

A New York Story

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FOREWORD

New York is a promise that can never be fully kept. You can visit this city, walk through it, look at it from above and yet it always remains just out of reach. Between concrete and glass, water and sky, a place emerges that seems to be more idea than reality: projection, dream, vanishing point.

The photographs in this book approach New York in black and white. Reducing the city to light and shadow does not take away its color; on the contrary, it reveals its underlying structure: lines, perspectives, contrasts. In the absence of color's spectacle, shapes move to the foreground, the rhythms of architecture, the patterns of windows, bridges and streets.

You will see icons: Manhattan's skyscrapers, the bridges over the East River, the Statue of Liberty, Times Square. Yet between these familiar postcard motifs, space opens up for quieter moments: empty streets at dawn, a solitary gaze across Central Park, people pausing on steps, and rain that turns the city into a shimmering mesh of reflections.

Viewed in a documentary sense, this photo book shows the many faces of Manhattan: Midtown with its dense canyons of high-rises, Downtown with its financial and governmental buildings, residential streets lined with fire escapes, bridges as lifelines between the boroughs, and green islands like Central Park that breathe amidst all the concrete. In time, the arc stretches from bright, clear days to heavy, clouded skies and on to night scenes in which the city becomes a stage of points of light.

This book does not claim to show New York in its entirety. It presents itself as an excerpt, a personal view, a visual notebook that captures the city in those brief moments when it pauses before rushing on. As you turn the pages, you may recognize familiar places. You may see them differently. And perhaps, just perhaps, as you look at these images, you will hear the quiet, unceasing pulse of this city.

F.K.



CENTRAL PARK III



BROOKLYN BRIDGE



NEW YORK MORNINGS



EMPIRE STATE OF MIND



STREETS OF NYC II



TIMES SQUARE 2010



CHRYSLER BUILDING SKYLINE VIEW II



NEW YORK FROM ABOVE II



BROOKLYN BRIDGE IV