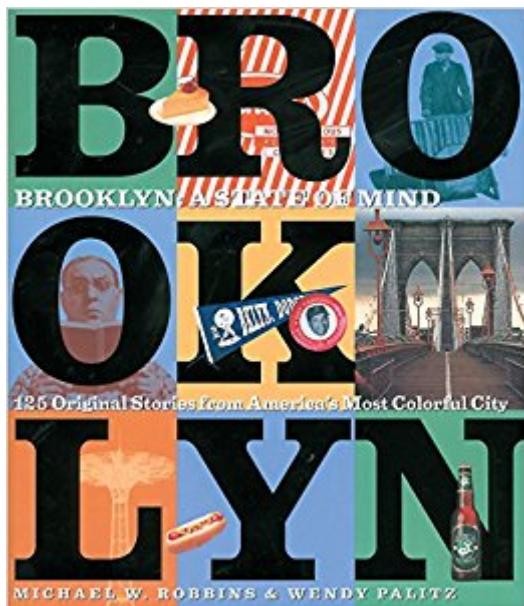


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# Brooklyn: A State Of Mind



## Synopsis

Here is Arthur Miller on Midwood, Mel Brooks on Williamsburg, Spike Lee on Fort Green. David McCullough sees Truman, F. Murray Abraham deconstructs Brooklynese, Jerry Della Famina describes those hot summer nights, and Nora Guthrie remembers living with her father Woody in Coney Island. There's the West Indian Day parade and the Neptune Parade, Ebbet's Field Sym-phony and Norman Mailer in a homeless shelter, pigeon-racing and parakeets in Green-wood Cemetery, Junior's cheesecake, the judge in the Gotti trial, the world's best handball player, and a wise guy's guide to dining. BROOKLYN, the book, tells it all. Packed with the accent, the attitude, the smarts, with nostalgia, respect, awe, laughter and news, BROOKLYN taps into one of Brooklyn's best resources-its army of writers-to tell the story of America's home town. For over 250 years immigrants from all over the world have lived in the neighborhood called Brooklyn, and fanned out to the rest of the country. An 81 square mile patchwork of city, college town, quiet fishing village, industrial center, bedroom community, and seaport, Brooklyn is the Dodgers, Walt Whitman, Mrs. Stahl's knishes, the bridge-and BROOKLYN, an obsessive and definitive book that's as colorful, interesting, and quirky as the world it celebrates. Fugehdabboudit!

## Book Information

Paperback: 448 pages

Publisher: Workman Publishing Company; 1st edition (October 23, 2000)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0761116354

ISBN-13: 978-0761116356

Product Dimensions: 7.9 x 1.1 x 9.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 2 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 19 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,558,232 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #38 in Books > Travel > United States > New York > New York City #43 in Books > Travel > United States > New York > Brooklyn #32867 in Books > History > Americas > United States > State & Local

## Customer Reviews

With a disproportionate share of literati residing in Brooklyn, N.Y., the place has been the subject of plenty of books, from guidebooks to nostalgia-fests to coffee-table histories, but this handsome "illustrated collection of true and original stories about life in Brooklyn past and present" is unique. Contributors range from noted Brooklynites (Mel Brooks, Arthur Miller, Spike Lee, Susan

Brownmiller) to savvy local journalists. "The Brooklyn state of mind is combative, wry, resilient," declares essayist Phillip Lopate, and the individuals who pass through from Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz to handball king Joe Durso illustrate the point. Predictable subjects like the Brooklyn Bridge and Junior's cheesecake are handled well, while less-storied subjects are also charming: the proprietor of Barmusic (a local musical series held on, yes, a barge) and restaurants where one just might meet a made man from La Cosa Nostra. Short pieces covering the incorporation of Brooklyn into New York City in 1898, the preservation of architecturally notable Brooklyn Heights, the famous folk buried at Greenwood Cemetery and films made in Brooklyn offer a good grasp of the borough's history and institutions. Some subjects are slighted why a timeline for the 20th century, but not the 19th, when Brooklyn was a separate city? And despite its protestations to the contrary, the book is permeated with nostalgia. Still, this rich compendium is a welcome contribution to anyone devoted to or curious about "the better borough." Photos, illus. (Aug. 8) Forecast: Were it still independent, Brooklyn would be the fourth largest city in the United States. With a high number of readers per capita, it should prove fertile soil for this paean. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"I sing of Brooklyn, the fruited plain, cradle of genius, and stand up comedy, awash in history, relics of Indian mounds, Dutch farms, Revolutionary War battles, breweries and baseball." Thus begins an ode to a community that today would constitute the fourth-largest city in the nation had it not merged with New York City in 1898. Through 125 essays (written by such celebrities as Spike Lee and Arthur Miller) and interviews, a broad array of Brooklyn history is explored: from the Brooklyn Bridge to the Brooklyn Eagle newspaper, from Coney Island to the Brooklyn Academy of Music, from the West Indian Day parade to Green-Wood Cemetery, from beer to boxing. The raucous nostalgia for the city of old is reinforced with hundreds of black-and-white photographs. Those seeking a more critical history must look elsewhere, but for those who want their local history to go down as easy as buttered popcorn, this celebratory work will be a real joy. Recommended for public library travel and New York history collections. Christopher Brennan, SUNY Brockport Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc.

A comprehensive collection of essays about the famed borough by authors famous and not so. From Arthur Miller to Spike Lee and many others. The stories are fascinating; Brooklynites will find it packed with delectable tidbits about the places they commonly take for granted, while everyone else will be given insight and sometimes insider information about many of the great landmarks that they

have just heard about. The chapters are just the right length so that you are not inundated and when the topic is covered, the next chapter will lure you back in. You can easily binge read because it is hard to put down.

GREAT SELLER, GREAT MERCHANDISE, SMOOTH TRANSACTION, THANKS SOOO MUCH,Clancy

Great factoid/pictoral book about Brooklyn.

125 stories packed with interest. If Chicago is the city of big shoulders, we learn, Brooklyn is the city of big mouths. Mel Brooks growing up in Williamsburg. Coney Island weirdness. Neighborhoods decline and are reborn. The world's handball champ. Blacks, Jews, Italians. Park Slope, Bed Stuy, bensonhurst, Flatbush, Midwood, Gravesend. A black themed B&B in a Victorian mansion. Comedians, musicians, crooks, athletes , writers all tell their stories. Riveting. Great packaging, index, photos.

I bought this book for my boyfriend after borrowing it several times at the library for him. After his disappointment that someone had ripped out several pages, I decided he needed to have his own copy since he really enjoyed reading it. He is one of Brooklyn's proudest sons and this was the perfect gift for him and anyone who thinks Brooklyn is the greatest place on earth!

Haven't read it yet but being from Brooklyn, I sure loved what I saw, especially about Coney Island, my neck of the woods.

As a Brooklyn boy, I found the book to be both entertaining and informative. Totally enjoyable

Great book. I do wish there was an updated version. This publication is about 15 years old.

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