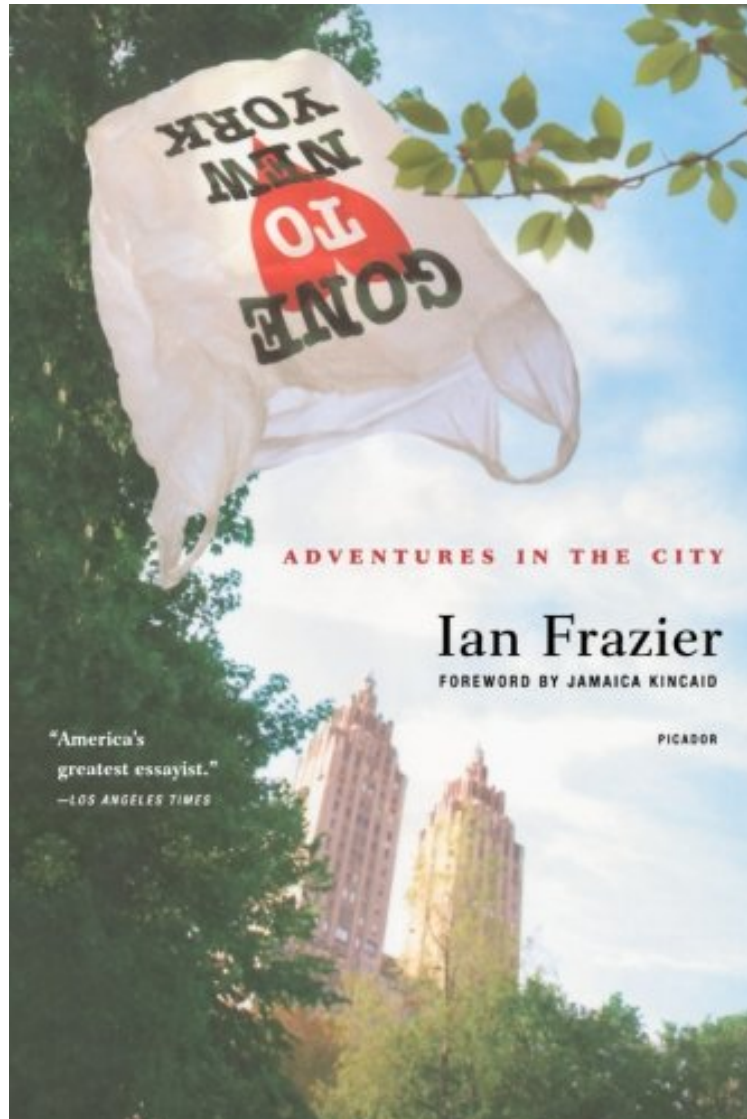


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## Gone to New York: Adventures in the City

*Ian Frazier*

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**Ian Frazier : Gone to New York: Adventures in the City** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Gone to New York: Adventures in the City*:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Winning Collection of Essays By Robert Abell Those familiar with Ian Frazier's writings will also enjoy these essays. The concluding essay, "Out of Ohio," alone makes purchase of this volume worthwhile. Those not familiar with Frazier will find witty writing combined with insightful and detailed (at times) observation, along with a few of Frazier's private pursuits like plastic bags in trees. 0 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Thomas Martinno problems 12 of 12 people found the following review

helpful. Bag-Snagging in the CityBy takingadayoffThe New York in Woody Allen's movies is beautiful but unreal, like a movie star who's never as stunning in real life as on screen. Ian Frazier's New York, on the other hand, is violent and dirty, but real. These essays are arranged chronologically, from 1975 to 2005. (Oddly, there are no entries from the eighties.) Frazier writes about neighborhoods and bars and shops and characters. There are floods and robberies and murders. One of my favorite pieces is about a typewriter repair shop that Frazier finds when he needs his manual typewriter repaired. The owner, Mr. Tytell was one of the few typewriter repairmen left as word processors and then computers replaced typewriters. The article was written in 1997 and the 83 year-old owner had just renewed the lease on his shop for another ten years. Since ten years has passed, I was curious if the shop was still in business. A quick search revealed that the shop went out of business in 2001, but the family still has a successful document research service, doing forensic investigations of typewritten papers. No word on whether Frazier still uses a typewriter to write his essays. There are three pieces about Frazier's obsession with removing plastic bags from trees. This apparently is not a specifically New York obsession since he mentions trips to Los Angeles and Massachusetts and Illinois to remove bags from trees. When he first wrote about bags in trees, it didn't seem completely odd to me that he might remove bags in his own neighborhood. You want your neighborhood to look nice, don't you? But it became more of a sport for him and his buddies. They snagged bags instead of golfing. I suppose the fact that I read three pieces about bag snagging is testimony to Frazier's writing. I sure wouldn't have read three articles about golfing. And it's a lesson for the young writers out there -- if you can't find a quirky character to write about, become one.

