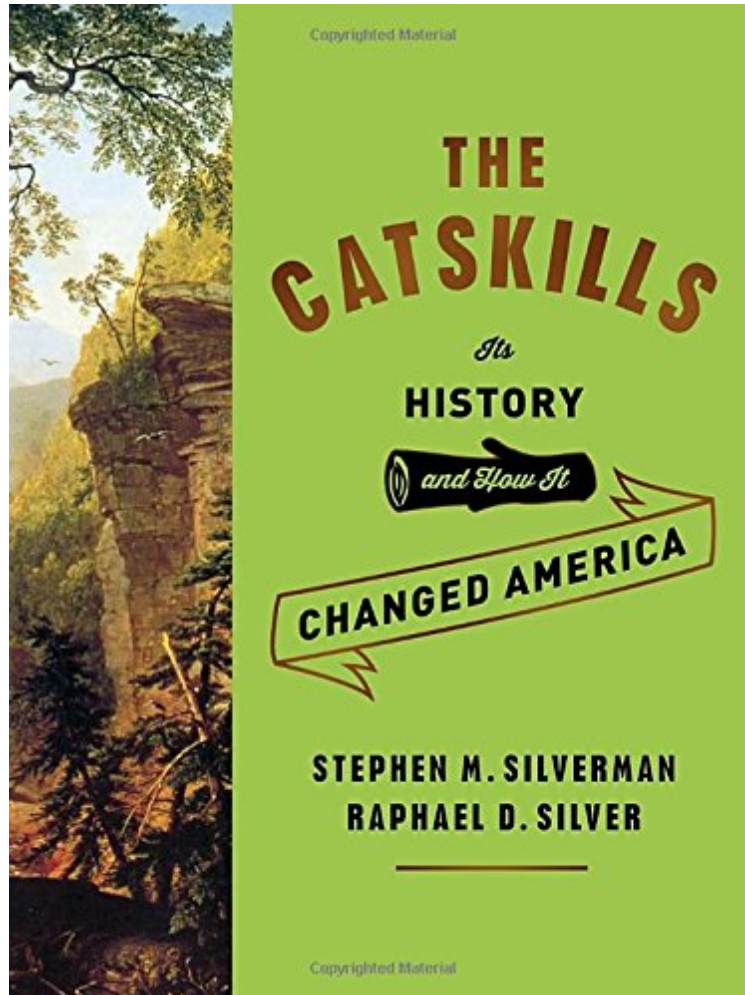


[Download] The Catskills: Its History and How It Changed America

The Catskills: Its History and How It Changed America

Stephen M. Silverman, Raphael D. Silver
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Stephen M. Silverman, Raphael D. Silver : The Catskills: Its History and How It Changed America before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Catskills: Its History and How It Changed America:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. For lovers of New York State and HistoryBy BobHaving read several other books on NYS history (and residing in Woodstock) this volume was a natural choice and didn't disappoint. While the early history was interesting, when the author discussed the history of the railroads I was hooked. Admittedly there was a bit of repetition when writing of the religious restrictions of some "grand old hotels" overall the author held my attention throughout. I'd recommend this to anyone interested in NYS history.....it leads to wanting to study in greater depth the RRs as well as the Grand Hotels of the Catskills0 of 0 people found the following

review helpful. A fabulous, fun, and well-researched read. I truly enjoyed reading this book. The pictures are fantastic and it is well written. I especially like the breadth of information this book provides. It goes from the earliest years of the Catskills in the 1600s to the current state of affairs with the area. I have a soft spot in my heart for the Catskills as I often went to the Catskill Game Farm and traveled in the areas that encompass the Catskills many, many times. My daughter went to summer camp for years in Sullivan County. It is always fun to read about an area that is familiar to you. Most people are aware of the "Jewish Alps" (said with affection); the movie, Dirty Dancing, which was based, probably, upon the biggest resort of all Grossingers, you are at least a little aware of the Catskills. I even saw Joy Behar who is now on The View at Browns in Loch Sheldrake. For anyone who is familiar with this area, this book is a delight. For those who aren't it is a great history of the area. I recommend it highly. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. "TAKE ME HOME!" By Customer I first took the book out of a library and fell in love with it! Since I lived for the first 50 years of my life in the Catskills, I had to have my own copy. It is a wonderful, wonderful book, written in a way that makes you feel a part of history. It took me "back home" to the places I have been and some people I have known. I fully recommend it to anyone who is interested in the history of the Catskill Mountains of New York.

