; in New York the fact is somewhat more concentrated because of the concentration of the city itself, and because, of all targets, New York has a certain clear priority. In the mind of whatever perverted dreamer might loose the lightning, New York must hold a steady, irresistible charm.' The charm isn't just the city. It is also the utterly perfect prose of E.B. White.â • "Louisville Courier-Journalâ "White epitomized the lucid and penetrating essayistic voice so treasured at the New Yorker, an impeccable style employed to powerful effect in this exquisitely precise contemplation of the New York City of his youth, and, by extrapolation, of humankind at large. Written in 1948, this witty and perceptive praise song to New York is a classic.â • "Booklist, February 1, 2004

EB Whites book is a long reflective essay about New York. While a short book a touching reflective book of observations about the people and the city. There are still many truths to this essay today.

Beautiful, short work by Mr White. I sped through it the first three times I read it. It makes me miss the City. But it also brings the idea of the City to life. I love being able to relate Mr White's New York with the New York I knew and the New York I imagine now. His prose brings the City to life and lets your mind walk with the people down the streets, remembering the buildings, the people, the food. Highly recommended.

I've loved E.B.White's writing ever since a grade school teacher read *Charlotte's Web* aloud to the class, chapter by chapter. His writing is unique, clear and memorable, whether he is writing about what he sees out his window or about life in New York walking down a busy sidewalk, masses of people all around him. While life in New York has changed significantly since E.B. White first wrote the words contained in this book, readers will find his writing also timeless in spirit and inspirational in invoking a renewed appreciation for New York and the little details that make it special. White once said of his writing: 'Writing to me is not an exercise in addressing readers, it is more as though I were talking to myself while shaving'. If only we could all be as articulate, memorable and even humorous while talking to ourselves and others! A very special book, worth reading and re-reading.

Really interesting snapshot of New York from one man's point of view as he wanders around the city one day in the mid-20th century. He paints a vivid picture of a Manhattan that no longer exists, giving us an opportunity to time travel for a short time. Eerie (in retrospect) references to planes destroying the city. Totally coincidental (no, I'm not trying to hatch a conspiracy theory; the author is speaking more metaphorically than literally), but chilling nonetheless

GOOD !

The distillers secret thoughts are made readily consumable; though, without a loss of their subtle originalities. I ran through the pages like a thief in the night; yet, unrelieved when I reached the end. The change and constancy EB White bears witness to in his account of New York City in the early 1900s resemble a recipe book of sweet and sorrowful memories.

Despite the fact that this ode to New York City was written more than forty years ago, but it still holds true with few exceptions. E. B. White was a superb writer and story teller. I was fortunate to have enjoyed his writing in the *New Yorker* magazine for years. Having lived in New York City for

more than thirty years, I appreciate and admire everything White has said about New York City. I love the City so much that I can't think of living anywhere else though I have visited most of the world class cities during my travels.

Early to a party, I was looking at a friend's bookcase and pulled this slim volume from a shelf. After reading the first sentence, I knew I had to have it. Originally published in 1949, E.B. White, who no longer lived in New York City, captured the soul and spirit of the place. Nothing has changed. At the time, the United Nations building was under construction, and the bombing of London was fresh in his mind. He ends the book with a vision that perfectly balances hope with danger, in words prescient of September 11 - I re-read those paragraphs on every anniversary, it has become my ritual. But what originally drew me to the book is not only the truth and insight of White, but his style, his felicity of expression. The author of "The Elements of Style" certainly knew the rules, and knew when to break them, as well. The second paragraph ends with a run-on sentence 198 words long, a thrilling joy ride which itself demonstrates how impossible it is to capture, in prose, the enormity and importance of this city. I agree with Russell Baker, this is "the finest portrait ever painted of the city."

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