Welcome to Ian Frazier's New York, where every block is an event, and where the denizens are larger than life. Meet landlord extraordinaire Zvi Hugo Segal, and the man who scaled the World Trade Center. Learn the location of Manhattan's antipodes, and meander the length of Route 3 to New Jersey. Like his literary forebears Joseph Mitchell and A. J. Liebling, Frazier makes us fall in love with America's greatest city all over again.

From Publishers WeeklyFrazier (Great Plains) chronicles his relationship with New York City in this collection of essays from the New Yorker, the Atlantic and elsewhere. Kincaid's foreword celebrates her friend's identification with Ohio, but despite the formative importance of his hometown and state, Frazier clearly develops a particular, fond attachment to all the places he comes to know. His essays pile up sensory detail, personalities, stories and history, creating a patina of personal meaning. Whether it's Canal Street in a grittier time, the bus route he takes to his current home in New Jersey or the roundabout way he made it to New York in the first place, Frazier creates a sense of place and of the way people interact with it: a memorial grows up and disintegrates at the site of a fatal shooting; a repairman embodies the history of typewriters; he himself becomes obsessed with removing bags stuck in trees. Some sense of New York is probably necessary to enjoy this collection, but whether one's knowledge is great or slight, Frazier's evocation of the city over three decades is thoughtful, entertaining and occasionally moving, and his own journey from the Midwest to Manhattan, Brooklyn and eventually New Jersey will resonate for many readers. (Nov. 3) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From BooklistFrazier, a staff writer for the New Yorker, where many of the punchy yet elegant essays in this collection were previously published, wraps his impressions of the city he loves in prose infused with razor-sharp and self-effacing humor as well as a talent for isolating the telling detail. "Street Scene" is a disturbing sketch--a moment frozen in time--of a woman lying stricken on the street and the attempt to resuscitate her. "Typewriter Man" is a delicious profile of a typewriter repairman--yes, one still exists. "Antipodes" is a reflection on what is at the exact opposite point on the planet from New York City (contrary to what children may believe, he asserts, "There is no point in the United States where, if you drilled straight through the earth, you would come out in China"). And, from an essay about the persistent flow of traffic through Manhattan's Canal Street: "It is a high-energy current jumping constantly between the poles of Brooklyn and New Jersey. It hates to have its flow pinched in the density of Manhattan, hates to stop at an intersection." Brad Hooper Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved America's greatest essayist. Los Angeles TimesThese essays are classics of [the] genre. . . . Throughout Frazier writes with such charm, such self-deprecating introspection, we wish that we . . . could claim him as a friend. The Boston GlobeOne of the best writers in America. Absorbed by people and their stories, endlessly curious, graced with an exquisite ear for the way people speak, addicted to dry humor, and unpretentious, he has become a master craftsman in the odd and lovely art of collecting and telling stories of American life. The OregonianFrazier has a keen eye for the vagaries of urban life. Time Out New York[A] pleasing, humorous, but also keenly trenchant collection . . . freely mix[es] the ugly with the sublime, and the scary with the fascinating and the funny . . . It's also a lovely read. The Christian Science MonitorA delight to follow on the page . . . And don't let the emphasis on New York City fool you. Frazier is one of us. Chicago Sun-TimesThis is New York on a human level. Frazier obviously likes people; his empathy comes through. Milwaukee Journal SentinelThe Big Apple never feels so small as when Ian Frazier writes about it. Continental magazine.