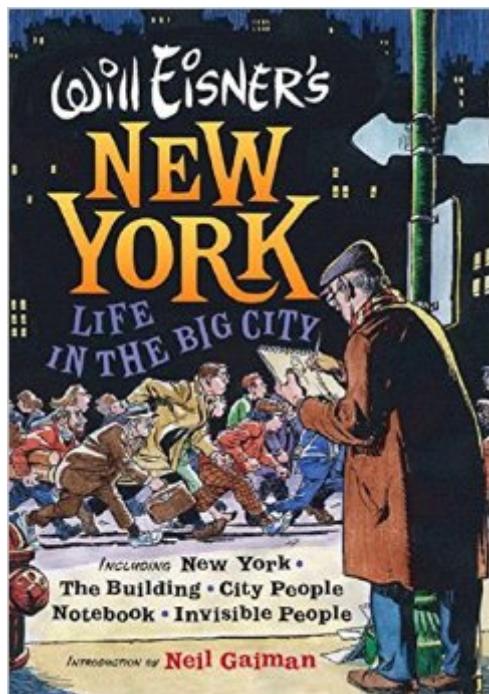


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Will Eisner's New York: Life In The Big City



Synopsis

"An American storyteller, like Ray Bradbury, like O. Henry." •Neil Gaiman With an unparalleled eye for stories and expressive illustration, Will Eisner, the master and pioneer of American comics art, presents graphic fiction's greatest celebration of the Big Apple. No illustrator evoked the melancholy duskiness of New York City as expressively as Eisner, who knew the city from the bottom up. This new hardcover presents a quartet of graphic works (New York, The Building, City People Notebook, and Invisible People) and features what Neil Gaiman describes as "tales as brutal, as uncaring as the city itself." From ancient buildings "barnacled with laughter and stained with tears" to the subways, "humorless iron reptiles, clacking stupidly on a webbing of graceful steel rails," Will Eisner's New York includes cameo appearances by the author himself; several new illustrations sketched by Eisner, posthumously inked by Peter Poplaski; and three previously unpublished "out-takes" •a treasure for any Eisner fan, and sure to become a collectible. Introduction by Neil Gaiman.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Collecting four of Eisner's later graphic novels— "New York, The Building, City People Notebook and Invisible People" —this volume takes as its subject the city Eisner lived in and drew for most of his life. Eisner treats the city like a lover; its flaws are on display, its cantankerous nature is well-known, but the abiding tenderness that comes from lifelong intimacy is evident on every page. In New York, people on trains fantasize about one another while never making eye contact in "An Affair on the

BMT Local"; while in "Worm's Eye View," two pairs of feet come together and move apart in a wordless narrative. These little moments of witnessed connection are the heart of the collection, and Eisner's eye for humanity amid the grind of the city is always on target. In the vignettes of City People Notebook, time, smell, space and streets all have their own special sets of rules in this hectic city. Much of the collection touches on the slightly magical nature of cities, and Neil Gaiman's very personal introduction adds the context of Eisner's enormous influence on contemporary comics and graphic novels. (Oct.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

The latest Eisner omnibus collects four graphic novels from 1986-92 that emphasize the lifelong New Yorker's take on his hometown. *New York: The Big City* (1986) and *City People Notebook* (1989) consist of well-observed vignettes of urban life. The others are more substantive. *The Building* (1987) traces the interconnected lives of four inhabitants of a now-demolished office building. *Invisible People* (1992) depicts a trio of anonymous souls who elicit scant notice from their fellow Manhattanites. Like all of Eisner's later works, these are marred by an outdated sentimentality but redeemed by his sage compassion and masterful storytelling. Gordon FlaggCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

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