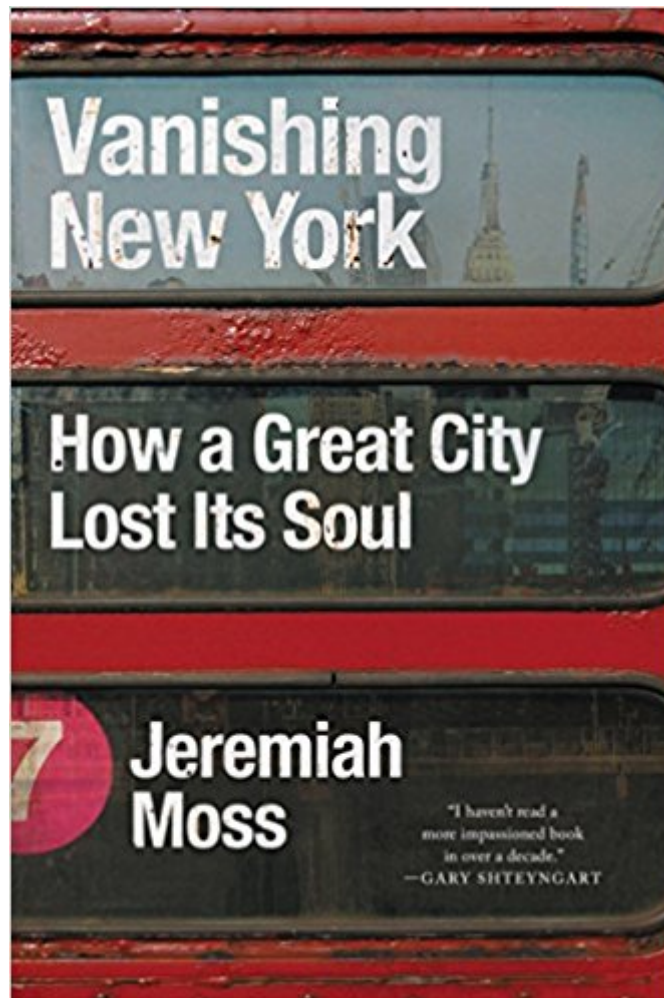




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# Vanishing New York: How A Great City Lost Its Soul



## Synopsis

An unflinching chronicle of gentrification in the twenty-first century and a love letter to lost New York by the creator of the popular and incendiary blog *Vanishing New York*. For generations, New York City has been a mecca for artists, writers, and other hopefuls longing to be part of its rich cultural exchange and unique social fabric. But today, modern gentrification is transforming the city from an exceptional, iconoclastic metropolis into a suburbanized luxury zone with a price tag only the 1 percent can afford. A Jane Jacobs for the digital age, blogger and cultural commentator Jeremiah Moss has emerged as one of the most outspoken and celebrated critics of this dramatic shift. In *Vanishing New York*, he reports on the city's development in the twenty-first century, a period of "hyper-gentrification" that has resulted in the shocking transformation of beloved neighborhoods and the loss of treasured unofficial landmarks. In prose that the *Village Voice* has called a "mixture of snark, sorrow, poeticism, and lyric wit," Moss leads us on a colorful guided tour of the most changed parts of town—from the Lower East Side and Chelsea to Harlem and Williamsburg—lovingly eulogizing iconic institutions as they're replaced with soulless upscale boutiques, luxury condo towers, and suburban chains. Propelled by Moss's hard-hitting, cantankerous style, *Vanishing New York* is a staggering examination of contemporary "urban renewal" and its repercussions—not only for New Yorkers, but for all of America and the world.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“I haven’t read a more impassioned book in over a decade. Vanishing New York is angry, incredulous, but also full of insight into a city of legend, where every legend happened to be true.” (Gary Shteyngart) “Jeremiah Moss came to the party that is New York City just in time to see it turn into a wake. His book is lucid, eloquent, phenomenally detailed, and terribly sad. Future generations, assuming there are any, will read it in wonder and disbelief.” (Luc Sante) “Meticulously researched, thoroughly reported, at once a call to arms and a soul cry, Vanishing New York is a love letter to originality and the human spirit. Grab a knish and settle in.” (Charles Bock, New York Times bestselling author of *Alice and Oliver*) “A vigorous, righteously indignant book that would do Jane Jacobs proud.” (Kirkus) “One of the most thorough and pugnacious chroniclers of New York’s blandification.” (The Atlantic) “For those of us who’ve watched hopelessly as our beautiful city has turned into an assortment of Duane Reades and Starbucks, this book is a must-read. Jeremiah Moss bears witness on our behalf, and puts it all into brilliant perspective.” (Andy Cohen, host and executive producer, *Watch What Happens Live With Andy Cohen*) “A vigorous, righteously indignant book that would do Jane Jacobs proud.” (Kirkus) “Essential reading for fans of Jane Jacobs, Joseph Mitchell, Patti Smith, Luc Sante, and cheap pierogi.” (David Kamp, *Vanity Fair*) “A very good, angrily passionate, and ultimately saddening book [ . . . ] brilliantly written and well-informed.” (Booklist) “A wrenching, exhaustive chronicle of the hypergentrification of New York.” [ . . . ] “Every page is charged with Moss’s deep love of New York. It is both a vital and unequivocally depressing read.” (The Village Voice)