The Catskills (Cat Creek in Dutch), Americas original frontier, northwest of New York City, with its seven hundred thousand acres of forest land preserve and its five counties Delaware, Greene, Sullivan, Ulster, Schoharie; Americas first great vacationland; the subject of the nineteenth-century Hudson River School paintings that captured the almost godlike majesty of the mountains and landscapes, the skies, waterfalls, pastures, cliffs . . . refuge and home to poets and gangsters, tycoons and politicians, preachers and outlaws, musicians and spiritualists, outcasts and rebels . . . Stephen Silverman and Raphael Silver tell of the turning points that made the Catskills so vital to the development of America: Henry Hudsons first spotting the distant blue mountains in 1609; the New York State constitutional convention, resulting in New Yorks own Declaration of Independence from Great Britain and its own constitution, causing the ire of the invading British army . . . the Catskills as a popular attraction in the 1800s, with the construction of the Catskill Mountain House and its rugged imitators that offered WASP guests one-hundred percent restricted accommodations (Hebrews will knock vainly for admission), a policy that remained until the Catskills became the curative for tubercular patients, sending real-estate prices plummeting and the WASP enclave on to richer pastures . . . Here are the gangsters (Jack Legs Diamond and Dutch Schultz, among them) who sought refuge in the Catskill Mountains, and the resorts that after World War II catered to upwardly mobile Jewish families, giving rise to hundreds of hotels inspired by Grossingers, the original Disneyland with knishes the Concord, Browns Hotel, Kutshers Hotel, and others in what became known as the Borscht Belt and Sour Cream Alps, with their headliners from movies and radio (Phil Silvers, Eddie Cantor, Milton Berle, et al.), and others who learned their trade there, among them Moss Hart (who got his start organizing summer theatricals), Sid Caesar, Lenny Bruce, Mel Brooks, Woody Allen, and Joan Rivers. Here is a nineteenth-century America turning away from England for its literary and artistic inspiration, finding it instead in Washington Irvings Rip Van Winkle and his childhood recollections (set in the Catskills) . . . in James Fenimore Coopers adventure-romances, which provided a pastoral history, describing the shift from a colonial to a nationalist mentality . . . and in the canvases of Thomas Cole, Asher B. Durand, Frederick Church, and others that caught the grandeur of the wilderness and that gave texture, color, and form to Irvings and Coopers imaginings. Here are the entrepreneurs and financiers who saw the Catskills as a way to strike it rich, plundering the resources that had been likened to creation, the Catskills tanneries that supplied the boots and saddles for Union troops in the Civil War . . . and the bluestone quarries whose excavated rock became the curbs and streets of the fast-growing Eastern Seaboard. Here are the Catskills brought fully to life in all of their intensity, beauty, vastness, and lunacy.

Excitement about Stephen Silvermans THE CATSKILLS Handsomely illustrated . . . Everyones always predicting that the Catskills are going to make a comeback. Theyre beautiful, inexpensive, accessible and, as Silverman and Silver demonstrate, rich in historical interest. Nicholas Lemann, Times Book Should be commended for its sheer ambition . . . engaging . . . Although we think we may have read some of this in different form elsewhere, it puts everything or almost everything together in one place, providing texture, context, chronology, and a narrative framework for a region with a history as rich and abundant as the fare served at any of its storied hotels. Jack Schwartz, Daily Beast Remarkable, enthusiastic, well-researched . . . The authors blend history and folklore to create a perfect addition to any New York State history collection. Library Journal Lively . . . Stuffed with interesting sidebars and biographical sketches, the authors' loose-limbed texts meanders along many an intriguing byway of quaint and forgotten lore. Readers will enjoy this absorbing browse through a multifaceted regional history thats deeper than its surface glitz might suggest. Publishers Weekly Those who've seen the Catskills will love how the authors capture its magic. Those who haven't will start planning a trip. Kirkus I love this book. The Catskills shaped my life. I will forever be grateful to those tough Jewish audiences. If you could make them laugh, you could conquer the world." Mel Brooks About the Author STEPHEN M. SILVERMAN is a twenty-year veteran of Time Inc. and was the founding editor of People.com. His books include biographies of the filmmakers David Lean and Stanley Donen, and his work

has appeared in Esquire, Harper's Bazaar, The New York Times, The Times (London), Vogue, and The Washington Post. He lives in New York City. RAPHAEL D. SILVER grew up in Cleveland, Ohio, the son of a rabbi, and lived in New York City until his death in 2013. A real-estate developer, he founded Silverfilm with his wife, director Joan Micklin Silver, and produced her Hester Street and Crossing Delancey. His first novel, Congregation, was published posthumously.