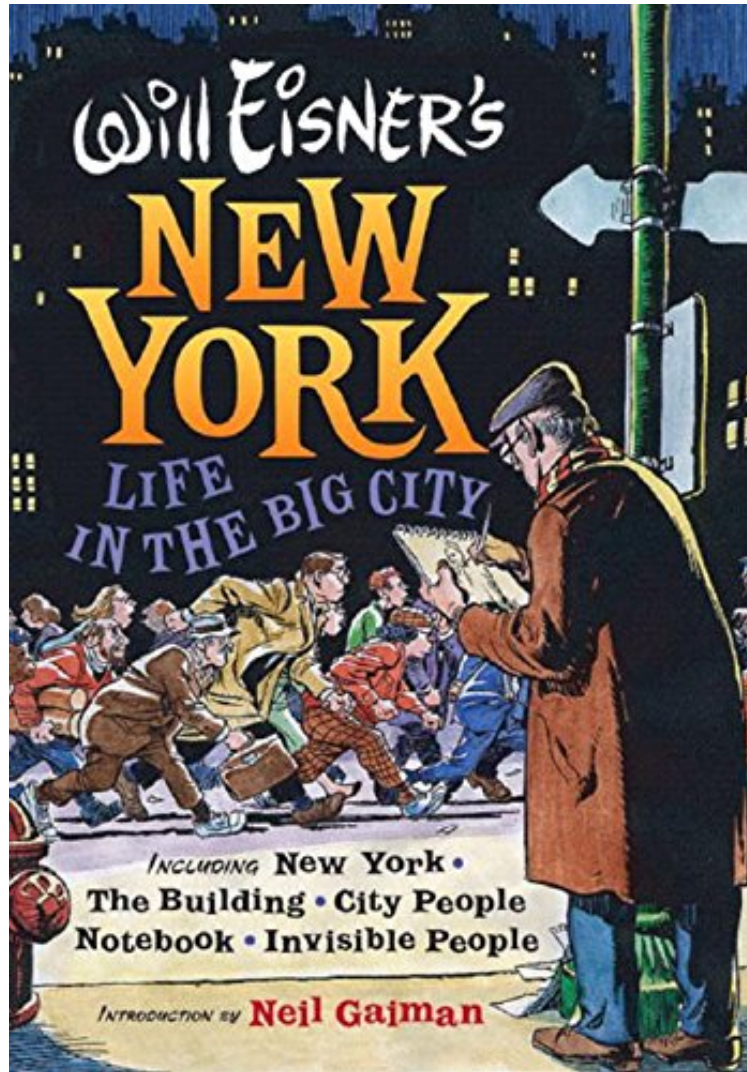


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Will Eisner's New York: Life in the Big City

Will Eisner

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Will Eisner : Will Eisner's New York: Life in the Big City before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Will Eisner's New York: Life in the Big City:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Will Eisner's New York: Life in the Big City By Cai Yixin
Jeremy Will Eisner's opus of modern and urban existence in New York possesses a certain thematic and also, in the simplest essence, artistic quality not present in his former work. While his more prominent cartoons (it would seem, the entire Spirit comic strip narrative) focuses more on the kinetic energy of an action movie-style plot, where there are overt heroes and villains. New York falls into more emotional territory, and in many ways possesses a higher polish, making this sprawling narrative about city life in New York a fresh new breath of creative genius. That's not to

say Eisner doesn't employ his brilliant mastery of sequential movement or doesn't bring forth pure storytelling dynamism into this book. Oh, no, he does bring those in a big way. New York quite simply is the epitome of how people tick in the Big Apple, and Eisner does not, if ever, hold back on the effort and drive to tell a sublime story. Split into numerous vignettes and compiled from four previously published collections, one doesn't so much as read this book but get pulled into so many facets of the New York experience that it's not a laughing matter anymore. The treasure of Avenue C, the starting vignette of sorts, is a perfect example of how even a simple, unassuming thing like a gutter drain can be the basis for a recurring narrative. Eisner achieves this sweeping piece of adventure, told in bite-sized episodes (one especially poignant one involves a mugger who sees the convenience of disposing his knife into the drain) with such simplicity and greatness, that one would be amazed when the resultant panel, depicting the thorough search of the scene by the police, delivers the punch. And one doesn't even realize that *The Weapon* works on the New-York-has-a-high-crime-rate level, while still functioning as a perfect, almost to a science, standalone story. A street band, *The Pearly Buzzards*, finds joy in playing at different locations, a young, attractive New York female experiences a mild bout of uncertainty as she takes a little too long to place an important letter into the mailbox, a metaphor of citizens within windowed apartments aptly named Prisons, and then the true meat of the collections appears with the latter material. The most interesting of the lot would be *Mortal Combat*, an unprecedented take on the prevalent invisibility of one's existence in the huge city. If you have not one, but a series of tightly wrought vignettes like this, complete with creative commentaries at some points, and each one as intriguing and professional as the last, it becomes a 'museum' of how sequential art should be done. Which is how Eisner establishes his legacy. *The Spirit* is how you should do a continuous mystery epic. *Comics and Sequential Art* is a How-To book for comics, perfected. New York, however, is the culmination, of storytelling in the sequential form. It is very much like weary Eisner waking up one morning and deciding to impose his craft upon the short story format. One can almost imagine him saying these imaginary words, "Let's see if I can create something that's never been done before...and thus create history." 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. NYC from the heart of Eisner By AGLSA must read for all Eisner's and NYC fans. Great illustrations and stories from the heart of the author. I like the way Eisner shows us all the stories of average people with their dreams and illusions. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars By Customer very good some pages' color is not dark enough

"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 duskiess 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.

From Publishers Weekly 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. From Booklist 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 Flagg Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "The Plot (ISBN 978 0 393 32860 8), "a fitting, serious and well-drawn end to Eisner's illustrious career" (The Guardian), is also available along with "his masterwork" (Publishing News), *The Contract with God Trilogy*

(ISBN 978 0 393 06105 5)."