An unflinching portrait of gentrification in the twenty-first century, and a love letter to lost New York, by the creator of the popular and incendiary blog *Vanishing New York* New York City has long been a destination for rebels and rule breakers, artists, writers, and other hopefuls longing to be part of its rich cultural exchange and unique social fabric. But today, modern gentrification is transforming the city from an exceptional, iconoclastic metropolis into a suburbanized luxury zone with a price tag only the top 1 percent can afford. Blogger and cultural commentator Jeremiah Moss has emerged as one of the most outspoken and celebrated critics of this dramatic shift. He has spent the past decade observing and painstakingly documenting this sea change, and in *Vanishing New York*, he reports on the city’s development in the twenty-first century, a period of “hyper-gentrification” that has resulted in the shocking transformation of beloved

neighborhoods and the loss of treasured unofficial landmarks. Moss leads us on a colorful guided tour of the most changed parts of town— from the Lower East Side and Chelsea to Harlem and Williamsburg— lovingly eulogizing iconic institutions as they—re replaced with soulless upscale boutiques, luxury condo towers, and suburban chains. Propelled by Moss—s hard-hitting, cantankerous style, *Vanishing New York* is a staggering examination of contemporary —urban renewal,— its roots and its repercussions— not only for New Yorkers, but for all of America and the world.

I moved from the Midwest to NYC in 1973, on the cusp of all the changes that Moss writes about. I've always loved energy and diversity of the city although didn't like the grime and crime of the past. I've witnessed the gentrification in my neighborhood and always felt concerned that so many poorer people were being forced from our community. As a social worker married to a teacher we would be priced out of our building neighborhood if we were not in a rent stabilized apartment. The rent for non-stabilized apartments in our building are going for \$10,000/month rent! How many people can really afford that? What Moss does so clearly, with an impressive amount of research, is to explain how these changes have happened all through the city. I did not know of all of the political and corporate agreements and regulations which created this and reading this made me angry. Fortunately he concludes with directions and actions people can take. At times it was painful to read, but I couldn't put it down.

This book is a mind opener. While those of us who have lived in New York for countless generations have been aware that the city changes over time, and seldom overall for the better, we disconnected the earlier patterns of urban destruction from the accelerated pace that we've seen in the past generation. But Moss has traced the current trend of massive destruction of so much of the physicality of the city to long term goals dating back at least a century. The only difference is that the pace in recent years has been accelerated. One hopes that this book is widely read, and shakes people up to motivate them to do something collectively to stop the furtherance of the losses that are making New York lifeless and devoid of the creative energy that made this city vital. Spread the word, and make this book the focus of discussions of what is to come in the next few years, and afterwards. Collectively, we can make a difference.

Always read the blog, Highly recommend, those who care should read this book, this is happening all over the World. City Names may change, but the reality is the same!

As a resident of Greenwich Village in my 20s (4 decades ago) this book brought tears to my eyes. Brash, opinionated and articulate, it reads like a thriller. But this is more than a book about architecture and economics. It is a critique of neoliberalism and global capitalism that should be required reading.

Vanishing New York: How A Great City Lost Its Soul is the most important book I've read in the last decade. It should be required reading for any real New Yorker. for anyone real, really. I had a fantasy on the train this morning that I should buy a hundred of them and hand them out like candy. If more people shared books like this, instead of sharing inane Jezebel articles about how white women shouldn't be doing yoga, we might actually be able to topple the plutocracy that's using racism to divide us and ruin the world.

This book is a masterpiece. The writing is excellent with so many great sentences. The historical research is staggering, and the book is filled with personal anecdotes about places I knew and places I did not know. But what really makes this book is Moss' point of view. His perspective and analysis are spot on. He totally nails how and why NYC changed and lost its soul. And these changes make me sad. I moved to the East Village in 1975 when it was still edgy and affordable and I still live in lower Manhattan today. As Moss chronicles, most of what made that neighborhood interesting and appealing is gone, vanished, totally gentrified and full of chain stores. Then I moved to the far West Village in 1997 before it was totally gentrified, when there was still a factory across the street, (it's gone and now high end town houses.) I never in my wildest dreams could have imagined what happened to the Bowery, Bleecker Street and the meat packing district. Like Moss I really have grown to hate the High Line and I too have written about these local changes, that are not for the better. I am grateful I am old enough to have lived here, especially in the East village, when it really was cool and bohemian. My fedora is off to Jeremiah Moss for writing this brilliant book, full of love and passion for lost New York. I mourn with him.

As seminal a book as Jane Jacobs' "The Death and Life of Great American Cities," only with a greater sense of urgency, about the deadening homogenization of New York and other great cities. Astonishingly well-researched but without pedantry and leavened with personal observations of an adopted New Yorker, this book is a not so much a love letter to vanishing New York as a *cris de cœur*.

Pre-ordered and received today. I live in Manhattan... this has so far been an addicting read. I can feel and share the authors pain for the lost vibe of the city, especially Manhattan and Brooklyn. Highly recommend checking this book out if like he states you romanticize Woody Allen NY themed films and can appreciate why the gritty Travis Bickle NYC is worth missing, despite the positive changes the city has made since those periods.

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