

A Greenwich Village Reading List

***Just Kids* – Patti Smith (HarperCollins)**

Beginning as a love story and ending as an elegy, this serves as a salute to New York City during the late Sixties and Seventies and to its rich and poor, its hustlers and hellions. A true fable, it is a portrait of two young artists' ascent, a prelude to fame.

***Kafka Was the Rage: A Greenwich Village Memoir* – Anatole Broyard (Vintage)**

We see Broyard setting up his used bookstore on Cornelia Street—indulging in a dream that was for him as romantic as “living off the land or sailing around the world” while exercising his libido with a protegee of Anais Nin and taking courses at the New School, where he deliberates on “the new trends in art, sex, and psychosis.”

***St. Mark's Is Dead: The Many Lives of America's Hippest Street* – Ada Calhoun (Norton)**

St. Marks Place in New York City has spawned countless artistic and political movements. But every generation of miscreant denizens believes that their era, and no other, marked the street's apex. This idiosyncratic work of reportage tells the many-layered history of the St. Mark's Place—from its beginnings as Colonial Dutch Director-General Peter Stuyvesant's pear orchard to today's hipster playground—organized around those pivotal moments when critics declared “St. Marks is dead.”

***Ninth Street Women* – Mary Gabriel (Hachette)**

Set amid the most turbulent social and political period of modern times, the impassioned, wild, sometimes tragic, always exhilarating chronicle of five women who dared to enter the male-dominated world of twentieth-century abstract painting – not as muses but as artists. From their cold-water lofts, where they worked, drank, fought, and loved, these pioneers burst open the door to the art world for themselves and countless others to come.

***A Freewheelin' Time: A Memoir of Greenwich Village in the Sixties* – Suze Rotolo (Penguin Random House)**

Suze Rotolo chronicles her coming of age in Greenwich Village during the 1960s and the early days of the folk music explosion, when Bob Dylan was finding his voice and she was his muse. A hopeful, intimate memoir of a vital movement at its most creative, it captures the excitement of youth, the heartbreak of young love, and the struggles for a brighter future in a time when everything seemed possible.

***Rules of Civility* – Amor Towles (Penguin Random House)**

On the last night of 1937, 25-year-old Katey Kontent is in a second-rate Greenwich Village jazz bar when Tinker Grey, a handsome banker, happens to sit down at the neighboring table. This chance encounter and its startling consequences propel Katey on a year-long journey into the upper echelons of New York society—where she will have little to rely upon other than a bracing wit and her own brand of cool nerve. With its sparkling depiction of New York’s social strata, its intricate imagery and themes, and its immensely appealing characters, *Rules of Civility* won the hearts of readers and critics alike.

***The Stonewall Reader* – New York Public Library & Jason Baumann, editors (Penguin Classics)**

June 28, 2019, marked the fiftieth anniversary of the Stonewall uprising, which is considered the most significant event in the gay liberation movement, and the catalyst for the modern fight for LGBTQ rights in the United States. Drawing from the New York Public Library's archives, *The Stonewall Reader* is a collection of first accounts, diaries, periodic literature, and articles from LGBTQ magazines and newspapers that documented both the years leading up to and the years following the riots.

***Hotbed: Bohemian Greenwich Village and the Secret Club that Sparked Modern Feminism* – Joanna Scutts (Simon & Schuster)**

The dazzling story of the Greenwich Village feminists who blazed the trail for the movement’s most radical ideas. *Hotbed* is the previously untold story of the bold women whose audacious ideas and unruly acts transformed a feminist agenda into a modern way of life.

***Eleanor in the Village: Eleanor Roosevelt’s Search for Freedom and Identity in New York’s Greenwich Village* – Jan Russell (Simon & Schuster)**

A vivid account of a critical chapter in the life of Eleanor Roosevelt, when she moved to Greenwich Village at the age of 36, shed her high-born conformity, and changed emotionally, politically, and sexually, becoming the progressive leader who pushed for change as America's First Lady.

The Village: 400 Years of Beats and Bohemians, Radicals and Rogues. A History of Greenwich Village – John Strausbaugh (HarperCollins)

In this lively anecdotal history of the most famous neighborhood in the world, John Strausbaugh traces the Village's role as a culture engine, a bastion of tolerance, freedom, creativity, and activism that has spurred cultural change for more than 400 years. He brings to life the long line of famous nonconformists who have collided there, developing the ideas and creating the art that forever altered societal norms. Poe, Whitman, Cather, Baldwin, Kerouac, Mailer, Ginsberg, O'Neill, Pollock, La Guardia, Koch, Hendrix, and Dylan all come together across the ages, at a cultural crossroads the likes of which we may never see again.

***Jack's Wife Freda: Cooking from New York's West Village* – Dean Jankelowitz & Maya Jankelowitz (Penguin Random House)**

Jack's Wife Freda, a pair of downtown restaurants whose signs bear the illustrated face of their namesake grandma, have become part of the epicenter of Jewish comfort-food dining in New York's Greenwich Village. With their communal, casual vibe and detailed coziness, the restaurants feel like home, and everyone – from the many local regulars to thousands of tourists just passing through – is greeted like family by owners Maya and Dean Jankelowitz and their staff.

***Greenwich Village Stories: A Collection of Memories* – Judith Stonehill, editor (Penguin Random House)**

A love letter to Greenwich Village, written by artists, writers, musicians, restaurateurs, and other neighborhood habitués who each share a favorite memory of this beloved place. The sixty stories in this collection of Village memories are exuberant, poignant, original, and vivid, perfectly capturing the essence of the Village.

***Jenny and the Cat Club: A Collection of Favorite Stories About Jenny Linsky* – Esther Averill (Penguin Random House)**

In Greenwich Village, an orphaned black cat lives happily with her master, a sea captain. Still, the gentle Jenny Linsky would like nothing more than to join the local Cat Club, whose members include Madame Butterfly, an elegant Persian, the high-stepping Macaroni, and stately, plump Mr. President. But can she overcome her fears and prove that she, too, has a special gift?

***The Ghost of Greenwich Village* – Lorna Graham (Penguin Random House)**

For Eve Weldon, moving to Greenwich Village is a dream come true. She's following in the bohemian footsteps of her mother, who lived there during the early Sixties among a lively community of Beat artists and writers. But when Eve arrives, the only scribe she meets is a grumpy ghost named Donald, and the only writing she manages to do is for chirpy segments on a morning news program, *Smell the Coffee*.

***The New York Nobody Knows: Walking 6,000 Miles in the City* – William Helmreich (Princeton)**

As a child growing up in Manhattan, William Helmreich played a game with his father called "Last Stop." They would pick a subway line, ride it to its final destination, and explore the neighborhood. Decades later, his love for exploring the city was as strong as ever.