Adults

New York City—its complexity and diversity, power and beauty—is hard to encompass in one word, one book. This list is a love letter to the city NYPL calls home and the great writing and books it has inspired, from fiction to poetry, photography to history, and more.

**ARCHITECTURE**

Delirious New York: A Retroactive Manifesto for Manhattan
Rem Koolhaas

The Power Broker: Robert Moses and the Fall of New York
Robert A. Caro

On Architecture: Collected Reflections on a Century of Change
Ada Louise Huxtable

**FICTION**

The Age of Innocence
Edith Wharton

Another Country
James Baldwin

Bodega Dreams
Ernesto Quiñonez

The Bonfire of the Vanities
Tom Wolfe

Brown Girl, Brownstones
Paule Marshall

Chelsea Girls
Eileen Myles

The Chosen
Chaim Potok

The City We Became
N.K. Jemisin

Corona
Bushra Rehman

Dominicana
Angie Cruz

Jazz
Toni Morrison

The Mambo Kings Play Songs of Love
Oscar Hijuelos

Manhattan Transfer
John Dos Passos

Motherless Brooklyn
Jonathan Lethem

Native Speaker
Chang-rae Lee

Open City
Teju Cole

A Rage In Harlem
Chester Himes

**BIOGRAPHY & MEMOIR**

Boss Tweed: The Rise and Fall of the Corrupt Pol Who Conceived the Soul of Modern New York
Kenneth D. Ackerman

City Boy: My Life in New York During the 1960s and ‘70s
Edmund White

A Puerto Rican in New York, and Other Sketches
Jesús Colón

A Walker in the City
Alfred Kazin
HISTORY

102 Minutes: The Unforgettable Story of the Fight to Survive Inside the Twin Towers
Jim Dwyer & Kevin Flynn

Chinatowns of New York City
Wendy Wan-Yin Tan

Downtown: My Manhattan
Pete Hamill

Five Points: The 19th-Century New York City Neighborhood That Invented Tap Dance, Stole Elections, and Became the World’s Most Notorious Slum
Tyler Anbinder

The Good Rat: A True Story
Jimmy Breslin

Low Life: Lures and Snares of Old New York
Luc Sante

Native New Yorkers: The Legacy of the Algonquin People of New York
Evan T. Pritchard

New York Diaries: 1609 to 2009
Teresa Carpenter

Triangle: The Fire That Changed America
David Von Drehle

When Harlem Was in Vogue
David Levering Lewis

LGBTQ CULTURE

The Gay Metropolis: The Landmark History of Gay Life in America
Charles Kaiser

Gay New York: Gender, Urban Culture, and the Making of the Gay Male World 1890–1940
George Chauncey

Queer Street: The Rise and Fall of an American Culture, 1947–1985
James McCourt

Times Square Red, Times Square Blue
Samuel R. Delany

When Brooklyn Was Queer
Hugh Ryan

MUSIC

Can't Stop, Won't Stop: A History of the Hip-Hop Generation
Jeff Chang

Life and Death on the New York Dance Floor, 1980–1983
Tim Lawrence

Please Kill Me: The Uncensored Oral History of Punk
Legs McNeil & Gillian McCain

Salsa Rising: New York Latin Music of the Sixties Generation
Juan Flores

FOOD

97 Orchard: An Edible History of Five Immigrant Families in One New York Tenement
Jane Ziegelman

Appetite City: A Culinary History of New York
William Grimes

GRAPHIC NOVELS

Basquiat: A Graphic Novel
Paolo Parisi

Going into Town: A Love Letter to New York
Roz Chast

Showtime at the Apollo: The Epic Tale of Harlem’s Legendary Theater
Ted Fox; Illustrated by James Otis Smith

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NONFICTION

The Colossus of New York: A City in Thirteen Parts
Colson Whitehead

Here Is New York
E.B. White & Roger Angell

Ladies and Gentlemen, the Bronx Is Burning: 1977, Baseball, Politics, and the Battle for the Soul of a City
Jonathan Mahler

Metropolitan Life
Fran Lebowitz

Nonstop Metropolis: A New York City Atlas
Rebecca Solnit & Joshua Jelly-Schapiro

The Portable
Dorothy Parker, Marion Meade (ed.)

Up in the Old Hotel and Other Stories
Joseph Mitchell

Zami: A New Spelling of My Name
Audre Lorde

PHOTOGRAPHY & ART

The Andy Warhol Diaries
Andy Warhol, Pat Hackett (ed.)

Bill Cunningham: On the Street: Five Decades of Iconic Photography
Bill Cunningham, Tiina Loite (ed.)

East 100th Street
Bruce Davidson

Ninth Street Women: Lee Krasner, Elaine de Kooning, Grace Hartigan, Joan Mitchell, and Helen Frankenthaler: Five Painters and the Movement That Changed Modern Art
Mary Gabriel

Ryan McGinley: The Kids Were Alright
Nora Burnett Abrams

Voguing: Voguing and the House Ballroom Scene of New York City 1989–92
Chantal Regnault

POETRY

The Bridge
Hart Crane

The Collected Works of Langston Hughes
Langston Hughes

Lunch Poems
Frank O'Hara

Poems of New York
Langston Hughes

Poet in New York
Federico García Lorca

SHORT STORIES

Breakfast at Tiffany's
Truman Capote

The Maples Stories
John Updike

Staten Island Stories
Claire Jimenez

The Stories of John Cheever
John Cheever

THEATER

Frank Rich

In the Heights
Quiara Alegria Hudes

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