FABULOUS FOUNTAINS OF NEW YORK

TELLS THE TALES OF THE CITY'S GRAND WATERWORKS

New book shares the tragedies, love stories, myths and murders behind sites both famous and forgotten

September 2, 2025--New York City's fountains are more than just decorative features – they are historical landmarks, cultural touchstones, and dynamic works of art. They were designed to honor men and women of accomplishment, memorialize events, and at one time, keep citizens from drinking too much alcohol.

New York's fountains are classical and ornate or modern and streamlined. They celebrate firemen, authors, social workers and enslaved Africans, while providing a peaceful oasis amid the city's glass and stone.

Fabulous Fountains of New York, by Stephanie Azzarone, shares the stories of those fountains -- new and old, famous and little known, and some that are forlorn and forgotten. It explores how they came to be, the people behind them, how the fountains have changed over time, and what makes them special.

Some highlights:

- A discreet fountain dedicated to one of the worst tragedies in New York City history
- A reclining fountain drenched in 24k gold leaf—and the fate of its missing pieces
- The city's first major monument to honor a woman
- The glorious mosaic fountain designed to nourish both man and beast
- The first work of art commissioned for Central Park
- One fountain whose model was involved in a murder and another whose protagonist was labeled a "false woman" and a "morphine fiend"
- The fountain sculpture whose bare posterior prompted Mrs. Vanderbilt to move her bedroom to the other side of her 137-room mansion

For your reference, here's an <u>electronic review copy</u>, along with <u>additional details</u> and the <u>Publishers Weekly</u> review.

A selection of photos may be found here, with more available upon request.

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